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NEH Long-Term Fellows

2021-2022 NEH Long-Term Fellows & Projects

Nicholas Boggs
Clinical Assistant Professor, New York University
***James Baldwin in Love* (working title)**

This book will be the first major James Baldwin biography to tell the overlapping stories of his relationships with four pillars of his adult life—his mentor, the Black American painter Beauford Delaney; his lover and muse, Swiss painter Lucien Happersberger; and his collaborators, famed Turkish actor Engin Cezzar and French artist Yoran Cazac. His unconventional relationships with these men, and the different forms of love he shared with them, were instrumental in his many successes, both personal and artistic. Complex structures within these relationships—geographical, cultural, political, artistic, psychological, and erotic—gave context to Baldwin's work and sustained his life. Indeed, this book seeks to show how he fed on these complexities and alchemized them into art.

Emily Brooks
Adjunct Faculty, CUNY LaGuardia Community College
Gotham's War Within a War: Anti-Vice Policing, Militarism, and the Birth of Law-and-Order Liberalism in New York City, 1934-1945

Gotham's War Within a War: Anti-Vice Policing, Militarism, and the Birth of Law and Order Liberalism in New York City, 1934-1945 explores how the liberal administration of Mayor La Guardia and his longtime Police Commissioner Lewis Valentine ushered a new era of policing into being in mid-twentieth-century New York City. It examines the role of militarism in enabling municipal regimes of surveillance and incarceration and considers how city officials used prohibitions on low-level crimes of morality or vice as a tool to enforce a racist and gendered vision of urban order. Weaving together research conducted at many disparate archival collections, this book will construct a historical narrative of 1930s and 1940s policing that uses methodological interventions from urban history, gender history, and African American history, as well as from critical studies of policing in sociology and political science.

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