

Department of History

PEOPLE

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GRADUATE STUDENTS

STAFF

ALUMNI

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT



J. P. Daughton

Associate Professor of Modern European History and, by courtesy, of French and Italian
Co-Director, Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship of Scholars Postdoctoral Program

Field: Modern Europe

Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley

M.Phil., Cambridge University

B.A., Amherst College

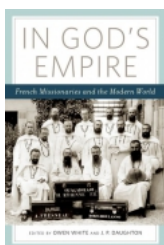
 [CV](#)

I am an historian of modern Europe and European imperialism with a particular interest in political, cultural, and social history, as well as the history of humanitarianism. My first book, *An Empire Divided: Religion, Republicanism, and the Making of French Colonialism, 1880-1914* (Oxford

University Press, 2006) 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. By exploring the experiences of religious workers, one of the largest groups of French men and women working abroad, the book argues that many “civilizing” policies were wrought in the fires of discord between missionaries and anti-clerical republicans – discord that indigenous communities exploited in responding to colonial rule.

My current project, entitled *Humanity So Far Away: Violence, Humanitarianism, and Rights in the Modern French Empire*, places the successes and failures of colonial “civilizing” projects within the broader context of the development of European sensibilities regarding violence, global suffering, and human rights. Based on research in archives on five continents, *Humanity So Far Away* explores the central role human suffering played as an experience, a moral concept, and a political force in the rise and fall of French imperialism from the late 1800s to the 1960s. The book also considers how colonial practices increasingly intersected with efforts to establish norms of humane behavior – efforts most often led by non-state and international bodies, especially the League of Nations and the International Labor Organization. Drawing on the methods of political, cultural, and intellectual history, my research ultimately aims to explore concretely the extent to which notions about empathy and humanitarianism spread (or failed to spread) from Europe to the outermost reaches of the globe in the twentieth century.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & PROJECTS



In God's Empire: French Missionaries and the Modern World

J. P. Daughton

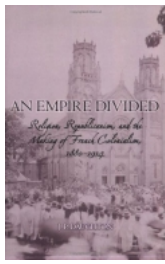
Owen White

A collection of original essays by leading scholars in the field, *In God's Empire* examines the complex ways in which the spread of...

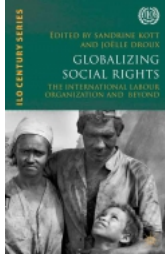
An Empire Divided: Religion, Republicanism, and the Making of French Colonialism, 1880-1914

J. P. Daughton

Between 1880 and 1914, tens of thousands of men and women left France for distant religious missions, driven by the desire to spread the word of...



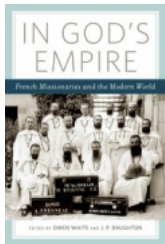
SELECTED JOURNALS & BOOK CHAPTERS



ILO Expertise and Colonial Violence in the Interwar Years

J. P. Daughton

“ILO Expertise and Colonial Violence in the Interwar Years,” in Sandrine Kott and Joëlle Droux (eds.), *Universalizing Social Rights: A History of...*



Placing French Missionaries in the Modern World

J. P. Daughton

“Placing French Missionaries in the Modern World,” (with Owen White), in White and Daughton (eds.), *In God's Empire: French Missionaries and the...*



Behind the Imperial Curtain: International Humanitarian Efforts and the Critique of French Colonialism in the Interwar Years

J. P. Daughton

“Behind the Imperial Curtain: International Humanitarian Efforts and the Critique of French Colonialism in the Interwar Years,” Special Issue: Toward...



When Argentina Was ‘French’: Rethinking Cultural Politics and European Imperialism in Belle-Époque Buenos Aires

J. P. Daughton

“Behind the Imperial Curtain: International Humanitarian Efforts and the Critique of French Colonialism in the Interwar Years,” Special Issue: Toward...

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