



FRENCH COLONIAL  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SOCIÉTÉ D'HISTOIRE  
COLONIALE FRANÇAISE

# The FCHS NEWSLETTER

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## Fall 2020 Newsletter

Greetings from 2020, the year that feels like 20! I remember as a child saying I wanted to be a part of history. This is not at all what I meant. I hope you and yours are happy (as possible), safe, and sane. And washing your hands all the time! For those teaching remotely, I feel you. For those of us who travel as part of our jobs, this year has been one filled with cancelled tickets, disrupted archival visits, and other professional disappointments. I am truly sorry. Who knows what 2021 will bring? But I can say I'm certainly ready for 2020 to end.

Speaking of endings, this will be my last newsletter as Social Media Editor! And while I'm ready to move on to other things (I have been several years in this role), I know that not getting to hang with you all each month will be a bit sad. But hey, that is what conferences are for! There is an announcement about becoming the new Communications Chair highlighted in this volume. If you are interested, please reach out. You get to hang with an amazing bunch of folks. But in the meantime, I thank the Executive Board for all their kindnesses, and this tremendous opportunity. A reminder to please take a moment if you haven't followed us on Facebook and Twitter to do so. Up-to-date information will always be there, as well as on our Society webpage. In addition, please send pedagogy/ research resource suggestions to Katie Edwards via [webmaster@frenchcolonial.org](mailto:webmaster@frenchcolonial.org).

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1627205484163791/?ref=bookmarks>

**Twitter:**

**@FrenchColonial**

Robin Mitchell

News & Social Media Editor

## Fall 2020 President's Newsletter Message

My dear colleagues,

No matter where we are, anywhere in the world, this is certainly a fall we will remember. The global pandemic of COVID-19 is taking a toll on all of us. Some of us have encountered the disease personally. We are scrambling to reconfigure our teaching to for remote instruction or to make space in our classrooms for social distancing. Our research is disrupted as travel has become more difficult. We have missed the stimulating in-person intellectual exchange of conferences and other meetings.

FCHS/SHCF is working to help members fill these gaps in our intellectual lives. We have partnered with the Society for French Historical Studies, the Western Society for French History, the Rudé Society, the Society for the Study of French History, and H-France to organize virtual reading and writing groups that are free and open to all scholars of the Francophone world. If you are interested in participating in such a group, visit [this discussion group list](#). If you would like to organize a group, please contact [Dr. David Andress](#) (david.andress@port.ac.uk).

We also are organizing virtual events for our members that will promote research, teaching, and public engagement. These include three virtual orientation sessions with archivists at Archives nationales d'outre mer; a conversation about racism and the reproduction of colonialism in public history and discourse in France; and mentoring and publication workshops for emerging scholars. We include some information in the newsletter, and will announce further details soon via email, social media, and on the website!

But we need your help! As a Society, our strength is in our diversity. This year of virtual engagement provides us with an opportunity to involve members or potential members all over the world, especially emerging scholars and those whose geographic or institutional location makes it difficult for them to attend our annual conference. What types of virtual events would be of interest to you? If you have ideas about or would like to organize a virtual event for FCHS/SHCF members, please contact me at [president@frenchcolonial.org](mailto:president@frenchcolonial.org). Our members are particularly well positioned to address historical issues including anti-black racism, trans-nationalism, the politics of identity, fascist ideologies, militarization, and the modern legacies of slavery and colonialism.

I would like to call your attention to a few other items of interest in the newsletter. We are looking for two new leadership team members: A Communications Chair (formerly Newsletter/Social Media Chair), and an Early Career Representative. We also are delighted to announce a new article prize, for the best article published in any journal in the field of French colonial history; we are now accepting submissions for articles published in 2020.

While we cannot meet in person, the work of FCHS/SHCF goes on. I would like to thank and recognize the hard work of the following members of our society. Rick Fogarty's service as President of FCHS/SHCF has been a model and an inspiration. Ken Orosz worked tirelessly to plan our cancelled 2020 conference in Buffalo. Amelia Lyons chaired the Program Committee for the same cancelled conference. Thanks to Robin Mitchell, who debuted the role of social media editor and has served as newsletter editor for three years (check us out on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!). Charles Keith is the outgoing Book Prize Committee Chair. Sarah Zimmerman has joined the leadership team as Vice President.

FCHS/SHCF occupies a special place in the galaxy of academic organizations. Our membership spans the globe; we are dedicated to nurturing and supporting graduate students and early career scholars; and we value collegiality and mentorship above academic rivalry and exclusivity. Our Society depends on its members—you—for its continued existence and support of scholarship on the French colonial world.

## Fall 2020 President's Newsletter Message Continued

While our intent is that all virtual events will be freely available to all interested scholars, we still need your financial support. Please take a moment to [renew your membership](#) and, if you can, give a donation.

Best wishes to you all, and I hope to see you virtually at our fall programming!

