

ERIK LINSTRUM

Department of History
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FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va., 2015-.

Professor of History, 2024-
Associate Professor of History, 2018-2024.
Assistant Professor of History, 2015-2018.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich., 2012-2014.

Assistant Professor of History and Postdoctoral Fellow, Michigan Society of Fellows.

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., 2007-2012.

Ph.D., History, 2012. Dissertation: "Making Minds Modern: The Politics of Psychology in the British Empire, 1898-1970." Winner, Harold K. Gross Prize. Committee: Maya Jasanoff (chair), David Blackbourn, Caroline Elkins, and Erez Manela.

A.M., History, 2009.

Princeton University, Princeton, N.J., 2002-2006.

A.B., History, *summa cum laude*, 2006.

BOOKS

Age of Emergency: Living with Violence at the End of the British Empire (Oxford University Press, 2023). Shortlist, Templer Medal, Society for Army Historical Research.

Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire (Harvard University Press, 2016). Winner, George Louis Beer Prize, American Historical Association.

ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

“Violence,” in *Histoire des impérialismes contemporains*, ed. Nicolas Beaupré and Florian Louis (Presses universitaires de France, in progress).

“Follow the Leader: Authority, Decolonization, and the Human Sciences” (under review).

“Entwined Escalation: Colonial Violence and Total War,” in *Globalizing the History of Twentieth-Century War*, ed. Bruno Cabanes and Cameron Givens (Cambridge University Press, under review).

“Escape from Empire: Decolonization as Disentanglement, Erasure, and Evasion,” in *The Truth about the British Empire: Real Histories of British Colonialism*, ed. Alan Lester (Hurst, 2024).

“Decolonizing Britain: An Exchange,” *Twentieth-Century British History* 33, no. 2 (2022): 274-303 (with Priyamvada Gopal, Saima Nasar, Vanessa Ogle, and Stuart Ward).

“Political Reporting,” in *Information: A Historical Companion*, ed. Anthony Grafton, Ann Blair, Paul Duguid, and Anja Goeing (Princeton University Press, 2021).

“The Case History in the Colonies,” *History of the Human Sciences* 33, no. 3-4 (October 2020): 85-94.

“Domesticating Chemical Weapons: Tear Gas and the Militarization of Policing in the British Imperial World, 1919-1981,” *Journal of Modern History* 91, no. 3 (September 2019): 557-585.

“Facts about Atrocity: Reporting Colonial Violence in Postwar Britain,” *History Workshop Journal* 84 (fall 2017): 108-127.

“Specters of Dependency: Psychoanalysis in the Age of Decolonization,” in *Psychoanalysis in the Age of Totalitarianism*, ed. Daniel Pick and Matt ffytche (Routledge, 2016).

“Britain,” in *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism*, ed. John Stone, et al. (Wiley-Blackwell, 2016).

“The Making of a Translator: James Strachey and the Origins of British Psychoanalysis,” *Journal of British Studies* 53, no. 3 (July 2014): 685-704.

“The Politics of Psychology in the British Empire, 1898-1960,” *Past & Present* 215 (May 2012): 195-233. Winner, Walter D. Love Article Prize, North American Conference on British Studies, and FHHS Article Prize, Forum for History of Human Science. Reprinted in *The British Empire: Critical Readings*, ed. Philippa Levine (Bloomsbury, 2018).

“Strauss’s *Life of Jesus*: Publication and the Politics of the German Public Sphere,” *Journal of the History of Ideas* 71, no. 4 (Oct. 2010): 593-616.

ESSAYS AND LONGER REVIEWS

“Breaking Free: Frantz Fanon’s Vision of Liberation Was Forged in a Life of Serial Self-Reinvention,” review of *The Rebel’s Clinic* by Adam Shatz, *The New Republic* (April 2024): 54-57.

“Han Suyin and the Literature of Anticolonialism,” Verso Blog, online at <https://www.versobooks.com/blogs/news/han-suyin-and-the-literature-of-anticolonialism>.

“Conscience and Empire,” review essay on *Insurgent Empire* by Priyamvada Gopal and *Time’s Monster* by Priya Satia, *Twentieth-Century British History* 32, no. 4 (2021): 636-640.

“A History of Violence: Pursuing the Ghosts of the British Empire,” *Berlin Journal*, no. 34 (2020-2021), online at <https://www.americanacademy.de/a-history-of-violence/>.

Review essay on *The Trouble with Empire: Challenges to Modern British Imperialism* by Antoinette Burton, *How Empire Shaped Us* by Antoinette Burton and Dane Kennedy (eds.), and *British Imperial: What the Empire Wasn’t* by Bernard Porter, *Journal of World History* 29, no. 2 (June 2018): 257-265.

