Stanford



J. P. Daughton

Professor of History and, by courtesy, of French and Italian

Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

J. P. Daughton is a historian of modern Europe, imperialism and colonialism, and global history. His teaching and publications explore political, cultural, social, and environmental history, as well as the modern history of religion, technology, and humanitarianism. His affiliations at Stanford include the Europe Center, the Center for African Studies, and the Center for Human Rights and International Justice.

His most recent book, In the Forest of No Joy: The Congo-Océan Railroad and the Tragedy of French Colonialism (W. W. Norton, 2021), tells the story of one of the deadliest construction projects in history. Between 1921 and 1934, French colonial interests recruited -- most often by force -- more than 100,000 men, women, and children to work on a 500-kilometer stretch of rail between Brazzaville and the Atlantic Coast. In the end, tens of thousands of Africans were dead, killed by mistreatment, starvation, and disease. The book painstakingly recounts the experiences of local communities in the face of colonial economic development, considers why the railroad witnessed such extraordinary violence and suffering, and explores how the rhetoric of "civilization" and "development" were used to justify the loss of so many African lives. In the Forest of No Joy was reviewed widely, including in the Economist, the New York Review of Books, the TLS, and the New Yorker. It was shortlisted for the Cundill History Prize and was a finalist for the American Library in Paris Book Prize. A French translation is forthcoming with Éditions du Seuil.

Daughton is also the author of An Empire Divided: Religion, Republicanism, and the Making of French Colonialism, 1880-1914 (Oxford University Press, 2006), a book that tells the story of how troubled relations between Catholic missionaries and a host of republican critics shaped colonial policies, Catholic perspectives, and domestic French politics in the decades before the First World War. Based on archival research from four continents, the book challenges the long-held view that French colonizing and “civilizing” goals were the product of a distinctly secular republican ideology built on Enlightenment ideals. A CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title, An Empire Divided was awarded the George Louis Beer Prize for the best book in international history from the American Historical Association, as well as the Alf Andrew Heggoy Book Prize from the French Colonial Historical Society.

Daughton's current book project explores the role of fraud and corruption in modern imperialism through the story of a late-nineteenth-century con man who convinced hundreds of men and women from across Europe to attempt to colonize an uninhabited corner of Papua-New Guinea. The book will be published by W.W. Norton in 2027.

He is also the editor, with Owen White, of In God’s Empire: French Missionaries in the Modern World (Oxford University Press, 2012), a collection of essays on the role played by French religious workers in the empire and beyond. His essays and reviews, on themes related to colonial violence, international governance, informal empire, and cultural policy, have appeared in publications like the Journal of Modern History, the American Historical

Review, and French Historical Studies. He has received awards and fellowships from the J. William Fulbright Foundation, the ACLS, the Mellon Foundation, the Pew Charitable Trust, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, and the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation.

Daughton's PhD advisees have written on a wide range of subjects, from nineteenth-century French cultural policies to the history of famine, and from alcohol consumption in the First World War to the work of international NGOs in Algeria during decolonization. He is currently accepting graduate students interested in modern Europe, empire, humanitarianism, international politics, war and society, and environmental history.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, History
- Professor (By courtesy), French and Italian

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Assistant Professor, Department of History, Stanford University, (2004-2010)
- Associate Professor, Department of History and (by courtesy) French and Italian, Stanford University, (2010-2021)
- Professor, Department of History and (by courtesy) French and Italian, (2021- present)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Shortlist, Book Award, Cundill History Prize (2022)
- Finalist, Book Award, American Library in Paris (2022)
- Research fellowship, McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society (2015)
- Research Grant, Stanford Center for African Studies (2015)
- Faculty Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center (2014-15)
- Dean's Fellow in the Humanities, Stanford University (2008 - 2010)
- John Philip Coghlan Fellow, Stanford University (2006 - 2008)
- William and Flora Hewlett Endowment Fund Fellowship, Institute for International Studies, Stanford University (2005)
- Graduate Division Fellowship, U.C. Berkeley (1999 - 2000)
- Allan Sharlin Memorial Fellowship, Institute for International Studies, U.C. Berkeley (1998 - 1999)
- Sather Fellowship, U.C. Berkeley (1995 - 1996)
- J. William Fulbright Foundation Fellowship, J. William Fulbright Foundation, France (1998 - 1999)
- John Tracy Ellis Dissertation Prize, American Catholic Historical Association (2000)
- Fellowship and Travel Stipend, Institute for Global Conflict and Cooperation, University of California, San Diego (2000 - 2001)
- Charlotte W. Newcombe Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson Foundation (2000 - 2001)
- Dissertation Fellowship, Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation (2001 - 2002)
- Alf Andrew Heggoy Prize, French Colonial Historical Society (2007)
- George Louis Beer Prize, American Historical Association (2008)
- Stanford Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship, Stanford University (2002 - 2004)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Member, Editorial Board, Stanford University Press (2012 - 2018)
- Peer Reviewer, Articles, Journal of Modern History, French Historical Studies, French Colonial History
- Member, Book Review Advisory Panel, H-France (2006 - 2010)
- Judge/Chair, Alf Andrew Heggoy Prize Committee, French Colonial History Society (2009 - 2011)

