

Susan Curtis
Professor of History and American Studies
Curriculum vitae
2019

Contact Information

Office

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Purdue University
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Home

967 Westminster Circle, #623
West Lafayette, IN 47906
(765) 637-5673

Education

Ph.D., University of Missouri, 1981-1986
M.A., University of Missouri, 1977-1981
B.A., Graceland College, 1974-1977

Educational Awards and Honors

Alice Cook White Fellowship, 1984
Lewis Atherton Fellowship, 1984
John C. Rainbolt Scholarship, 1984
Superior Graduate Achievement, University of Missouri, 1983
Scholar of Promise, John Whitmer Historical Association, 1983
Stephens Fellowship, 1983
Superior Graduate Teaching, University of Missouri, 1981
Summa cum laude, Graceland College, 1977
State of Iowa Scholar, 1974

Academic Appointments

Interim Head, School of Interdisciplinary Studies, Purdue University, 2015

Maxwell C. Weiner Distinguished Visiting Professor of History, Missouri University of Science and Technology, 2012-2013.

Director of American Studies, Purdue University (2010 - 2012)

Associate Dean for Interdisciplinary Programs and Engagement, College of Liberal Arts, Purdue University (2006-2008)

Director of Interdisciplinary Studies, School of Liberal Arts, Purdue University (2003-2006)

Chair of the Program in American Studies, Purdue University (1999-2003)

Professor (1999-); Associate Professor (1994-1999); Assistant Professor (1989-1994),
Department of History, Purdue University

Assistant Professor (1986-1989), Department of History, Florida International University

Research and Publications

Books:

Colored Memories: A Biographer's Quest for the Elusive Lester A. Walton. Columbia:
University of Missouri Press, 2008.

The First Black Actors on the Great White Way. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1998.
(First Paperback edition published in 2001)

Dancing to a Black Man's Tune: A Life of Scott Joplin. Columbia: University of Missouri
Press, 1994. (First Paperback edition published in 2004)

A Consuming Faith: The Social Gospel and Modern American Culture. Baltimore: The Johns
Hopkins University Press, 1991. Second Edition, Columbia: University of Missouri
Press, 2001.

Book Chapters:

(co-authored with Kristina Bross) "The 'Splendidly Designed' Power Plant: From Symbol of
Modernity to Beloved Icon." In *A Purdue Icon: Creation, Life, and Legacy.* Ed. by
James L. Mullins (West Lafayette: Purdue University Press, 2017), 37-58.

"Society." In *The Edinburgh Critical History of Nineteenth-Century Christian Theology.* Ed.
By Daniel Whistler (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2017), 45-63.

"Greek Drama in America: An Archival Interrogation," *The Oxford Handbook of Greek Dramas
in the Americas.* Ed. by Kathryn Bosher, et al. (London: Oxford University Press, 2015),
Chapter 2.

"Religious Responses to Industrialization, 1865-1945," *Cambridge History of Religions in
America.* Vol. II: 1790-1945. Ed. by Stephen Stein, et al. (New York: Cambridge
University Press, 2012), 499-522.

"Black Creativity and Black Stereotype: Re-thinking Twentieth-Century Popular Music in
America," in *Beyond Blackface Minstrelsy.* Ed. by Fitzhugh Brundage (Chapel Hill:
University of North Carolina Press, 2011), 124-46.

“Lester A. Walton: A Life between Culture and Politics” in *Human Tradition in African American History*. Ed. By Nina Mjagkij (Wilmington, Delaware: Scholarly Resources, Inc., 2003), 129-46.

“American Protestantism at a Crossroads” (Chapter 1 of *A Consuming Faith*) in *Critical Issues in American Religious History*. Ed. by Robert R. Mathisen (Waco, Texas: Baylor University Press, 2001), 462-71.

“The Social Gospel and Race in American Culture” in *Perspectives on the Social Gospel*. Ed. By Christopher H. Evans (Lewiston: The Edwin Mellen Press, 1999), 15-32.

“The Son of Man and God the Father: The Social Gospel and Victorian Masculinity” in *Meanings for Manhood*. Ed. By Mark C. Carnes and Clyde Griffen (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990), 67-78. Reprinted in *Major Problems in the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era*. Ed. By Leon Fink (Lexington, Mass.: D. C. Heath, 1993), 81-96.

“Early Nineteenth-Century America and the Book of Mormon” in *The Word of God: Essays on Mormon Scripture*. Ed. by Dan Vogel (Salt Lake City: Signature Press, 1990), 81-96.

Articles

“History, Fiction, Imagination, and A Mercy,” *Early American Literature* Vol. 48, No. 1 (2013): 188-93.

“Citizenship Unveiled: Mormons and the Profile of ‘American.’” *John Whitmer Historical Association Journal* 22 (2002): 81-86.

“Scott Joplin and Sedalia: The King of Ragtime in the Queen City of Missouri.” *Gateway Heritage* 14 (Spring 1994): 4-19.

“Religious Foundations of America’s Oldest Socialist Press: A Centennial Note on the Charles H. Kerr Publishing Company.” *Labour/le Travail* 19 (Spring 1987): 133-36.

“Palmyra Revisited: The *Book of Mormon* and Nineteenth-Century American Culture.” *John Whitmer Historical Association Journal* 2 (1982): 30-37.

Review Essays:

“Representing Race on Stage and Screen in Early Twentieth-Century America.” *Reviews in American History* 44.2 (June 2016): 320-26.

Review Essay of Bob Carlin, *The Birth of the Banjo: Joel Walker Sweeney and Early Minstrelsy* and Lynn Abbott and Doug Seroff, *Ragged but Right: Black Traveling Shows, ‘Coon*

Songs, ' and the Dark Pathway to Blues and Jazz." *Journal of Southern History* 74 (August 2008): 738-40.

"Equal Rites: The Book of Mormon, Masonry, Gender, and American Culture." *John Whitmer Historical Association Journal* 25 (2005): 181-84.

"Fusing and Re-Fusing Nationalism." *American Quarterly* 54 (June 2002): 317-24.