“The Empire Dreamt Back,” *Aeon* (4 December 2017), online at <https://aeon.co/essays/britains-imperial-dream-catchers-and-the-truths-of-empire>. French translation: “Résistances du rêve, rêves de résistance: Empire colonial britannique, années 1930,” *Sensibilités: Histoire, critique et sciences sociales*, no. 4 (August 2018): 58-63.

“The Critic in Exile: Rediscovering Erich Auerbach,” *Yale Review* 96, no. 1 (Jan. 2008): 149-157.

SHORT REVIEWS

They Called It Peace: Worlds of Imperial Violence by Lauren Benton, *Diplomatic History* (submitted).

“It’s Not Just Cricket,” review of *A Cultural History of the British Empire* by John MacKenzie, *History Today* (May 2023): 103-104.

Unsound Empire: Civilization and Madness in Late-Victorian Law by Catherine L. Evans, *American Historical Review* 128, no. 1 (2023): 433-434.

“Legalised Lawlessness: The British Empire’s Playbook of Force,” review of *Legacy of Violence: A History of the British Empire* by Caroline Elkins, *History Today* 72, no. 5 (2022): 96-97.

Decolonization and Conflict: Colonial Comparisons and Legacies, ed. Martin Thomas and Gareth Curless, *Journal of Contemporary History* 54, no. 3 (2019): 688-689.

Morale: A Modern British History by Daniel Ussishkin, *Journal of Modern History* 91, no. 2 (2019): 443-444.

“Fantasy Land,” review of *Imperial Boredom: Monotony and the British Empire* by Jeffrey Auerbach, *History Today* 69, no. 3 (March 2019): 96-98.

Psychoanalysis, Total War, and the Making of the Democratic Self in Post-War Britain by Michal Shapira, *American Historical Review* 122 (2017): 254-255.

In the Club: Associational Life in Colonial South Asia by Benjamin B. Cohen, *Journal of British Studies* 55, no. 2 (2016): 425-426.

Black Skin, White Coats: Nigerian Psychiatrists, Decolonization, and the Globalization of Psychiatry by Matthew M. Heaton, *Journal of Canadian History/Annales canadiennes d’histoire* 50, no. 3 (2015): 626-628.

The Transformation of the Psyche in British Primary Care, 1880-1970 by Rhodri Hayward, *Contemporary British History* 29, no. 2 (2015): 291-293.

Mental Hygiene and Psychiatry in Modern Britain: Science, Technology and Medicine in Modern History by Jonathan Toms, *Journal of British Studies* 53, no. 3 (July 2014): 826-827.

The Pursuit of the Nazi Mind: Hitler, Hess, and the Analysts by Daniel Pick, *History of the Human Sciences* 26 (2013): 151-155.

PRIZES, HONORS, AND MAJOR FELLOWSHIPS

Huntington Library Fellowship, 2024-25.

APS/British Academy Fellowship, American Philosophical Society, 2023.
ACLS/Burkhardt Fellowship for Recently Tenured Scholars, 2021-2022.
Berlin Prize, American Academy in Berlin, 2021.
Kluge Fellowship, Library of Congress, 2017-18.
Eurias Fellowship, CRASSH, University of Cambridge, 2017-18 (declined).
George Louis Beer Prize, American Historical Association (for best book in European international history after 1895), 2017.
Walter D. Love Prize, North American Conference on British Studies (for best article by a North American scholar in British studies), 2013.
FHHS Article Prize, Forum for History of Human Science (for best recent article in the field), 2013.
Harold K. Gross Prize, Department of History, Harvard University, 2012.
Bowdoin Prize for Graduate Essay in English (“A Dream Dictionary for the World: Charles Gabriel Seligman and the Globalization of the Unconscious”), Harvard University, 2012.
Ernest May Fellowship in History and Policy, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 2011-12.
Mellon Fellowship for Dissertation Research, Institute of Historical Research, London, 2010-11.
Laurence Hutton Prize (for highest standing in History), Princeton University, 2006.
Phi Beta Kappa, Princeton University, 2005.

OTHER RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Arts, Humanities, and Social Science research grants, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Virginia, 2014-2023.
Mellon Humanities Fellow, Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures, University of Virginia, 2019-20.
Center for Global Inquiry and Innovation research grants, University of Virginia, 2023, 2017.
Office of the Vice President for Research and College of Literature, Science, and the Arts research grants, University of Michigan, 2014.
Franklin Research Grant, American Philosophical Society, 2013.
Clive Fellowship, Department of History, Harvard University, 2012.
Krupp Dissertation Research Fellowship, Center for European Studies, Harvard University, 2010-11.
Mid-Dissertation Grant, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, 2010.
Dissertation Research Grant, Committee on African Studies, Harvard University, 2010.
Graduate Summer Travel Grant, Center for European Studies, Harvard University, 2009.
Travel and Research Grant, Department of History, Harvard University, 2008.
Whipple V.N. Jones Graduate Fellowship, Harvard University, 2008.
Stone-Davis Prize Fellowship, Department of History, Princeton University, 2005.

