

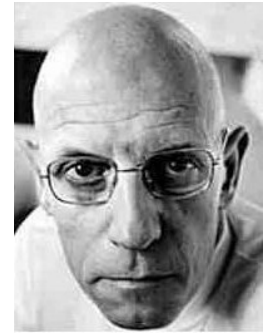
are belong to us."

"All your discourse

# The Weekly Archive

Friday, May 23, 2008

Joshua O'Brien, Lauren Nakamura, and Ted Falk, Editors  
Serena Zabin, Faculty Advisor



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## Today in HISTORY!

1498 - Girolamo Savonarola is burned at the stake, in Florence, Italy.

1846 - Mexican-American War: Mexico declares war on the United States.

1933 - Seabiscuit, legendary American racehorse, is born.

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## Events:

**Saturday, May 24:** Professor Williams will be a member of a six-person panel discussion of "Race, Gender, and the 2008 Presidential Election." Viking Theater, St. Olaf, 3-4 PM.

**Monday, May 26:** SDA Advising Hour with Basil's pizza. Upper Sayles, 9-10 PM.

**Tuesday, May 27, 5:00 pm** AGH: Seniors Only / Faculty Semi-Formal Celebration, contact [nlambert@carleton.edu](mailto:nlambert@carleton.edu) if questions.

**Friday, May 30:** Singapore Club presents two award-winning films "Singapore Gaga" and "Invisible City" (less than an hour each). "Invisible City" touches on historical themes of history and memory, and the making of the post-colonial state in Asia. Please contact Wayne Soon (soonw) if you have any questions. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Boliou 104, 7:30 PM.

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## Senior Interview: Wayne Soon

LN: I really enjoyed your comps presentation last week. How does it feel to be completely done?

WS: It feels great to be done! Although there's a sense of retrospective nostalgia for the camaraderie with my comps group (Yoti, Claire and Chi ho)- it would have been a less exciting and more stressful term without them!

LN: I heard you're headed to Princeton next year for grad school. What will you be studying? Will you continue to research

WS: I will be doing East Asian history at Princeton. Hopefully my graduate experience there will allow me to explore my evolving interests in the issues of 2Ms and 2Ds - Modernity, Money, Diaspora, and Democracy - from a transnational and comparative historical perspective in East Asia.

LN: What has been your favorite class at Carleton?

WS: I have 2 favorite classes at Carleton (can't decide on one favorite). The first is Professor Yoon's seminar on Making Revolutions in East Asia which first led me to seriously consider being a historian. I enjoy the way historians try to reconstruct profound ruptures in society from the perspectives and actions of the participants themselves. The second is Professor Ottaway's class on the Enlightenment. I enjoyed learning about the engagements between faith and reason, man and

women, autocracy and freedom, science and the church as well as the ordinary people's perspective towards the entire project of Enlightenment. Ultimately, for whom were the promises of revolutions and the enlightenment really for?

LN: Using a phrase from Professor Yoon, if you could "wine and dine" with any historical figure, whom would you choose?

WS: I am not sure about wining and dining, but I would love to talk to Mao Zedong and Lee Kuan Yew. The question I always wanted to ask the former is, "Did you really believe in Third World Solidarity?" and the latter, "How did your views of human nature change over time?"

LN: I've heard you compare schools of intellectual thought to the Ninja Turtles, and Qing China to Star Wars. Do you have other pop-culture analogies for any other historical figures or events?

WS: Sometimes I think the historical project of modernity is akin to an episode of Doraemon or Xiao Ding Dang in Chinese. Just as Doraemon tries to conjure cute gadgets from the future to solve the problem of Norita, a fourth grader, in his high school in Japan, Norita continues to find himself facing similar problems throughout his school years. Likewise, we modern beings think that future technology can solve our problems, but yet, the anxieties of modernity such as wealth, power and nationalism will continue with us for sometime. Yet, there's always time and place for individual happiness though in both cases :)

LN: Any words of advice to majors aspiring to be the next Wayne Soon?

WS: Don't be the next me- be yourself ! I think the best skill to develop in life is the art of listening, but that's difficult with so much distractions, especially at Carleton!

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## Internship and Job Opportunities:

Full listings of all available jobs, internships, and grants are available on the Carleton History Department website at:

<http://apps.carleton.edu/curricular/history/after/>