"New Wine in Old Skins: A Reply to Paul M. Edwards." *John Whitmer Historical Association Journal* 20 (2000): 48-58.

"The Sovereignty of the Secular and the Power of Religion." *American Literary History* 8 (Summer 1996): 328-40.

"Awash in a Sea of Arrogant Faith?" *American Quarterly* 43 (December 1991): 668-74.

"Scottish Communion, American Revivals." *Reviews in American History* 19 (1991): 20-25.

"*Exiles in a Land of Liberty: Mormons in America, 1830-1846* by Kenneth H. Winn." *John Whitmer Historical Association Journal* 10 (1990): 91-93.

"*Early Mormonism and the Magic World View* by D. Michael Quinn." *John Whitmer Historical Association Journal* 8 (1988): 85-87.

"*The 1838 Mormon War in Missouri* by Stephen C. LeSueur." *John Whitmer Historical Association Journal* 7 (1987): 81-82.

Dictionary/Encyclopedia Entries:

"Christianity and the Social Crisis," *American History through Literature, 1870-1920*. Ed. By Tom Quirk and Gary Scharnhorst (Detroit: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2006), 236-38.

"Scott Joplin," "Aida Overton Walker," "George Walker," "Bert Williams," and Carl Yastrzemski," in *The Encyclopedia of Popular Culture*. Ed. By Sara and Tom Pendergast (Detroit: St. James Publishing, 2000, 2011).

"Commercial and National Consolidation, 1878-1912: Overview," *Encyclopedia of American Cultural and Intellectual History*, Vol. 1 (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2001), 495-504.

"W. C. Handy" and "Scott Joplin," *Dictionary of Missouri Biography*. Ed. By Lawrence O. Christensen, William E. Foley, Gary R. Kremer, and Kenneth H. Winn (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1999): 368-69, 442-45.

“Scott Joplin” and “Ragtime,” *Encyclopedia of Urban America*. 2 Vols. Ed. By Neil Larry Shumsky (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 1998): I: 395-96, II: 607.

“Washington Gladden,” “Walter Rauschenbusch,” and “Social Gospel,” *Encyclopedia of Urban America*, 2 Vols. Ed. By Neil Larry Shumsky (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 1998): I: 327; II: 618-19, 710,11.

“George Davis Herron,” *The United States in the First World War: An Encyclopedia*. Ed. by Anne Cipriano Venzon (New York: Garland Publishers, 1995), 275-76.

Book Reviews:

Reviews published in the following journals: *Journal of American History*, *American Historical Review*, *Church History*, *The Historian*, *History of Education Quarterly*, *Journal of Southwest Georgia History*, *Journal of Southern History*, *Southern Historian*, *History of European Ideas*, *Film and History*, *Canadian Historical Review*, *Michigan Historical Review*, *Faith and Mission*, *North Carolina Historical Review*, *Journal of Contemporary Sociology*, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, *John Whitmer Historical Association Journal*, *Journal of Religion*, *Journal of Church and State*.

Professional Presentations and Invited Lectures

“Art, Society, and Culture: Possibilities for the Interdisciplinary Study of the Arts,” Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá, November 12, 2015.

“Prelude to the Dust Bowl: Depression and Drought in the 1890s,” Purdue University Libraries Lecture Series, September 2014.

“The Problem of Ideology in Research and Teaching,” Society of U.S. Intellectual Historians, Indianapolis, October 9, 2014.

Remembering the 1890s: Hard Times and the Tough Road to Recovery,” Maxwell C. Weiner Public Lecture, Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla, Missouri, May 1, 2013.

“Scott Joplin’s Interview a Century Later: Composing an African American Cultural Legacy,” Maxwell C. Weiner Public Lecture, Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla, Missouri, April 15, 2013.

“Historicizing the Miraculous and Making Christian Men.” Ben-Hur Conference, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, March 8, 2013.

“The Politics of Memory: Historic Preservation, and Lessons of the Past.” Woodward Lecture, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tennessee, October 18, 2012.

“Lester A. Walton: His Story, My Story, History.” Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tennessee, October 17, 2012.

- “History, Fiction, Imagination, and *A Mercy*,” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, October 2010.
- “Expanding the Archive: Lester Walton’s Essays in *The New York Age*,” Center for Humanistic Studies Talk, Purdue University, April 12, 2010.
- “The Scholar as Citizen in a ‘New Era’ and ‘Different World,’” American Studies Association, Washington, D. C., November 6, 2009.
- “Becoming Modern: The Social Gospel and Gender Ideals in Twentieth-Century America,” Conversations at the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, Arizona State University, April 20, 2009.
- Chair, “Lived Religion and the Search for Order: Toward an Inner History of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era,” American Historical Association, New York, January 2009.
- “Darwinism and Political Thought,” Butler University Seminar on Religion and World Civilization, Indianapolis, October 21, 2008.
- Keynote, “Lester A. Walton: His Story, My Story, History,” Indiana Association of Historians, Indianapolis, February 23, 2008.
- Commentator, “Twentieth-Century Biography: Private Lives, Public Culture,” Indiana Association of Historians Annual Meeting, Bloomington, Indiana, February 24, 2007.
- “U.S. Civil War/Anglo-Boer War: A Transnational Perspective on Race, Trauma, and Re-enactment,” American Studies Lecture Series, “Nationalism, Citizenship, Immigration and American Studies,” Purdue University, January 19, 2007.
- Keynote, “American Studies and Interdisciplinarity: Critical Discomfort and Scholarship that Matters,” Building Bridges, Crossing Borders Conference, Fatih University, Istanbul, Turkey, May 25, 2006.
- Chair, “Linking the Big Screen to the Block,” African American Studies and Research Center Symposium, West Lafayette, December 8, 2006.
- “African American Theater in a Time of War,” Black Cultural Center Series on Blacks and Film, Purdue University, September 28, 2005.
- “History, Haunting, and Ghosts,” Organization of American Historians, San Jose, April 1, 2005.
- “Historians and Ghosts: Reflections on the Work of the Historian,” Faculty Colloquium, Department of History, Indiana University, February 17, 2005.

