



Laird Boswell
Professor

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Curriculum Vitae: [View PDF](#)

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00 - 1:00 or by appointment (email for appointment)

Education: PhD: University of California - Berkeley; MA: University of California - Berkeley; BA: Hampshire College

Bio Sketch:

I'm a historian of Modern Europe, especially France, in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. My teaching and research interests have focused largely on society and politics – ranging from the transformations of rural society, to the history of European socialism and communism, the history of nationalism, voter behavior and, more recently, the contemporary extreme right. I have also undertaken extensive work in quantitative and oral history. I wrote my first book on peasant communism in France and am now completing a study that uses the border region of Alsace and Lorraine to discuss changing conceptions of national belonging in twentieth century France. In addition to my work in the History department, I have directed the University of Wisconsin Center for European Studies and have served as director of the UW study abroad program in Aix-en-Provence, France. I also work with student in the Professional French Masters Program interested in contemporary French politics and society (immigration, social movements, European affairs).

Research Interests:

Modern European Social and Political; Modern France; Nationalism & border regions; Socialism and communism; the extreme right; history of rural societies & voter behavior.

Selected Publications:

- *Rural Communism in France, 1920-1939* (Cornell University Press, 1998). French Translation : *Le communisme rural en France : Le Limousin et la Dordogne de 1920 à 1939* (Limoges : Presses Universitaires de Limoges, 2006)
- « L'historiographie du communisme français est-elle dans une impasse? » [Has the Historiography of French communism reached a dead end?], *Revue française de science politique* 55, no. 5-6 (2005): 919-934.
- "Repenser l'histoire de l'Alsace grâce à l'histoire des régions frontalières," forthcoming in *Actes de l'Université européenne d'été* (Strasbourg)
- "Alsace-Lorraine," in *Encyclopedia of Europe: 1789-1914*. John Merriman and Jay Winter, eds. (New York: Charles Scribner's, forthcoming).
- "La petite propriété fait le communisme (Limousin, Dordogne)," *Etudes Rurales* no. 171-172 (July-December 2004) : 73-82.
- "Fissures dans la nation française: les réfugiés Alsaciens et Lorrains en 1939-1940," in Max Lagarrigue ed., *1940, La France du repli, l'Europe de la défaite* (Toulouse: Privat, 2001), 197-208.
- "From Liberation to Purge Trials in the "Mythic Provinces:" the Reconfiguration of Identities in Alsace and Lorraine, 1918-1920," *French Historical Studies* 23 (Winter 2000): 129-162.
- "Franco-Alsatian Conflict and the Crisis of National Sentiment during the Phoney War," *Journal of Modern History* (September 1999): 552-584.
- "Le communisme et la défense de la petite propriété en Limousin et en Dordogne," *Communisme* [Paris] 51-52 (1998): 7-27.
- "The French Rural Communist Electorate," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 23 (Spring 1993): 719-749.
- Review essay : "How do French Peasants Vote?" *Peasant Studies* 16: 2 (Winter 1989): 107-122.

Awards:

- University of Wisconsin Sabbatical (2005)
- University of Wisconsin Graduate School Research Committee Summer funding (2004; 1998; 1996)
- Humanities Institute, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Resident Fellowship (1997)
- German Marshall Fund of the United States Research Fellowship (1995)
- National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Stipend, 1991

Courses Taught:



Lecture Courses:

- History 120 - Europe and the Modern World, 1815 to the present - [Syllabus 2013 \(pdf\)](#)
- History 348 - France from Napoleon to the Great War, 1799-1914 - [Syllabus 2008 \(pdf\)](#)
- History 349 - Contemporary France, 1914 to the present - [Syllabus 2014 \(pdf\)](#)
- History 359 - Europe since 1945 - [Syllabus 2010 \(pdf\)](#)

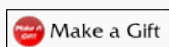
Undergraduate Seminars:

- History 600 - Advanced Seminar in History - Topics: "Europe: A Continent of Immigrants" [Syllabus 2006 \(pdf\)](#); "European Borderlands" [Syllabus 2008 \(pdf\)](#); "The European Extreme Right, 1945 to the present" [Syllabus 2009 \(pdf\)](#); "The European Union in Historical Perspective" [Syllabus 2014 \(pdf\)](#)
- Europe since 1945
- European Nationalism

Graduate Courses:

- History 701 - History in a Global Perspective: "Comparison in History" [Syllabus 2011 \(pdf\)](#)
- History 868 - Seminar in Modern French History - [Syllabus 2008 \(pdf\)](#)
- History 891 - Postwar Europe - [Syllabus 2013 \(pdf\)](#)
- History/French 804. Identité et Citoyenneté: Perspectives Franco-européennes - [Syllabus \(pdf\)](#)

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