



# HISTORY

Redefining what it means to “do” history at a top-ranked public university

The Department of History has long ranked among the top five programs in the country, contributing to the high standing of the University of Michigan. This department, which consists of nearly 90 world-class faculty members, is one of only a few in the country that offers historical expertise around the globe and across the ages. The department is praised for the excellence of its teaching and research, for producing new historical knowledge that changes the shape of history nationally and internationally, and for imparting it to succeeding generations of students. History courses prepare students for the future by providing a deep understanding of the past.

An understanding of history helps us see the events of our lives in the broadest perspective of time and place, giving us tools to analyze the problems of our society. In so doing, it helps us imagine and strive for a better future. At Michigan, we anchor undergraduate study with a mentorship system that allows all history majors to choose a faculty member to be their guide. Mentors provide general academic advice, but also help students define a theme for their concentration, plan a course of study, and decide on study abroad options. The one-on-one interaction between faculty and students makes it possible for students to explore career paths and for faculty to make recommendations from a depth of knowledge beyond that of classroom contact. History prepares students, both undergraduate and graduate, to build successful careers in government, law, business, medicine, journalism, and education, and it contributes to the making of informed citizens.

Our outstanding undergraduate and graduate programs, wide variety of courses, and premier faculty illustrate the exceptional range of our department. We seek support for faculty research to continue to retain and recruit the very best. The Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies and our other new initiatives will go a long way toward reaching that goal. Additionally, an expanded visiting scholars and visiting professors program will help broaden our offerings. These initiatives will also build on our interdisciplinary strengths and commitment to global education, better preparing our students for a variety of career paths and graduate school options.



## EISENBERG INSTITUTE FOR HISTORICAL STUDIES (EIHS)

The EIHS mission is to create a world-class forum for historical scholarship (teaching, research, and publication) that anchors the intellectual community of U-M historians, conveys new historical knowledge to a wide audience, and promotes a broad recognition of the benefits that historical studies offer to contemporary life. Examining the course of human action in the past enhances understanding of the present and informs the imagination of better futures.

At the Eisenberg, we address a public audience that includes the students and faculty of the U-M campuses; local, state, and regional residents; as well as public opinion nationally and globally. The EIHS offers an exciting range of events that support historical research and stimulate learning. Contributors to EIHS can help support the programs that are integral to the ongoing success of the institute.

- We offer public programs featuring popular lecturers, historical museum exhibits, film exhibitions, town-hall debates, and events that promote historical understanding for undergraduates, the U-M community, and residents of our region. Annual gifts of \$50,000 to \$100,000 are needed to support these important offerings.
- We would like to offer residential fellowships for young academic historians from underrepresented groups in the profession to foster scholarly collaboration among junior professors who are working to complete major books and achieve tenure at their home institutions. Gifts of \$75,000 to \$100,000 annually will enable us to fully realize this important initiative.
- An endowed gift of \$1.5M, or annual gifts of \$75,000, will support a year-long postdoctoral fellowship residency at EIHS to be awarded to a recent recipient of a PhD in History.

## PROGRAM IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY (STS)

The STS Program is at the forefront of interdisciplinary exploration of many of the world's most pressing problems. These include such issues as the tension between expertise and democracy in environmental regulation; increasing costs and inequality associated with life-saving medical innovations; social media and potentials for surveillance and democratization of information; and other global problems that require the consideration of scientific and technical problems simultaneously with questions of value, social justice, politics, ethics, and aesthetics.

STS uses a wide range of humanistic and social scientific methods to study the knowledge and practices of science, technology, and medicine in their social context. Faculty members and graduate students from across the university travel around the world to conduct innovative research, collaborate on global STS initiatives, and serve as consultants for government and industry. Gifts of \$1M endowed or \$50,000 annually are needed to offer fellowships for graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, faculty, and visiting scholars. Donors make it possible for national and international connections among faculty and graduate students here and elsewhere to blossom into full-scale collaborations. Students would also have the opportunity to work with these visitors, thereby deepening their engagement with global problems.