- “Situating Clyde Forsberg’s *Equal Rites: The Book of Mormon, Masonry, Gender, and American Culture*,” John Whitmer Historical Association Annual Meeting, Omaha, September 25, 2004.
- Commentator, “Race,” Mormon History Association, Kirtland, Ohio, May 24, 2003.
- “Scott Joplin in the Classroom,” Organization of American Historians, Memphis, April 4, 2003.
- “Citizenship Unveiled: Mormons and the Profile of ‘American,’” John Whitmer Historical Association annual meeting, Nauvoo, Illinois, September 27, 2002.
- Chair, “Historians at Work in the Nineteenth Century,” Indiana Association of Historians annual meeting, West Lafayette, March 3, 2001.
- Chair, “The Struggle for Community Approval in the American Midwest,” Great Lakes American Studies Association, Muncie, Indiana, March 17, 2001.
- “Lester A. Walton and the Overlapping Claims of Race and Nation,” African Americans and the Age of American Expansion, Penn State, March 26-28, 1999.
- “Memory and American Historians,” Southern American Studies Association, Wilmington, North Carolina, February 26, 1999.
- “The Social Gospel and Race in American Culture,” Social Gospel Conference at the Colgate Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, New York April 24, 1998.
- “Making Headlines: Lester Walton and the Race for Africa,” Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations, Washington, D. C., June 21, 1997.
- “Race and Nation in American Studies: Lester A. Walton and the Representation of Art in America and Diplomacy,” Mid-America American Studies Association, St. Louis, April 19, 1996.
- “Scott Joplin: An American Hero,” Scott Joplin International Ragtime Festival, Sedalia, Missouri, June 2, 1995.
- Commentator, “The YMCA and Christian Manhood,” Organization of American Historians, Atlanta, April 15, 1994.
- “The Incorporation of Ragtime: Race, Class, and Music in Modern American Culture,” American Culture Association, Louisville, KY, March 19, 1992.
- “Dancing to a Black Man’s Tune: Race, Class, and Music in Early Twentieth-Century American Culture,” Sonneck Society of American Music, LSU, Baton Rouge, February 15, 1992.

Commentator, "Participating in American Issues of Religion, Gender, and Culture," Mid-America American Studies Association, Little Rock, Arkansas, April 12, 1991.

"Popular Music in Turn-of-the-Century America," History Society Lecture Series, Florida International University, Miami, March 15, 1991.

"Music, Culture, and Society in the American 1890s," Southern American Studies Association, Williamsburg, VA, February 15, 1991.

"Women and Utopia: Elizabeth Stuart Phelps's Vision of Heaven," American Studies Association, New Orleans, November 1, 1990.

"Children of the Gilded Age," Southern American Studies Association, University of Alabama-Birmingham, April 1, 1989.

"Conceptualizing Diversity in Twentieth-Century Communities," American Studies Association, Miami, October 29, 1988.

"The Son of Man and God the Father: Victorian Masculinity and the Theology of the Social Gospel," Conference on Masculinity in Victorian America, Columbia University, New York, January 8, 1988.

"Generational Experience, Intergenerational Tension, and the Making of Modern Culture," Mid-America American Studies Association, Columbia, Missouri, April 15, 1988.

"From 'True Women' to 'New Women': The Social Gospel and a Changing Ideal of Womanhood," Women's Studies Colloquium, Florida International University, Miami, March 1987.

"Church, Class, and Community: Social Change in Lexington, Missouri," Missouri Conference on History, Columbia, Missouri, May 1981.

"The Book of Mormon and Nineteenth-Century American Thought," John Whitmer Historical Association Restoration Lecture Series, Lamoni, Iowa, May 1977.

Grants to Support Research

Center for Humanistic Studies Fellowship, College of Liberal Arts, Purdue University, 2009

Center for Humanistic Studies Fellowship, School of Liberal Arts, Purdue University, 2002

School of Liberal Arts Faculty Incentive Grant, 2002

School of Liberal Arts Faculty Incentive Grant, 1996

XL Faculty Summer Research Grant, Purdue University, 1990

Teaching, Mentoring, Service-Learning

Teaching Fields

U.S. History Survey, 1600-Present
American Intellectual and Cultural History
American Religious History
American Studies
Archival Theory and Practice

Teaching Awards

Induction into the “Book of Great Teachers,” Purdue University, 2013
Department of History Nominee, Excellence in Teaching, College of Liberal Arts, 1993

Graduate Student Mentoring

Chair of Dissertation Committee

Pamela K. Sari	American Studies	Ph.D. 2019
Jennifer Sdunzik	American Studies	Ph.D. 2019
Emma Bertolaet	American Studies/Anthropology	Ph.D. 2019
Hana Lee (co-chair)	American Studies	Ph.D. 2018
Michelle Carreon	American Studies/Sociology	Ph.D. 2018
Abby Stephens	American Studies/History	Ph.D. 2018
Arthur Banton	American Studies/History	Ph.D. 2016
Lilly Marsh	American Studies/History	Ph.D. 2016
Aubrey Thamann	American Studies	Ph.D. 2016
Mary Barford	History	Ph.D. 2015
Shivohn Garcia	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 2013
Kelly Phillips Schimmel	History	Ph.D. 2012
Kathleen S. Mullins	American Studies/History	Ph.D. 2012
Wayne Neal Gill (co-chair)	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 2012
Erik C. Wade	American Studies/History	Ph.D. 2011
Charles Park	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 2011
Jamie Hickner	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 2011
Megan MacDonald	American Studies/History	Ph.D. 2009
Richard Moss	History	Ph.D. 2009
Lee Bebout (co-chair)	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 2007
Paul Reich	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 2007
Mark Edwards	History	Ph.D. 2006
Zhen Zou	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 2006
Scott Hoffman	American Studies/History	Ph.D. 2005
Becky Reno	American Literature	Ph.D. 2005
Lawrence Davis	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 2004
J. Jacob Jones	History	Ph.D. 2004
Susan Moynihan (co-chair)	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 2004
Diane Gruber	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 2002
Mikey Mitol (co-chair)	Comparative Literature	Ph.D. 2002