- Section Editor, 1914-1918 on-line: International Encyclopedia of the First World War (2012 - present)
- Member, Editorial Board, Humanity: An International Journal if Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development (2009 - 2011)
- Member, Program Committee, French Historical Studies Annual Conference (2012 - 2012)
- Member, Program Committee, French Colonial Historical Society Conference (2009 - 2009)
- Member, Executive Board, French Colonial History Society (2008 - present)
- Member, Comite de redaction, Incidence: Revue semestrielle de philosophie, de literature et de sciences humaines et sociales (2004 - present)
- Member, Program Committee, French Historical Studies Annual Conference, Stanford (2005 - 2005)
- Project Screener, International Dissertation Research Fellowships, Social Science Research Council (2004 - 2006)
- Project Screener, Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR), France (2008 - 2008)
- Project Screener, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (2013 - 2013)
- Peer reviewer, books, Oxford University Press, Columbia University Press, University of Nebraska Press, Wiley-Blackwell, Palgrave-Macmillan (UK), Princeton University Press, Duke University Press, University of California Press, Routledge Press
- Project Screener, Stanford Humanities Center
- Co-Director, Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in the Humanities Postdoctoral Program (2008 - present)
- Co-Director, Stanford French Culture Workshop (2005 - present)
- Member, Advisory Committee, The Europe Center (2010 - present)
- Chair, Historical Conversations Committee, Department of History (2011 - present)
- Search Committee Member, Francophonie, Department of French and Italian (2010 - 2011)
- Member, Junior Faculty Renewal Committee, Department of History (2010 - 2010)
- Co-Director, Stanford Humanities Fellows Program (2007 - 2008)
- Director, Stanford French Culture Workshop, Stanford Humanities Center (2003 - 2005)
- Member, Graduate Studies Committee, Department of History (2004 - 2006)
- Member, Graduate Studies Committee, Department of History (2009 - 2010)
- Member, Modern Europe Search Committee, Department of History (2008 - 2010)
- Mentor, Sophomore Mentor Program (2005 - 2006)
- Member, Faculty Appointments Committee, Department of History (2005 - 2006)
- Member, Faculty Appointments Committee, Department of History (2007 - 2008)
- Member, Faculty Appointments Committee, Department of History (2010 - 2011)
- Faculty Secretary, Department of History (2005 - 2006)
- Conference Co-organizer and Panel Chair, Eighth Annual Berkeley Symposium on the Visual Arts, U.C. Berkeley (1996 - 1996)
- Panel Chair, "French Political Economy in the Colonies and Beyond," Gimon Conference on Political Economy, Stanford University Library (2004 - 2004)
- Peer Reviewer, Articles, Catholic Historical Review, History Compass, Journal of Vietnamese Studies
- Peer Reviewer, Articles, International Journal of Middle East Studies, European History Quarterly

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Center for Human Rights and International Justice

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- B.A, Amherst College, Massachusetts (1992)
- M.Phil., Cambridge University, England (1994)

- Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley (2002)

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- Capstone: Reimagining History: HISTORY 204A, HISTORY 299CA, HISTORY 304A (Win)
- Graduate Pedagogy Workshop: HISTORY 305 (Win)
- Modern Europe Colloquium: Europe and Empire: HISTORY 326A (Spr)
- The Irish and the World: HISTORY 207B, HISTORY 307B (Spr)
- The World Wars: A Global History, 1914-1945: GLOBAL 207G, HISTORY 207G, HISTORY 307G (Win)