Jennifer L. Palmer

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### Digital Events for 2020-21

We are delighted to announce a three-part series of virtual orientations to digitized records available at the Archives nationales d'outre mer, presented in partnership with the ANOM and conducted by archivists.

- November 12, 16 h France/10 h US Eastern/7 h US Pacific time- a general overview of digitized resources, including instruction on how to construct a search
- December 10, 16 h France/10 h US Eastern/7 h US Pacific time- specialized session
- January 28, 16 h France/10 h US Eastern/7 h US Pacific time- specialized session

We will communicate further details about these sessions, including how to sign up for them.

If you have suggestions or ideas about the types of events and services that would be helpful, know of events that might be of interest to our members, or if you are interested in helping to organize a virtual event, please contact FCHS/SHCF President Jennifer Palmer at [president@frenchcolonial.org](mailto:president@frenchcolonial.org).

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### Conference Postponement

The FCHS/SHCF 2021 annual conference, scheduled to take place in Charleston, South Carolina, will be delayed until 2022 because of the continuing global spread of COVID-19. Thank you to Dr. Sandy Slater, the College of Charleston, and the Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World Program for their hard work and their willingness to postpone what promises to be an invigorating return to sharing scholarship in person! We will not have an in-person conference in 2021; all events will be virtual.

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### Call for Nominations: Early Career Representative

FCHS/SHCF seeks an Early Career Representative to join its leadership team. This officer advocates for the concerns and needs of scholars in the early stages of their careers. This includes graduate students, independent scholars, and PhDs less than eight years from degree. This representative will assist the Society in its efforts to create opportunities for and promote the work of early-career scholars, as well as make recommendations to the Society. The officer will serve a two-year renewable term.

If you are interested in learning more about or serving in this position, please contact Jennifer Palmer ([president@frenchcolonial.org](mailto:president@frenchcolonial.org)) by 1 November, 2020.

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## Call for Nomination: Communications Chair

FCHS/SHCF seeks a Communications Chair. This officer compiles and edits the triannual newsletter, makes announcements and acts as the voice of the Society on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media, and participates in steering the Society. The officer will serve a two-year renewable term.

If you are interested in learning more about or serving in this position, please contact Jennifer Palmer ([president@frenchcolonial.org](mailto:president@frenchcolonial.org)) by 1 November, 2020.

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## Forthcoming Issue of *French Colonial History*

The next issue of our journal *French Colonial History* will hit members' inboxes by the end of the month! Editors Ken Orosz and Caroline Herbelin provide this glimpse of articles in the forthcoming issue.

- Guillaume Teasdale, "Statut social et prestige aux marges de l'Empire: Lamothe Cadillac et le Détroit du lac Érié"
- Tran Thi Phuong Hoa, "Pragmatizing Schools: A History of Vocational Training in Colonial Vietnam"
- Makhroufi Ousmane Traore, "La diplomatie des femmes au cœur des rivalités impériales européennes et dans la traite atlantique en Afrique de l'Ouest, XVIIe-XVIIIe siècles"
- Stanislas Frenkiel, "Pieds-noirs, têtes hautes: une histoire des sélectionnés olympiques d'Algérie"
- Molly J. Giblin, "The Emperor's Old Clothes: Chinese Objects and the Renaissance of French Imperialism"

Coming attractions: Volume 20 will include a special section on women in Empire, with an introduction by Emmanuelle Saada and articles by Jennifer Boittin, Emily Lord Fransee and Annette Joseph-Gabriel, plus additional unrelated articles. To receive these exciting issues, renew your membership today!

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## Prizes and Awards

### Book Prize Call for Submissions:

#### The Mary Alice and Philip Boucher Book Prize

#### The Alf Andrew Heggoy Book Prize

The French Colonial Historical Society awards two book prizes annually for the best books on French colonial history published during the preceding year.

The Boucher Prize is awarded in honor of long-time members and active supports Mary Alice and Philip Boucher, and recognizes the best book on the French colonial experience from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to 1815.

The Heggoy Prize is awarded in honor of FCHS founding member Alf Andrew Heggoy, and recognizes the best book on the French colonial experience from 1815 to the present.

## Prizes and Awards Continued

Books from any academic discipline will be considered, provided that they approach the French colonial experience from a historical perspective.

The deadline for this year's submissions is March 1, 2021. Please address questions about the submission process and queries about where to send submissions to Dr. Elizabeth Heath, Chair of the FCHS Book Prize Committee, at [bookprizes@frenchcolonial.org](mailto:bookprizes@frenchcolonial.org).

Applicants or their publishers should submit four copies of books, one to each committee member. Books must have been published in 2020; date of publication is determined by the copyright page of the book. Please clearly indicate whether the submission is for the Boucher or Heggoy Prize. Given the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, it may be possible to submit PDFs of full books. Please contact the Chair of the Book Prize Committee.