Holly Mickelson	American Studies /Literature	Ph.D. 2002
Deems Morrione (co-chair)	American Studies/PoliSci	Ph.D. 2002
Stephanie Turner	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 2002
Tom Pendergast	American Studies/History	Ph.D. 1998
Daniel A. Clark	History	Ph.D. 1997

Member of Dissertation Committee

Jaime Hough	American Studies/WGSS	Ph.D. 2018
Wesley Bishop	History	Ph.D. 2018
Ping Qi	American Studies	Ph.D. 2018
Suparna Chakraborty	History	Ph.D. 2017
Lisa Beringer	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 2016
Natalie Federer	Ag. Ed./Youth Development	Ph.D. 2015
Matthew Bastnagel	Literature	Ph.D. 2015
Chelsea Stripe	American Studies	Ph.D. 2014
Elyssa Tardif	American Literature	Ph.D. 2013
Philathia Bolton	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 2012
Andrew Ball	Philosophy and Literature	Ph.D. 2012
Courtney Thompson	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 2011
Maia Kingman	American Literature	Ph.D. 2010
Sabine Klein	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 2007
Michael Quinn	American Literature	Ph.D. 2007
Nicole Livengood	American Literature	Ph.D. 2007
Brett Bogart	Anthropology	Ph.D. 2007
Daryn Glassbrook	American Literature	Ph.D. 2006
Vanessa Hall	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 2006
Robert Burg	History	Ph.D. 2005
Brian Carter	History	Ph.D. 2004
Steven Wanger	Education	Ph.D. 2004
Kevin Scott	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 2004
Richard Lindstrom	History	Ph.D. 2003
Dorothy McKowen	American Literature	Ph.D. 2003
M. W. Patterson	History	Ph.D. 2003
Steven Beluscio	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 2003
H. Clark Maddux	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 2001
Adelyn Fullerton	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 2001
Andaluna Borcila	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 2000
Beverly Reed	American Literature	Ph.D. 2000
Rebecca Saulsbury	American Studies/ Literature	Ph.D. 1999
Anne Boyd	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 1999
Eva Baham	American Studies/History	Ph.D. 1997
Robert Cousins	American Studies/Literature	Ph.D. 1997
Kerry Jacoby	American Studies/PoliSci	Ph.D. 1996
Gina Scuteri	American Studies/PoliSci	Ph.D. 1993
April Wilson	American Studies/PoliSci	Ph.D. 1993

Roger Wood	American Studies/History	Ph.D. 1993
Mark Hanley	History	Ph.D. 1989

M.A. Committees

Jennifer Bedet	American Studies/Literature	M.A. 2002
Timothy Berg	American Studies/Literature	M.A. 1995
William Bettler	History	M.A. 1993
Montgomery Buell	American Studies/History	M.A. 1995
Andrew Busch	American Studies/History	M.A. 2004
Daniel Clark	History	M.A. 1993
Sarah Drake	History	M.A. 2000
Mark Edwards	History	M.A. 2000
Anne Gardzina	History	M.A. 1999
Paula Hinton	History	M.A. 1994
P. K. Jamison	American Studies/History	M.A. 2002
J. Jacob Jones	American Studies/History	M.A. 1994
David J. Kemp	American Studies/History	M.A. 2004
Bernadean Ketterling	American Studies/History	M.A. 1992
David Libby	History	M.A. 1993
H. Clark Maddux	American Studies/Literature	M.A. 1996
Susan McKee	American Studies/History	M.A. 1994
Ingrid Mjelstad	History	M.A. 1990
Lupe Niumeitolu	American Studies	M.A. 2004
Tammy Peters	American Studies/History	M.A. 1994
Kelly Phillips	History	M.A. 1999
David Rodgers	American Studies/History	M.A. 2002
Mindy Tan	American Studies/History	M.A. 2003
Zhen-Ming Tan	American Studies/History	M.A. 1992
Dawn Volkman	History	M.A. 1996
Christopher White	History	M.A. 1993
Samuel White	American Studies/History	M.A. 1991
Amy Wilson	History (IUPUI)	M.A. 1996
Erik Wade	American Studies/History	M.A. 2005
Karen Salt	American Studies/Literature	M.A. 2006
Brian McCammack	American Studies/Literature	M.A. 2006
Jeanine Wood	American Studies/History	M.A. 2008
Lisa Penn	History	M.A. 2007
Carla Glosson	History	M.A. 2009
Amy Tevault	English	M.A. 2012
Elizabeth Canela	American Studies/History	M.A. 2012
Nicholas Krebs	American Studies/History	M.A. 2013
Keturah Nix	American Studies	M.A. 2013
Na'eemah Webb	American Studies	M.A. 2013

Mentor, Younger Student NEH Summer Grant, Joel T. Helfrich, University of Rochester, "Scott Joplin: His Music and the Ideals of Musical Literacy," 1995.

Grant Support for Students

Purdue Research Foundation Grant, Pamela K. Sari, 2014
Purdue Research Foundation Grant, Lilly Marsh, 2013
Purdue Research Foundation Grant, Abby Stephens, 2012
Purdue Research Foundation Grant, Shivohn Garcia, 2011
Purdue Research Foundation Grant, Erik Wade, 2010
Research Assistantship for Assessment Study, Mark Bousquet, 2009
Research Assistantship for Service-Learning Course Development, Melissa Peck, 2009
Purdue Research Foundation Grant, Richard Moss, 2006
Purdue Research Foundation Grant, Kelly Phillips, 2005
Purdue Research Foundation Grant, Kenya Davis-Hayes, 2004
Purdue Research Foundation Grant, Lawrence Davis, 2003
Purdue Research Foundation Grant, Steven Belluscio, 2002
Purdue Research Foundation Grant, Kevin M. Scott, 2001
Purdue Research Foundation Grant, C. Steven Douglas, 1999
Purdue Research Foundation Grant, J. Jacob Jones, 1997
Purdue Research Foundation Grant, George Weddle, 1994

Service-Learning

"Archival Theory and Practice"

"Archival Theory and Practice" is a graduate-level service-learning course developed with Kristina Bross (Department of English) and Shirley Rose (Department of English) and offered through the Program in American Studies. Students improve their skills as archival researchers by learning what archivists do. Under close supervision of archivists in the field, students perform basic processing work for local entities. First offered as a course in 2004 team-taught by Curtis, Bross, and Rose, it has been repeated regularly since by one or two of the principals. Community Partners include: Tippecanoe County Historical Association, West Lafayette Public Library, Bruno's Family Restaurant, Samara House.