## VISITING PROFESSORSHIP IN THE HISTORY OF LAW AND A MINOR IN LEGAL STUDIES

Legal history is a growing subfield in the discipline of history. Michigan has an exciting team of scholars teaching the history of law, not just in the U.S., but also in the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, China, and the Middle East. Law is a common post-graduation goal for undergraduates majoring in history. We propose to strengthen our commitment in this direction by 1) creating a Distinguished Visiting Professorship in Legal History, and 2) developing a minor in Law, History, and Society to build on the presence of faculty already in the U-M Department of History as well as drawing on Law School expertise. An endowed gift of \$1M will allow the launch of such a program that would serve a wide range of undergraduates while catalyzing study of law in our department.

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT FOR UNDERGRADUATE HISTORY MAJORS

Studying history develops critical analytical skills students need to achieve in a wide variety of careers. To prepare our students to pursue career options, the department has programs that provide history majors with concrete advice and essential resources. We seek funding of \$10,000 – \$50,000 annually to help us build on our success with History Department Career Day and expand our support for student career exploration and networking. Gifts for this initiative could help to create History Career Week to provide hands-on, skill-building sessions for undergraduate majors and minors to learn to showcase their marketability along particular professional tracks. Funding can also help establish specialized pre-professional career panels with alumni from fields such as law, public policy, medicine/public health, journalism/new media, business/finance, and education. Gifts can also support workshops with recent graduates on resume-building, interviewing, networking, and more that are paired with presentations by history professors whose work provides important insights into each professional realm so that students can articulate the connections.



**“By creating a concrete history of police violence and racial injustice in Detroit, [the ‘Detroit Under Fire’ HistoryLab] presents key resources for progress in criminal justice reform. Our research was primarily conducted in archives.”**

**–Jack Mahon, A.B. '20**





## PUBLIC HISTORY INITIATIVE

Over the last half century, history in the academy has too often set itself apart, reflecting a larger trend toward professionalization and specialization in both research and teaching. But at Michigan that is changing due in part to the university's long tradition of contributing to the public good. We are creating opportunities for greater contact and cooperation between academic historians and communities across the country. U-M is well positioned to be a leader in the growing field of public history, which aims to “put history to work in the world.”

With an exceptionally strong history department and a wealth of programs and resources on campus, U-M can serve as an anchor for community and regional partnerships with museums and historic sites, libraries, local cultural organizations, and other educational institutions. Establishing a Center for Public History would incorporate all of the following public history programming—courses and internships, workshops, and partnerships—and would leverage existing strengths on campus to develop a vision for the field of public history in which U-M plays an integral part. Our location in southeast Michigan would enable a center to advance historical perspectives and insights regarding the economic, political, and environmental challenges facing our state and region.

- **Creating a Usable Past**

Gifts of \$10,000 annually would support a team of faculty members and students working to create archives of documents and oral history interviews centered on a particular issue, event, or community. U-M has the capacity to catalog and house the materials so that they are available to future researchers. Students can collaborate with communities through such means as digital technologies and public programming to ensure continuing accessibility.

- **Our Own Backyard**

Research funds are needed for faculty to investigate local history topics collaboratively with community history organizations and practitioners. Support of \$10,000 annually would promote scholarly rigor in local history, call attention to the importance of place in history, and deepen relationships between the university and area residents.

- **On the Road**

Collaboration requires time and travel. Students and faculty engaged in public history need resources to go beyond the campus and engage directly with organizations and communities—locally, nationally, and even internationally. We seek \$25,000 annually to support travel and lodging, as well as stipends for students and faculty involved in public history projects.

- **Summit to Develop Public History Leadership**

Funding of \$50,000 annually is needed to bring to campus experts in the field of public history, community organization leaders, and business and civic leaders to facilitate collaboration with our faculty and graduate students. Hosting such a summit would place U-M at the forefront of this growing field.

- **Reciprocal Faculty Exchange**

We seek annual funding of \$50,000 to invite public history professionals—such as museum curators, cultural resource managers, or preservationists—to campus to co-teach a course, and also to have our faculty serve as scholars-in-residence at public history organizations.

## DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC FUND

The strength of our strategic fund is critical to our ability to pursue new opportunities and supplement whenever budgetary gaps appear. Contributions of any size to the History Strategic Fund can help support crucial activities such as new course development, faculty-and student-led conferences and symposia, undergraduate events and workshops, and recruiting efforts that keep our faculty among the finest in the country.

## WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

## CONTACT INFO

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