2025-26

- Capstone: Reimagining History: HISTORY 204A, HISTORY 299CAP1 (Aut)
- Graduate Pedagogy Workshop: HISTORY 305 (Win)
- Modern Europe Colloquium: Europe and Empire: HISTORY 326A (Aut)
- The Irish and the World: HISTORY 207B, HISTORY 307B (Win)

2024-25

- Paris: Capital of the Modern World: OSPPARIS 99P (Spr)
- Reimagining History: A Workshop: HISTORY 204A, HISTORY 299CAP1, HISTORY 304A (Win)
- Research Seminar in Modern Europe: HISTORY 433A (Aut)
- Research Seminar in Modern Europe: HISTORY 433B (Win)
- The Irish and the World: HISTORY 207B, HISTORY 307B (Aut)

2023-24

- Beyond Borders: Approaches to Transnational History: HISTORY 306 (Aut)
- Modern Europe's Lives: HISTORY 10C (Win)
- Modern Europe's Lives: HISTORY 110C (Win)
- Reimagining Histories of Africa: A Workshop: OSPCPTWN 28 (Spr)
- The Irish and the World: HISTORY 207B, HISTORY 307B (Aut)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Mariana Calvo, Sonya Schoenberger

Orals Evaluator

Mariana Calvo, Janice Ndegwa, Jackie Olson, William Parish, Olavo Passos de Souza, Sonya Schoenberger, Matthew Signer, Lucy Stark, Amanda Zhang, Nina de Meira Borba

Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (AC)

Eva Baudler, Matthew Signer

Doctoral (Program)

Mariana Calvo, Kayra Guven, Sonya Schoenberger, Amanda Zhang, Haoze Zhou

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **"The 'Pacha Affair' Reconsidered: Violence and Colonial Rule in Interwar French Equatorial Africa,"** *Journal of Modern History*
  Daughton, J. P.
  2019; 91 (September): 493-524
- **ILO Expertise and Colonial Violence in the Interwar Years** *Universalizing Social Rights: A History if the International Labour Organization and Beyond*
  Daughton, J. P.
  edited by Kott, S., Droux, J.
  Palgrave.2013
- **Placing French Missionaries in the Modern World** *In God's Empire: French Missionaries and the Modem World*
  White, O., Daughton, J. P.
  edited by White, O., Daughton, J. P.
  Oxford University Press.2012
- **In God's Empire: French Missionaries and the Modern World**
  edited by Daughton, J. P., White, O.
  Oxford University Press.2012
- **Behind the Imperial Curtain: International Humanitarian Efforts and the Critique of French Colonialism in the Interwar Years** *FRENCH HISTORICAL STUDIES*
  Daughton, J. P.
  2011; 34 (3): 503-528
- **When Argentina Was "French": Rethinking Cultural Politics and European Imperialism in Belle-Epoque Buenos Aires** *JOURNAL OF MODERN HISTORY*
  Daughton, J. P.
  2008; 80 (4): 831-864
- **An Empire Divided: Religion, Republicanism, and the Making of French Colonialism,1880-1914**
  Daughton, J. P.
  Oxford University Press.2008
- **Temoignages sur la violence coloniale: la campagne internationale menee dans l'entredeux- guerres contre le travail force** *Revue de l'Histoire de la Shoah*
  Daughton, J. P.
  2008; 189
- **Recasting Pigneau de Behaine: French Missionaries and the Politics of Colonial History** *VietNam: Borderless Histories*
  Daughton, J. P.
  edited by Tran, N. T., Reid, A.
  University of Wisconsin Press.2008; 2nd: 290–324.
- **An Empire Divided: Religion, Republicanism, and the Making of French Colonialism,1880-1914**
  Daughton, J. P.
  Oxford University Press.2006
- **A colonial affair?: Dreyfus and the French empire** *HISTORICAL REFLECTIONS-REFLEXIONS HISTORIQUES*
  Daughton, J. P.
  2005; 31 (3): 469-483
- **Kings of the Mountains: Mayrena, Missionaries, and French Colonial Divisions in 1880s Indochina** *Itinerario: International Journal on the History of European Expansion and Global Interaction*
  Daughton, J. P.
  2001; 25 (3/4): 185-217

- **Sketches of the Poilu's World: Trench Cartoons from the Great War** *World War I and the Cultures of Modernity*
  Daughton, J. P.
  edited by Mackaman, D., Mays, M.
  University Press of Mississippi.2000