Grant Support for "Archival Theory and Practice"

American Studies Association, Community Partnership Grant, 2012-2013
Student Service-Engagement Grant, Purdue University, 2012
Greater Lafayette Community Foundation Grant, 2011 (With West Lafayette Public Library)
Student Service-Engagement Grant, Purdue University, 2011
Student Service-Engagement Grant, Purdue University, 2008
Indiana Humanities Council Grant, awarded to Natalie Federer for project in 2006
NEH Focus Grant, 2003-2004 (Co-Principal Investigator with Kristina Bross and Shirley Rose)
American Studies Association Community Partnership Grant, 2003-2004

**Scholarship of Engagement based on “Archival Theory and Practice”
Publications**

“Epilogue,” *Little Else Than a Memory*. Ed. by Kristina Bross. West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University Press, 2014.

(Co-author with Kristina Bross and Shirley Rose), “Publicly Engaged Graduate Research and the Transformation of the American Academy,” in Amanda Gilvin, Georgia Roberts, and Craig Martin, eds., *Collaborative Futures: Critical Reflections on Publicly Active Graduate Education* (Syracuse: Syracuse Graduate School Press, 2012).

Professional Presentations

Chair/Moderator, “Collaborations with Impact: Working Together on Archives-based Instruction,” Society of American Archivists, Cleveland, August 20, 2015.

“Engaging the Past: Using Archival Resources to Preserve Community Legacies at Home and Abroad,” (with Shirley Rose, Purdue University, and Ellen Kraly, Colgate University), Imagining America Conference, Los Angeles, October 3, 2008.

“When the Dust Settles: Writing Community from the Archives,” CCCC Annual Meeting, Chicago, March 24, 2006.

Community Presentations based on “Archival Theory and Practice”

“Personal Archives,” P.E.O., West Lafayette, Indiana, August 26, 2013.

West Lafayette History Block Party, West Lafayette Public Library, April 28, 2012.

New Chauncey Neighborhood Association’s Archives Drive, West Lafayette, Indiana, April 11, 2012.

“West Lafayette in the 1920s: A Report from the Archives,” Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association, West Lafayette, Indiana, March 27, 2012.

“Remembering Purdue: Memorials, Commemorations, and Hidden Histories,” (with Kristina Bross) for the President’s Council “Back to Class” Program, Naples, FL, February 18, 2012.

“Remembering Purdue: Memorials, Commemorations, and Hidden Histories,” (with Kristina Bross) for Westminster Village, West Lafayette, November 8, 2011.

“Remembering Purdue: Memorials, Commemorations, and Hidden Histories,” (With Kristina Bross) for University Place, West Lafayette, November 15, 2011.

“Remembering Purdue: Memorials, Commemorations, and Hidden Histories,” Alumni Luncheon, Cincinnati, OH, October 27, 2011.

“Remembering Purdue: Memorials, Commemorations, and Hidden Histories,” (with Kristina Bross) for the President’s Council “Back to Class” Program, September 30, 2011.

The West Lafayette History Block Party, West Lafayette, April 30, 2011

The Memories Road Show, West Lafayette Public Library, February 5, 2011

Community of Service-learning Faculty Fellows Workshop, “Graduate Education and Service Learning,” Purdue University, February 3, 2010.

Community of Service-learning Faculty Fellows Workshop, “The Pathway to Service Learning,” Purdue University, October 19, 2009.

“Preserving Memories,” Workshop on Archives, West Lafayette Public Library, December 8, 2008.

Poster Presentation on “Archival Theory and Practice,” President’s Council “Back to Class” Program, Purdue University, October 24, 2008.

“Archival Theory and Practice,” (with Kristina Bross and Sammie Morris) for the President’s Council “Back to Class” Program, October 7, 2005.

Poster Exhibit on Tippecanoe County, Indiana, and the World, Tippecanoe County Historical Association, Lafayette, May 6, 2006.

“Making History, Building Knowledge,” Tippecanoe County Historical Association, Lafayette, Indiana, March 26, 2004.

“Houses, History, and American Culture”

“Houses, History, and American Culture” is a service-learning course for advanced history students who study social and cultural experiences related to home-ownership—architectural expressions of cultural values, segregation, mortgage crises, environmental impact of urban sprawl—and apply their knowledge in producing a project in collaboration with a local non-profit organization, Wabash Valley Trust for Historic Preservation, devoted to preservation of the historic fabric of the community. First offered in 2009, “Houses, History, and American Culture” provides advanced undergraduates the opportunity to apply historical research, analytical, and communication skills to a project, completed in collaboration with the WVTHP, to contribute to the quality of life in the local community.

Grants to Support “Houses, History, and American Culture”

Community of Service-Learning Faculty Fellowship, Purdue University, 2009.

Indiana Humanities Council Grant, Wabash Valley Trust for Historic Preservation pamphlets and workshops on researching your historic building, January 2008.

Public Presentations Related to Houses and American Culture

“Historic buildings and the Stories They Tell: The Haan Mansion, Lafayette, Indiana, and the Dunbar Apartments, Harlem, New York,” Rotary Club, Delphi, Indiana, November 1, 2011.

“Building Stories: How to Research Your Historic Building,” Wabash Valley Trust for Historic Preservation, Lafayette and West Lafayette, May 11, 2008 and December 5, 2008.

“Historic Buildings and the Stories They Tell: The Haan Mansion, Lafayette, Indiana, and the Dunbar Apartments, Harlem, New York,” Alpha Gamma Chapter (Porter County) of Delta Kappa Gamma, Valparaiso, Indiana, October 13, 2008.

