



News2Note

November 2019

Ananda Abeysekara, Religion and Culture, published a [review essay](#) of Joseph Walser's *Genealogies of Mahāyāna Buddhism: Emptiness, Power, and the Question of Origin in Religious Theory: E-Supplement to the Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* (October 23, 2019).

ASPECT doctoral student **Judson Abraham** published "[Just Transitions in a Dual Labor Market: Right Wing Populism and Austerity in the German *Energiewende*](#)," *Journal of Labor and Society* (2019): 679–93.

Danna Agmon, History and ASPECT Core Faculty, published "Law in Theory, Law in Practice: Legal Orientalism and French Jesuit Knowledge Production in India," *Historical Reflections/Réflexions Historiques* 45.1 (2019): 28–49.

Biko Agozino, Sociology, published "[Humanifesto of the Decolonization of Criminology and Justice](#)," *Decolonization of Criminology and Justice* 1.1 (2019): 5–28.

ASPECT Program Director and Professor of Political Science **François Debrix** and recent ASPECT alumna **Caroline Alphin** co-edited [Necrogeopolitics: On Death and Death-Making in International Relations](#) (Routledge, 2019). Their individual contribution to the volume was "Introduction: Necrogeopolitics and Death-making," pp. 1–14. Alphin also authored "Not a State of Exception: Weak State Killing as a Mode of Neoliberal Governmentality," pp. 15–33.

Two ASPECT doctoral students, **Linea Cutter** and **Sengul Yildiz Alanbay**, gave presentations at the International Studies Association – South Annual Conference, which was held October 4–5 in Memphis, Tennessee. Cutter presented "Inanimate Eating: Spaces of Empire and Resistance." The title of Alanbay's presentation was "Biopolitics, Sovereign Power, and Racial Exclusion: Exercising Sovereign Power over Refugees in Germany."

Mauro Caraccioli, Political Science and ASPECT Core Faculty, published "The Earth's Dying Body: On the Necroeconomy of Planetary Collapse," *Necrogeopolitics: On Death and Death-Making in*

International Relations, ed. Caroline Alphin and François Debrix (New York: Routledge, 2019), pp. 183–202.

Danille Christensen, Religion and Culture, published “‘Good Luck in Preserving’: Canning and the Uncanny in Appalachia,” *The Food We Eat, the Stories We Tell: Contemporary Appalachian Table*, ed. Elizabeth S. D. Engelhardt and Lora E. Smith (Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2019), pp. 132–55; and “[‘No Doubt He’ll Want to Can It’: Perspectives from Home, Field, and Factory](#),” response to *Canned: The Rise and Fall of Consumer Confidence in the American Food Industry* by Anna Zeide, *H-Environment Roundtable Reviews* 9.7 (2019): 8–19.

The short fiction film, *Uncle’s Car*, by **Charles Dye**, School of Performing Arts, was an official selection of the 5th Annual Peak City International Film Festival, held in Apex, North Carolina, on September 21, and the Southeastern International Film Festival, which took place November 8–10 in Nashville, Tennessee.

During its August meeting the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors conferred the emeritus title on the following faculty members in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences:

Donald Shoemaker, Professor of Sociology, joined the Virginia Tech community in 1974. He was recognized for his scholarship in the field of criminology, especially the causes, consequences, and societal reaction to juvenile delinquency; his research resulted in the publication of five books and numerous articles. He conducted cross-national research on juvenile delinquency as a Fulbright Senior Research Scholar at the University of the Philippines. Active in the teaching of undergraduate and graduate students, he garnered the Department of Sociology Teaching Excellence Award and a Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Leadership of Service-Learning Students. Shoemaker earned his bachelor’s degree from Millsaps College and his master’s and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Georgia.

Neil Larry Shumsky, Associate Professor of History, was honored for his contributions to scholarship on American urban, immigration, and social history. He authored, edited, or co-edited seven books and published more than 30 articles and book chapters; he also served as a Fulbright Scholar in Austria. He was the co-principal investigator for several grants from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education. Shumsky taught a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses and served as the Department of History Director of Graduate Studies. He also served in leadership roles in the Faculty Senate. A member of the Virginia Tech community since 1972, Shumsky earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, and his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.

James Sochinski, Professor of Music, made significant contributions to music at Virginia Tech as a composer, with works such as “Legend of Alcobaca” and “Sweet Land of Liberty” becoming part of the standard repertoire national and internationally. His arrangements for The Marching Virginians, especially the “Hokie-Pokey,” also garnered widespread acclaim. Recognized for his expertise in the use of technology in the music classroom, his teaching accomplishments garnered him the Teaching Excellence Award and the XCaliber Lifetime Achievement Award. Sochinski joined the Virginia Tech community in 1977; he earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Missouri, a master’s degree from the Peabody School, and a Ph.D. from the University of Miami.

Olivia Garber, B.S. Property Management 2019, received the 2019 Housing Education and Research Association Tessie Agan Award. Garber was recognized for undergraduate research undertaken with **Erin Hopkins**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, in Spring 2019. The research resulted in a paper titled “Informing Homeowners Associations through Housing Design Trends.”