INVITED TALKS

Colloquium in European History, University of California, Los Angeles, October 2024.
Chicago British History Seminar, Northwestern University, March 2024.
Centre for Culture and the Mind, University of Copenhagen, June 2023.
Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen, June 2023.
Historical Association Virtual Branch, online, June 2023.
Modern British History Seminar, Columbia University, April 2023.
Critical Conversations in Forensic Psychology, Cambridge University, online, July 2021.
Modern British History Seminar, Cambridge University, online, May 2021.
Research Colloquium for Military History and Cultural History of Violence, University of Potsdam, online, May 2021.
Empires and Atlantics Forum, University of Chicago, online, May 2021.
Axel Springer Lecture, American Academy in Berlin, March 2021.
Graduate Cluster in British Studies, Northwestern University, November 2018.
New Directions in European History Study Group, Center for European Studies, Harvard University, November 2015.
Science, Technology, and Society Speaker Series, University of Michigan, October 2014.
Chicago British History Seminar, Newberry Library, December 2013.
International Security Seminar, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, May 2012.

INVITED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Remeasuring Self and Society After Empire: The Human Sciences in Decolonization, Geneva Graduate Institute, May 2024.
Violent Democracies: The Impact of Decolonization in Europe since 1945, St. Antony's College, Oxford, June 2023.
Globalizing the History of the World Wars, Ohio State University, November 2022.
Decolonising Madness, Birkbeck College, University of London, April 2019.
Interrogations: Psy Sciences, Coercion, and Confession, Birkbeck College, University of London, July 2016.
Hidden Persuaders, Birkbeck College, University of London, July 2015.
Speaking Out workshop, University of Warwick, February 2021.
History and Psychoanalysis During the Postwar Period, Columbia University, April 2014.
Radcliffe Exploratory Seminar on the Archive, History, and Law, Harvard University, October 2013.
Psychoanalysis and History Seminar, Institute of Historical Research, London, February 2011.
Kandersteg Seminar, Remarque Institute, New York University, Kandersteg, Switzerland, April 2013.
Director's Seminar, Institute of Historical Research, London, December 2010.

OTHER CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

- “Dissenting from Colonial War in 1950s Britain,” North American Conference on British Studies, Baltimore, November 2023 (talk).
- “Empire and Information Order in the Age of Counterinsurgency,” North American Conference on British Studies, Chicago, November 2022 (talk).
- “The Prose of Colonial Policing: Counterinsurgency Writing and the Uses of Explicitness,” Social Science History Association, November 2021 (talk).
- “Colonial Violence and the Shift from Histories of Knowledge to Histories of Information,” North American Conference on British Studies, November 2020 (talk).
- Altruism workshop at North American Conference on British Studies, Providence, R.I., October 2018 (pre-circulated paper).
- North American Conference on British Studies, Providence, R.I., October 2018 (comment).
- Academy of Global Humanities and Critical Theory graduate conference, University of Virginia, March 2018 (comment).
- North American Conference on British Studies, Washington, D.C., November 2016 (comment).
- “Subversive Currents and Frustrated Ambitions: Psychology in the British Empire,” American Historical Association, Atlanta, January 2016, and Social Science History Association, Baltimore, November 2015 (talk).
- “Normalizing Chemical Weapons: Tear Gas and State Violence in the British Empire, 1919-1981,” Rethinking Modern British Studies, University of Birmingham, July 2015 (talk).
- Movements and Directions in Capitalism workshop, University of Virginia, April 2015 (comment).
- Roundtable on Peter Mandler’s *Return from the Natives*, Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies, Las Vegas, March 2015.
- “The Counterinsurgency Laboratory: Psychological Warfare in the Postwar British Empire,” American Historical Association, Washington, D.C., January 2014 (comment).
- “Psychology after Empire: British Experts and the Postcolonial Personality,” North American Conference on British Studies, Portland, Ore., and History of Science Society, Boston, November 2013 (talk).
- International Graduate Historical Conference, Central Michigan University, April 2013 (comment).
- History and Economics Seminar and International and Global History Seminar, Harvard University, April 2012 (comment).
- “The Truth about Hearts and Minds: Counterinsurgency and Development in the Postwar British Empire,” *Burdens: Writing British History after 1945*, University of California, Berkeley, April 2012 (pre-circulated paper).
- “A Tale of Two Tests: Mental Testing in the British Empire, 1920-1960,” North American Conference on British Studies, Denver, November 2011 (talk).