EPICS—Engineering Projects in Community Service

Co-advisor for EPICS course on “Historic Centennial Neighborhood Association,” seeking design solutions for high energy use in heating/cooling historic buildings, Fall Semester 2008. Students researched underlying engineering problems leading to heat transfer in historic buildings, worked on a guide for homeowners in the Historic Centennial Neighborhood Association.

Institutional Research on Service-Learning

Five-Year Assessment of Service-Learning at Purdue University, November 2008-September 2009, with Kim Wilson, Professor of Landscape Architecture. Research involved a broad-gauged study of the impact of service-learning on students, faculty, community partners, and institutional culture. We employed surveys, organized focus groups, gathered de-identified institutional data on student grades, promotion and tenure cases, and senior exit survey results, read curriculum vitae, syllabi, college and university strategic plans and university-wide learning outcomes, and analyzed reports related to the Student Service-Engagement Grant Program, Service-Learning Development Grant Program, and Community of Service-Learning Faculty Fellows Program.

Public Presentations based on Institutional Research on Service-Learning

“Case Studies in Service Learning: Promoting Your Scholarship of Engagement,” Center for Instructional Excellence, Purdue University, November 9, 2011.

(With Kim Wilson) “Making Service-Learning Valuable and Visible,” Outreach Scholarship Conference, Athens, Georgia, September 29, 2009.

(With Kim Wilson) “Making Service-Learning Valuable and Visible,” International Symposium on Service-Learning, Athens, Greece, November 20, 2009.

(With Kim Wilson) “Impact of the First Five Years of Service-Learning Faculty Grant Programs,” Scholarship of Engagement Conference, Purdue University, October 28, 2010.

With Kim Wilson) “Preparation for P&T with the Scholarship of Engagement,” Scholarship of Engagement Conference, Purdue University, October 28, 2010.

Civic Engagement and Service to the Community

Scholarship of Engagement

Professional Presentations

Session Chair, “Governing a Diverse Community: Georgia’s Rapidly Growing Hispanic Population,” Outreach Scholarship/Imagining America Conference, Columbus, Ohio, October 8, 2006.

Session Chair, “Community Engagement and Teaching American History,” Outreach Scholarship/Imagining America Conference, Columbus, Ohio, October 8, 2006.

Editorial Boards

Journal of Community Engagement Studies, 2008-
Indiana Magazine of History, 2008-2011

Public Presentations

“The First Great Depression: A Cautionary Tale from the American 1890s,” Rotary International, West Lafayette, Indiana, August 4, 2015.

“Howard Zinn and *The People’s History*,” ACLU-IN, West Lafayette, Indiana, September 26, 2013.

“Mobs, Murder, and Mayhem,” Lafayette-West Lafayette Community Reading program, Tippecanoe County Public Library, Lafayette, Indiana, September 17, 2013.

“The Way of the Saint: Humility and Strength and the Camino de Santiago,” Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association, West Lafayette, Indiana, March 25, 2013.

“Imagining and Fostering Diversity in the twenty-first-century University,” Kristina Bross’s course: “Our Idea of the University,” Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, February 19, 2013.

(with Charles Cutter) “The Way of the Saint: Humility and Strength and the Camino de Santiago,” Unitarian-Universalist Forum, West Lafayette, Indiana, January 13, 2013.

- “Christian Social Reform in the Gilded Age: Lessons for the New Gilded Age,” The Cottages of Mulberry and Mulberry University, Mulberry, Indiana, April 3, 2012.
- “Mark Twain’s *Huckleberry Finn* and Banned Books Week, ACLU, West Lafayette, Indiana, September 26, 2011.
- “Anti-Immigration Sentiment in America, 1850-2011,” Unitarian-Universalist Forum, West Lafayette, Indiana, August 14, 2011.
- “Sometimes a Name Says It All: Know-Nothings, Anti-Immigration Movements, and Civil Liberties, Or The Delphs of Indiana in 1850 and 2011,” ACLU-IN Lafayette Chapter Annual Banquet, April 21, 2011. (This address was later published in *The Lafayette Independent*, June 18, 2011.)
- “Mark Twain and the Gilded Age,” Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association, West Lafayette, Indiana, November 1, 2010.
- “Unsung Heroes of African American Religious History,” Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association, West Lafayette, Indiana, October 28, 2010.
- “Jane Addams and the American Civil Liberties Union,” Luncheon keynote, ACLU-IN Annual Student Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, October 16, 2010.
- “Mark Twain and the Gilded Age,” One Great Read, Tippecanoe Public Library, Lafayette, Indiana, July 7, 2010.
- “Scott Joplin: An American Cultural Revolutionary,” Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association, West Lafayette, Indiana, March 25, 2010.
- “The Guinea Pigs behind the Liberal Arts at Purdue University,” Purdue Women’s Leadership Conference, West Lafayette, Indiana, March 5, 2010.
- “When Ragtime Rocked America,” Cottages of Mulberry, Mulberry, Indiana, September 1, 2009.
- “The Civil War Remembered: The Boer War Camp, Louisiana Purchase Exposition, and Black St. Louisans,” Civil War Roundtable, Lafayette, Indiana, September 8, 2009.
- “Lester A. Walton: A Forgotten American Who Changed the Nation,” Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association, West Lafayette, Indiana, October 21, 2009.
- Moderator and Co-organizer (with Roberta Schoenemann, ACLU-IN, and Jean Tyner, Unitarian-Universalist Church), community discussion of Naomi Wolf’s *The End of America*, February 23, 2009.

“Scholarship and the Purdue Engagement Mission,” President’s Council “Back to Class” Program, Purdue University, October 24, 2008.

Moderator and Co-organizer (with Roberta Schoenemann, ACLU-IN, and Jean Tyner, Unitarian-Universalist Church) “Will Your Vote Be Counted? How Do You Know?” by Gene Spafford, West Lafayette, Indiana, September 2008.

Moderator and Co-organizer (with Roberta Schoenemann, ACLU-IN, and Jean Tyner, Unitarian-Universalist Church), community forum, “Freedom to Vote: Protecting the Ballot,” March 9, 2008.

“Sinclair Lewis’s *It Can’t Happen Here* and Philip Roth’s *The Plot Against America* presentation with Professor Emeritus Harold D. Woodman,” ACLU, West Lafayette, March 26, 2007.

