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Readings from across the Web

Dr. Ashton Merk and Dr. Victoria Plutshack published "[Biden's infrastructure success depends on implementation, not just ideas. A New Deal era program reminds us that the people who enact policies also shape them](#)" in the Made by History section of The Washington Post.



[The Limited Corporation: A History of Global Capitalism](#) by Kristen Alff in the blog The Economic Historian



Want to know more about brands and race in Argentina? "[The history behind the removal of Argentina's version of 'Aunt Jemima' Argentina's racial history is complex, with anti-Blackness playing a major role](#)" by historian Erika Denise Edwards in in the Made by History section of The Washington Post.

Interviews, Podcasts, and Virtual Events

On the latest **Hagley Hangouts**

- Interview with Emanuela Scarpellini; [Italian Fashion Since 1945: A Cultural History](#).
- Interview with Karen Mahar about her book project "[Corner Office: Masculinity & the American Business Executive](#)."
- Interview with Deirdre Evans-Pritchard about her media literacy project "[Screentime: An Interactive Exhibition](#)."

Gabriel Winant on the [Rusting of 'Steel City, USA' and the Rise of Healthcare](#) is the latest episode on the podcast **Who Makes Cents, A History of Capitalism Podcast**

From the **Financial History Network**, "[Payment Crises and Consequences](#)" by Gary Richardson and Padma Sharma

On **Economic and Business History** channel of the New Books Network:

- Interview with Fei-Hsien Wang on [Pirates and Publishers](#)
- Interview with [Shane Hamilton](#) about [Supermarket USA](#)

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MEET THE OFFICERS

A series of interviews with the officers of the Business History Conference (produced and edited by web editor Paula de la Cruz-Fernández)

The **Trustees of the Business History Conference** serve for three years and as part of their voluntary commitment, they also join one of the many committees of the organization. Trustees meet a few times a year, now virtually, to discuss and vote on any change to the organization's governance, projects, or extraordinary events such as making the #BHC2021 online a virtual event.

The *Meet the Officers* series seeks to find out more and document the roles and initiatives that different officers have undertaken while being part of the administration of the BHC. For this issue we interview **Alexia Yates, Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor)** in Modern History at the University of Manchester, where she is a founding member of the Centre for Economic Cultures. Alexia also is a research associate at the Center for History and Economics, Harvard University, and a board member at the Global Urban History Project. Her current project researches the social and cultural history of mass investment in modern France – you can get a sense of the themes and research questions on the project website.

Alexia became a member of the BHC in 2007. Her service to the organization began as part of the **Kerr Prize committee**, which is a common entry charge for many of us in the community. For Alexia, this prize "lets you become engaged by the work of the newest members of the BHC and play a small role in helping them build experience and credentials." Then in **2018 she was elected Trustee.** "Let me pull aside the veil!" she mentions when asked about what it entails to be a Trustee. The board meets regularly --

"These are semi-annual meetings with other members of the board of trustees to consider matters concerning the organization – from reviewing issues in the treasurer's report to discussing bylaws to helping committees decide on what the electronic outputs of the organization should be. Much of the BHC's work happens in committees, but this is where they report and speak to one another." She has also served on the **program committee for the 2020 Charlotte** "(the meeting that barely was)." Being part of the program committee, she explains "involves supporting the President and Secretary to bring their vision of the annual meeting into being." It starts with accepting paper proposals and later "crafting dynamic sessions [and] planning programming." For Alexia, it was "a really enjoyable – if intense – task with both intellectual and organizational stakes."

For Alexia, the BHC was her first academic conference; in fact, "separating the changes in the organization from my own development as an academic and member of the community is actually difficult! In my view the changes have been an intensification of what was appealing about the organization when I first joined: all the ways the BHC makes a priority of reaching out – to new demographics of researchers, to unrepresented subfields and geographic areas, to broader time periods. I feel there is an increasing recognition that this is what will ensure the vitality of the organization in the future."

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[interview continued]

I asked about **the organization's future** and about what new directions in business history research are exciting for her. She replied that "The organization is going to keep getting more international and more ecumenical in its scope and interests. It's going to – because it must – keep expanding its understanding of 'business' and the ways that the economic is central to cultural, social, and political life. Work that separates business from its social context, from the realms of labour or cultural representation, won't cut it if we want people outside the field taking up what we have to say. I also think it's important that the field engage forthrightly with the issues of justice that motivate many historians and that make our work so relevant. For example, the BHC could make key contributions on our understanding of, and public discourse about, the relationship between business and the climate crisis." Alexia is also looking forward to seeing the BHC's increasing efforts to address equity issues and "to continuing to serve the organization through a role on our new anti-racism committee."

To newcomers to the BHC, she recommends not feeling like an outsider because "(mostly) everyone has imposter syndrome." Alexia thinks it is important to "Get involved with organizations (either the BHC or others) through mentorship programs and opportunities earmarked for early career scholars – in manageable ways, as long as you have bandwidth left from core research/teaching. Choose one, and watch your boundaries. It's amazing how much becomes legible when you have just a tiny foot in the (organizational) door, and the rewards of collaboration are psychological as much as material." Also, this is key -- "join a union. (Do that first.)"

Next in these series

Dr. Heidi Tworek, Assistant Professor of International History, University of British Columbia;
<https://www.heiditworek.com/>

REACH OUT TO THE EDITOR

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