“Psychoanalysis as Social Therapy: Strachey, Bloomsbury and the Making of a Translator,” Graduate Student Conference in Book History, Harvard University, May 2010 (talk).
“The Taming of Instinct: Psychology and the Turn to Development in British Africa, 1907-1952,” Mellon Conference on Empire, Modernity and the British Social Sciences, University of Chicago, April 2009 (talk).

COURSES TAUGHT

University of Virginia

Modern Britain since 1688: From Revolution to Brexit, undergraduate lecture, spring 2024, spring 2023, spring 2020, spring 2017, spring 2016, spring 2015 (various course titles).

Colonizing the World: The British Empire, undergraduate lecture, fall 2023, fall 2020, fall 2019, spring 2019, fall 2016, fall 2015 (various course titles).

Comparative Imperialism and Decolonization, graduate seminar, fall 2023.

Film and Memory in Postwar Europe, undergraduate seminar, spring 2023.

Distinguished Majors Seminar, undergraduate honors seminar, fall 2020.

Distinguished Majors Seminar, undergraduate honors seminar, fall 2019.

Modern Britain and Empire, graduate tutorial, fall 2022, fall 2020, fall 2019, fall 2015.

European Colonial Violence, undergraduate major seminar, spring 2019.

London: The History of a City, undergraduate major seminar, fall 2016.

Spies, Scholars, Scientists: Empire as Information, undergraduate major seminar, spring 2016.

The Lives of George Orwell, introductory undergraduate seminar, fall 2015.

Explaining Colonial Violence, introductory undergraduate seminar, spring 2015.

History of the Human Sciences, graduate tutorial, fall 2016.

University of Michigan

Inventing the Human Sciences, seminar, winter 2014.

Imagining Empire in Modern Britain, seminar, winter 2013.

Violence, Imperialism, and Human Rights, seminar, fall 2012.

Harvard University (as teaching assistant)

Germany in the World, 1600-2000, Professor David Blackbourn, spring 2010.

Africa and Africans: The Making of a Continent in the Modern World, Professor Caroline Elkins, spring 2010.

Europe since World War II, Professor Mary Lewis, fall 2009.

SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editor, *Modern British History*, Oxford University Press, 2020-2024.

Associate Editor, *Journal of British Studies*, Cambridge University Press, 2023-.

Editorial Board, *Journal of Modern History*, 2023-.

External promotion and tenure reviews (various).

Book manuscripts and proposals reviewed: Bloomsbury Press, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, University of California Press, University of Chicago Press.

Article manuscripts reviewed: *Canadian Journal of History*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *Contemporary British History*, *Historical Journal*, *History of the Human Sciences*, *Journal of British Studies*, *Journal of Contemporary History*, *Journal of Global History*, *Journal of the History of Ideas*, *Journal of Modern History*, *Journal of Social History*, *Medical History*, *Psychoanalysis and History*, *Twentieth-Century British History*.

Grant and fellowship applications reviewed: American Academy in Berlin; Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine; European Research Council; Israel Science Foundation; Magdalene College, Cambridge; Magdalen College, Oxford; National Humanities Center; Society of Fellows, University of Michigan.

FHHS Article Prize Committee, Forum for History of Human Science, 2021.

Program Committee, North American Conference on British Studies, 2017-18.

Steering Committee, “Hidden Persuaders? Brainwashing, Culture, Clinical Knowledge and the Cold War Human Sciences,” Wellcome Trust project directed by Daniel Pick, 2014-19.

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Graduate Committee, Department of History, 2023-.
Promotion and Tenure Committee (chair), Department of History, 2023.
General Faculty Renewal Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, 2022-23.
Search Committee, Africa before 1900, Department of History, 2021-22.
Promotion and Tenure Reconsideration Committee, School of Engineering and Applied Science, 2020.
Summer Stipends Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, 2019-.
Steering Committee, Department of History, 2019-.
Director, Distinguished Majors Program (undergraduate honors program) in History, 2019-20.
Graduate placement officer, Department of History, 2015-17.
Search Committee, Indian Ocean world, Department of History, 2015-16.
Undergraduate adviser, College of Arts and Sciences, 2015-17.

SELECTED MEDIA AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

“The British Empire and Why It Still Matters,” History Club and Office of Lifelong Learning Initiatives, Charlottesville, Va., November 2023 (talk).
“L’identité britannique s’est érodé,” *Libération*, May 6, 2021 (interview).
“Decolonization,” REAL Talk at Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection, Charlottesville, December 2019 (talk and discussion).
“The Decline and Fall of the Aristocracy: Downton Abbey in the Twenties and After,” WVPT-TV *Downton Abbey* premiere, Paramount Theater, Charlottesville, Va., January 2016 (talk).

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

Editorial Assistant, *New York Review of Books*, 2006-2007.