Panelist, “Religious Liberty,” Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, Lafayette, Indiana, March 26, 2006.

Panelist, “Racism Forum,” sponsored by Tau Phi Sigma, Purdue University, September 6, 2006.

“Was the United States a ‘Christian Nation’ in the Antebellum Period?” Central Presbyterian Church, Lafayette, Indiana, March 26, 2006.

“Scott Joplin and the U.S. Progressive Era,” Cultural Enrichment Program, Central Catholic High School, Lafayette, Indiana, January 18, 2006.

“Scott Joplin and Cultural Revolution,” Tippecanoe County Historical Association, Lafayette, Indiana, March 26, 2004.

“Women and Politics in the United States,” Wabash Area Lifelong Learning Association, West Lafayette, Indiana, October 19, 1998.

“James Madison and the U.S. Constitution,” Daughters of the American Revolution, Lafayette, Indiana, September 10, 1996.

Presentation on Scott Joplin, Indiana Classic Ragtime Society, Indianapolis, June 9, 1996.

“Scott Joplin, Texarkana, and a Revolution in Popular Music,” Texarkana Museums System, Texarkana, Texas, February 27, 1996.

“Scott Joplin,” Borders Book Shop, Indianapolis, July 16, 1994.

Panelist, “German Churches in Lafayette, Indiana,” Tippecanoe County Historical Association, Spring Lecture Series, February 17, 1993.

“An Informal History of Rock and Roll,” (with Professor Charles Cutter), Phi Alpha Theta, Purdue University, April 1, 1992.

Radio Interviews

Interview, BBC, on Scott Joplin, aired on April 1, 1917, marking 100 years since the composer’s death.

Interview (with Kristina Bross) with Kristin Malavenda, WBAA, on Archival theory and Practice public event, “Archives Drive,” February 9, 2012.

Interview with Michael Loizzo, WBAA, on the Archival Theory and Practice public event, “Memories Road Show,” February 2, 2011.

Interview with Frank Stasio, “The State of Things,” North Carolina Public Radio on Scott Joplin and Cultural Revolution, October 2, 2007.

Interview with Megan Jones, BBC, Special Program on Scott Joplin, September 6, 2007.

Interview with Michael Loizzo, WBAA, on Archival Theory and Practice, and the need for archival consciousness in Tippecanoe County, January 26, 2006.

Interview with Megan Jones, BBC, Special Program on Ragtime Music, July 19, 2005, aired on October 4, 2005.

Interview with Jerry Atkins, KTXK-FM, Texarkana, Texas, on Scott Joplin and Texarkana, February 27, 1996.

Interview with David Reffkin, KUSF, San Francisco, “The Ragtime Machine,” on Dancing to a Black Man’s Tune, June 2, 1995. The interview has been transcribed and published in The Mississippi Rag.

Interview with Francis Ronalds, Voice of America, “Focus on Scott Joplin,” August 25, 1994.

Interview with Martin Goldsmith, National Public Radio, “Performance Today,” on Scott Joplin, July 11, 1994.

Interview with Peter Miesel, WSYW, Indianapolis, on Scott Joplin, July 5, 1994.

Community Boards

West Lafayette Historic Preservation Commission, 2013-

West Lafayette History and Research Center, 2014-

West Lafayette Public Library, 2017-

Wabash Valley Trust for Historic Preservation, 2006-2010

Community History Project Support (CHiPS), 2017-

As a member of CHiPS, I do research on aspects of West Lafayette history for programs designed to document the city's history and to raise awareness of the need for preservation of archival sources and history programming. CHiPS sponsors at least two major programs a year at the Grand View Cemetery to raise money and support for the restoration of the cemetery's caretaker's cottage, which one day will house rotating displays related to West Lafayette History

Consulting

Reviewer for Indiana Historical Bureau, Marker for Charles Gordone, June 2008.

Consultant for Texarkana Museums System application for NEH Self-Study Grant—to examine the Humanities content of their public programs and exhibits, 1996.

Consultant for St. Lawrence Church, Oral History Project in honor of the church's centennial in 1995. Assisted with the grant application for funding from the Indiana Research Council (awarded in May 1995), participated in analyzing recorded interviews, presentations at the Church: "The Transformation of American Life, 1890-1930," July 16, 1995; and "St. Lawrence Parish and American History, 1895-1935," May 19, 1996.

Administrative Experience and University and Professional Service

Administrative Positions

Interim Head, School of Interdisciplinary Studies, 2015

Administration of all interdisciplinary programs in the College of Liberal Arts

Director of American Studies, 2010-2012

Administration of graduate and undergraduate programs of study in American Studies

Associate Dean for Interdisciplinary Programs and Engagement, College of Liberal Arts, 2006-2008

Administration and support for 11 interdisciplinary programs. Oversaw the program review for all of the programs in 2006 and implemented policies to regularize appointments of Directors/Chairs and budget allocations.

Developed and oversaw a college-wide community engagement program— "P.L.A.C.E.: Purdue Liberal Arts Community Engagement," which fosters interdisciplinary research on a matter of community interest.

Administration of graduate fellowships for College of Liberal Arts interdisciplinary programs. Represented the College on the Vice-Provost for Engagement's Engagement Council and the Service-Engagement Advisory Board

Facilitated all external reviews of departmental and interdisciplinary academic programs in the College.

Recognition

Mortar Board honoree, one of the “Women of Purdue,” 2006

Director of Interdisciplinary Studies, 2003-2004, 2005-2006

Appointed first Director of Interdisciplinary Studies, College of Liberal Arts

Oversaw American Studies, Asian Studies, Classical Studies, Comparative Literature, Film and Video Studies, Italian Studies, Linguistics, Medieval Studies, Peace Studies, Philosophy and Literature, and Religious Studies

Worked collaboratively with three quasi-independent programs—African American Studies, Women’s Studies, and Jewish Studies

Initiated the publication of two newsletters each academic year, administered fellowships and teaching assistantships for the graduate programs, conducted periodic evaluations of Chairs/Directors of programs, and served as liaison between the programs at the Dean’s Office and Departments.