### Committee Members:

- Dr. Elizabeth Heath (Chair), Department of History, Baruch College
- Dr. Robert Michael Morrissey, Department of History, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- Dr. Patrick Dramé, Department of History, Université de Sherbrooke
- Dr. Penny Edwards, Department of South & Southeast Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley

The winners for 2020 will be announced in Spring 2021, and the prize recipients honored at the annual conference in 2022.

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## Article Prize Call for Submissions

The French Colonial Historical Society (FCHS) is pleased to announce the call for submissions for its 2021 Article Prize. The competition is open to all articles dealing with French Colonial history published during 2020 in either English or French, irrespective of geographic focus or time period. We especially encourage submissions from early career scholars and from scholars based outside of North America. The winner receives a complementary one-year membership to FCHS, along with registration to the annual conference, a small monetary award, and a certificate. Membership in the FCHS is not required, but it is encouraged. Please send submissions to [articleprize@frenchcolonial.org](mailto:articleprize@frenchcolonial.org) by January 10, 2021.

La société historique coloniale française (SHCF) a le plaisir d'annoncer l'appel à candidatures pour son prix de l'article 2021. Le concours est ouvert à tous les articles traitants de l'histoire coloniale française publiés en 2020 en anglais ou en français, quelles que soient leur orientation géographique ou leur période. Nous encourageons particulièrement les soumissions de chercheurs en début de carrière et de chercheurs en dehors de l'Amérique du Nord. L'adhésion à la SHCF n'est pas obligatoire, mais elle est encouragée. Le gagnant reçoit une adhésion complémentaire d'un an à la SHCF, ainsi qu'une inscription à la conférence annuelle, une petite récompense monétaire et un certificat. Veuillez envoyer vos soumissions à [articleprize@frenchcolonial.org](mailto:articleprize@frenchcolonial.org) avant le 10 janvier 2021.

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## Journal Call for Submissions

Invitation to submit articles for publication in *French Colonial History*.

***French Colonial History*** is the official journal of the French Colonial Historical Society. ***FCH*** publishes peer-reviewed research articles, review essays, forums, and reflections addressing all aspect of the history of French colonization and the Francophone world, reflecting the temporal span, geographic breadth, and diversity of subject matter that characterizes the scholarly interests of the Society's members. Submissions are welcome in English or French concerning any geographic area or chronological period, including the metropole and the postcolonial. ***FCH*** especially encourages submissions by junior scholars and members of groups underrepresented in History.

***FCH*** also welcomes proposals for special issues or forums of several articles around a theme. Potential guest editors should contact the Journal Editor Ken Orosz ([FCH@frenchcolonial.org](mailto:FCH@frenchcolonial.org)) to discuss their proposals. Submission guidelines can be found at <http://www.frenchcolonial.org/index.php/journal>.

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## Colleagues at Work / Book Announcements

We want to promote your latest works. Please send them to [media@frenchcolonial.org](mailto:media@frenchcolonial.org) for inclusion in the next newsletter.

### Monographs:

Annete K. Joseph-Gabriel, *Reimagining Liberation: How Black Women Transformed Citizenship in the French Empire* (University of Illinois Press, 2019).

Robin Mitchell, *Vénus Noire: Black Women and Colonial Fantasies in Nineteenth-Century France* (University of Georgia Press, 2020).

Sarah J. Zimmerman, *Militarizing Marriage: West African Soldiers' Conjugal Traditions in Modern French Empire* (Ohio University Press, 2020).

### Articles:

Special Issue of *Histoire sociale/Social History* 53:107 (2020)

“Slavery, Memory, Power: France and Its Former Colonies”

Guest Editors: Audra A. Diptée & Myriam Cottias

Includes articles by Jennifer L. Palmer, Lorelle Semley, Yun Kyoung Kwon, Alix Rivière, Jessica Balguy, Malik Noël-Ferdinand, Matin Mourre, and Renée Gosson.

Special Issue of *French Politics, Culture & Society* 38 no. 2 (2020)

“French Decolonization in Global Perspective”

Guest Editor: Jessica Lynne Pearson

Includes articles by Jessica Pearson, Kathryn Edwards, Terrence Peterson, Megan Brown, Burleigh Hendrickson, Sarah Runcie, and Frédéric Viguier.

Stephen Gale's essay, "A Fragment of Classical French Planning on the Colorado Plains," has been posted to the FCHS facebook group page (Aug. 1, 2020, posted by Spencer Segalla).

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### **Items of Interest to Members**

The French Department at Wellesley College presents a virtual colloquium entitled "Addressing Racism and Anti-Blackness in French and Francophone Studies" during the Fall 2020 term. Members of our society are included among the featured speakers.

Please register for these events at via [this website](#).

The American Historical Association has published a new booklet of interest to the members of the French Colonial Historical Society: *European Emigration to the Americas, 1492 to Independence: A Hemispheric Perspective*, written by Eric Hinderaker and Rebecca Horn. Because the booklet is intended for use in classrooms, it is \$10 at full price, \$7 for AHA members (members can login [here](#) to receive the discount).

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