James Hawdon, Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Sociology, published “The Perpetuation of Online Hate: A Criminological Analysis of Factors Associated with Participating in an Online Attack,” *Journal of Hate Studies* 15.1 (2019): 157–81, with Mathew Costello, Colin Bernatzky, and Rebecca-Barett Fox; and “Gateway or Cul de Sac? Using Big Data to Assess Legal Recreational Marijuana and Changes in the Use of ‘Hard’ Drugs,” *Sociation* 18.2 (2019): 20–28, with Robert Todd Perdue.

The Department of Religion and Culture now offers a major in [Humanities for Public Service](#), which prepares students for careers in local, national, and global public service. *Ut Prosim*, with its focus on service, was a stimulus for the [development of the program](#).

Sharon Johnson, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, published “[Glissements discursifs et rhétoriques: des récits de viol dans le conte de fées, la jurisprudence et les canards sanglants de l’Ancien Régime](#)” (Discursive and Rhetorical Shifts: Rape Narratives in Fiction, Law, and the Press of 17th- and 18th-Century France), *Canards, occasionnels, éphémères “Information” et infralittérature en France à l’aube des temps modernes. Actes du colloque organisé à l’Université de Rouen en septembre 2018*, ed. Silvia Liebel et Jean-Claude Arnould, CÉRÉdI – Centre d’Études et de Recherches Éditer/Interpréter – EA 3229, 2019.

Melanie Kiechle, History, posted “[Fighting Disease with Smell: ‘Disinfection’ during the Civil War](#)” on the blog of the Museum of Civil War Medicine website on October 1.

Jordan Laney, Religion and Culture, published the poem titled “Praying in Tiny Kitchens,” *Dinner Bell* magazine 1 (2019).

John Legg, a master’s student in History, was selected as a Graduate Student Prize awardee by the Western History Association (WHA). The prize included a one-year WHA membership and complimentary registration and lodging for the association’s annual conference, which was held October 16-19 in Las Vegas, Nevada. At the conference Legg presented “Another Trail of Tears: A New Refugeedom, Dakota Diaspora, and the Aftermath of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862” and participated in a roundtable of doctoral students discussing their research with leading historians of the Western United States.

Two faculty members in the Department of English were [finalists](#) for the 2019 [Library of Virginia Awards in poetry](#). **Bob Hicok** was nominated for [Hold](#) (Port Townsend, Washington: Copper Canyon Press, 2018), and **Erika Meitner** was nominated for [Holy Moly Carry Me](#) (Rochester, New York: BOA Editions, 2018).

Timothy Luke, University Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science, published “The Nuclear Condition in the Twenty-first Century: Techno-political Aspects in Historical and Contemporary Perspectives,” *Journal of International Political Theory* 15.3 (October 2019): 270–78, with Richards Beardsworth and Hartmut Behr.

The College notes with sadness the death of **Carl McDaniels**, former Professor of Counselor Education and Director of Graduate Studies and Research, on October 6. He joined the Virginia Tech community in 1969 and was a founding member of the College of Education; he retired in 1996. Before coming to Virginia Tech, McDaniels served as director of professional services at the American Personnel and Guidance Association and was a professor at George Washington University. The Virginia Tech “in memoriam” can be found [here](#).

Charles Nichols, School of Performing Arts, had his composition *In Gratitude*, three movements for string quartet, premiered by visiting guest violinist Charles Castleman and members of the Virginia Tech string faculty – violinist **John Irrera**, violist **Molly Wilkens-Reed**, and cellist **Alan Weinstein** – on October 15 and 16 in the Recital Salon at Virginia Tech and at Eastern Divide in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Michael Saffle, Religion and Culture, published “‘Musical Comedy 3.0’: Disney’s *Phineas and Ferb* as Animated, Digitalized, and Serialized Multi-generational Entertainment,” *Popular Music Research Today: Revista Online de Divulgación Musicológica* 1.2 (2019): 5–23.

ASPECT doctoral student **Emma Stamm** presented “Defining ‘Data’ for Ethical and Political Critique” at the 2019 Virginia Tech Graduate Philosophy Conference, which took place on October 6; and “Psychedelic Drug Research Meets Digital Methods” at the Alumni Association 50th Reunion Research Showcase, which was held October 18 in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Karen Watson, Director of Academic Support, was an invited guest of Academic Programs International (API) for a 10-day site visit of universities in Spain. Representing Virginia Tech – and the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and the Global Education Office in particular – Watson learned about API as a potential third-party study abroad program provider.

LaDale Winling, History, was awarded the 2018 Kenneth Jackson Award for Best Book (North America) from the Urban History Association for [*Building the Ivory Tower: Universities and Metropolitan Development in the Twentieth Century*](#) (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017).

Please submit items for inclusion in upcoming **News2Note** newsletters to Associate Dean Debra Stoudt at dstoudt@vt.edu.