Chair of the Program in American Studies, 1999-2003

Recruitment and advising of M.A. and Ph.D. students pursuing degrees in American Studies, with a special focus on creating and supporting a diverse student body

Awarded Recruitment Grant, Graduate School, 2000, 2001

Wrote nominations for Andrews, Purdue Doctoral, Lynn, and Special Initiatives Fellowships for incoming American Studies Students

Organized annual symposia, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2001, 2003

Organized (with Elliott Gorn), Seminar in the History of American Culture, The Newberry Library, Chicago, 2000-2001.

Service to the University

Special Appointments

Five-Year Assessment of Service-Learning, with Kim Wilson, Landscape Architecture, 2008-2009

Co-Chair, “Synergies” Working Group, Strategic Planning Committee, 2007-2008

Member, Steering Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, 2007-2008

Member, Task Force for Special Emphases, “Synergies,” University Accreditation, 2008

Campus Representative to Imagining America, 2007-2011

Committees

Subcommittee on Interdisciplinary Activity and the Tenure/Promotion Process, Faculty Senate, 2008

Engagement Council, 2006-2008

President’s Leadership Class, Selection Committee, September 2008

Service-Engagement Advisory Board, 2006-

Library Scholar Grants Award Committee, 2006, 2007

A. H. Ismail Interdisciplinary Travel Grant, Evaluation Committee, 2006

“Mentoring” for the Faculty Mentoring Workshop, Graduate School, September 20, 2005, and October 10, 2007

Area Committee, Graduate Council, 1999-2000, 2000-2001

Presentation to Visiting Russian Civic Educators at James F. Ackerman Center for Democratic citizenship, School of Education, November 1999

Search Committees

Dean of Libraries, 2003-2004

Archivist, School of Libraries, 2003

Service to the College of Liberal Arts

Committees

Center for Undergraduate Instructional Excellence Selection Committee, 2017

Center for Humanistic Studies Selection Committee, 2010-2011

Area Committee (Promotion and Tenure), 2008-2012, 2015

Grievance Committee, 2008-2009

Council of Heads (Deans and Department Heads), 2003-2008, 2015

Strategic Planning Committee, 2001-2002

Head Review Committee, 2012

Search Committees

Director of Women’s Studies, 2005-2006 (Chair)

Head of Political Science Department, 1999-2000

Director of African American Studies Research Center, 1997-1998, 1998-1999

College of Liberal Arts Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Member, 1999, 2001-2003, 2011-2012

Vice-Chair of the Senate, 2002-2003

Service to the Department of History

Committees

Teaching Awards Committee, 2009

Primary Committee (Tenure and Promotion), 1999-

Graduate Committee, 1992-93, 1994-1996, 1997-2000, 2005-2006

Library Committee, 1995-1996, 2000-2001

Executive Committee, 1990-1993, 2000

Ad Hoc Committee on Fundraising, 1998-1999

Flaningam Prize Committee, 1998

Kneale Awards Committee, 1998, 2006

Curriculum Committee, Chair, 1994-1996
Woodman Travel Grants Committee, 1998

Search Committees

U.S. Social/Cultural History/Chair of American Studies, Chair, 2003-2004
Early Modern Britain, 1992-1993
Nineteenth-Century U.S. Political History, 1990-1991
Religious History/Academic Counseling, 1996
U.S. History, 1877-1941, 1997-1998
African American History, 1999-2000, 2001-2002

Service to the Program in American Studies

Committees

Organized American Studies Lecture Series, 2008-2009
Symposium Committee, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004
Policy Committee, 1997-1998
Admissions Committee, 1989-1995
Chester E. Eisinger Prize Committee, 1991

Service to the Profession

Referee for Academic Presses

University of Illinois Press
Routledge
University of Mississippi Press
The Ohio State University Press
Purdue University Press
University of Missouri Press
Cornell University Press
Smithsonian Institution Press
Wayne State University Press
St. Martin's Press
Harvard University Press
Oxford University Press

Referee for Academic Journals

Journal of American History
American Quarterly
Journal of Women's History
Religion and American Culture
Michigan Historical Review
Oral History Review
Journal of the Early Republic
Journal of Church and State

Journal of Southern History
Journal of Community Engagement Studies
American Political Thought

Consulting

Consultant, Karen Thomas of Film Odyssey, public television documentary project on the Social Gospel, 2009
National Endowment for the Humanities, Institutional Grant Program, 2016
National Endowment for the Humanities, Site Visit for Institutional Grant Programs, 2012
National Endowment for the Humanities, Print Editions and Collected Works, American Studies and United States History, 2010
National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of Public Programming, 2000
National Endowment for the Humanities, American History and American Studies, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2008
National Endowment for the Humanities, Collaborative Research Program, 2000
National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of Preservation and Access, 1995
Library of Congress, Kluge Fellowships, 2006
Fulbright Commission, Post-doctoral grants for Spanish Scholars to conduct research in the United States, May 2005
American Council of Learned Societies, Burkhardt Fellowship Program, 2014-2016
American Council of Learned Societies, Ryskamp Fellowship Program, 2014

Prize Committees

American Studies Association, Ralph Henry Gabriel Prize, 1999 and 2005 (Chair)
Organization of American Historians, Foreign Language Book Prize Committee, 2000-2003 (Chair)
Organization of American Historians, Best Article on American History published in a language other than English, Outside reader of a German article, 1996

Memberships in Academic, Professional, and Scholarly Societies

Organization of American Historians
American Studies Association
American Historical Association
American Society of Church History
John Whitmer Historical Association
Phi Alpha Theta

Tenure and Promotion Reviews

Michigan State University, Department of History
Clemson University, Department of History
University of Kansas, Film Studies
Arizona State University, Chicano Studies
Iowa State University, Religious Studies
University of Massachusetts Boston, American Studies

Indiana University, African, African American, and African Diaspora Studies
Boston University School of Theology, Church History
Iowa State University, Art & Design
Tennessee State University, English
Borough of Manhattan Community College, English

Program Reviews

Louisiana State University, Liberal Studies