

David Hunt

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Books/Monographs/Edited Works:

1. Parents and Children in History: The Psychology of Family Life in Early Modern France (New York: Basic Books, 1970). A paperback edition was published by Harper & Row in 1972. Excerpts were reprinted in Volume II of Peter Stearns, ed., The Other Side of Western Civilization: Readings in Everyday Life (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1973 and 1979).
2. Villagers at War: The National Liberation Front in My Tho Province, 1965-1967, double issue of Radical America 8 (January-April 1974), 3-184.
3. David Hunt and Jayne Werner, eds., The American War in Vietnam (Ithaca: Southeast Asia Publications/Cornell University, 1993).

Articles:

1. "Remembering the Tet Offensive," Radical America 11-12 (winter 1977-78), 79-96; reprinted in Marvin Gettleman et al., Vietnam and America: A Documented History (New York: Grove Press, 1985), 355-372.
2. "Popular Uprisings and the Origins of Socialism in France," Socialist Review 40-41 (1978), 221-239.
3. "The People and Pierre Dolivier: Popular Uprisings in the Seine-et-Oise Department (1791-1792)," French Historical Studies 11 (1979), 184-214.
4. "Village Culture and the Vietnamese Revolution," Past & Present 94 (1982), 131-157.
5. "Theda Skocpol and the Peasant Route," Socialist Review 70 (1983), 121-144.
6. "Peasant Politics in the French Revolution," Social History 9 (1984), 277-299; translated and reprinted in E. P. Thompson et al., La guerre du ble au XVIIIe siecle, (Paris: Editions de la Passion, 1988), 205-232.
7. "Working People of France and their Historians," Radical History Review 28-30 (1984), 45-65.
8. "Freedom and Illusion in Vietnam," Radical America 20 (March-May 1986), 52-62.
9. "History as Indoctrination: A Critique of Palmer

and Colton's A History of the Western World," The History Teacher 21 (1987), 53-103 [co-authored with Linda Gordon and Peter Weiler].

10. "Peasant Movements and Communal Property During the French Revolution," Theory and Society 17 (1988), 255-283.

11. "From the Millennial to the Everyday: James Scott's Search for the Essence of Peasant Politics," Radical History Review 42 (1988), 155-172.

12. "The Measure of Popular Culture. A Review Article," Comparative Studies in Society and History 31 (1989), 363-371.

13. "Coming to Terms with Post War Vietnam," Socialist Review 19/1 (1989), 113-127.

14. "Peasant Routes in France and Vietnam," Peasant Studies 17 (1990), 141-149.

15. "The Anti-War Movement After the War," in Jayne Werner and Luu Doan Huynh, eds., The Vietnam War: Vietnamese and American Perspectives (New York: Sharpe, 1993), 258-270.

16. "U.S. Scholarship and the National Liberation Front," in Hunt and Werner, eds., The American War in Vietnam.

17. "Prefigurations of the Vietnamese Revolution," in Rayna Rapp and Jane Schneider, Articulating Hidden Histories: Anthropology, History, and the Influence of Eric R. Wolf (Berkeley: University of California Press, forthcoming in November 1994).

III. Recent Short Reviews and Commentaries:

1. "Vietnam: A Television History: A Review of the First Episodes," Radical Historians Newsletter 41 (1983).

2. "Andrzej Wajda and the 'Reign of the People,'" Radical History Review 28-30 (1984), 141-150.

3. "A Meeting with Vietnamese Historians," Radical Historians Newsletter 48 (1986).

4. "The Vietnamese Route," Indochina Newsletter 38 (1986)

5. "Commentary on Women in Vietnam," Indochina Newsletter 44 (1987).

6. "US, Vietnamese Historians Meet to Analyze the War," Radical Historians Newsletter 57 (1989).
7. "Hanoi Renaissance," Indochina Newsletter 57 (1989).
8. review of P. M. Jones, The Peasantry in the French Revolution, in Agricultural History (1990), 101-102.
9. review of Melanie Beresford, Vietnam: Politics, Economics and Society, in Development and Change 21/3 (1990).
10. "The 'Red Princess' Wins an Oscar: A Review of Indochine," Radical Historians Newsletter 68 (1993).

IV. Recent Presentations:

1. "The Debate over Communal Property in the French Revolution, 1791-1793," Society for French Historical Studies Conference, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, March 22, 1985.
2. "U.S. Scholarship on the National Liberation Front," Conference on the History of the Vietnam War, Hanoi, November 26, 1988.
3. "Peasant Routes in France and Vietnam," panel on "Communal Property and Peasant Struggles in Vietnam," American Historical Association Convention, San Francisco, December 28, 1989.
4. discussant, panel on "Vietnam and the Tradition of Revolution," McClellan Symposium on "America, Vietnam, and the War: Policy, Culture, Consequences," Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, March 3, 1990.
5. "The Anti-War Movement After The War," panel on "Dissent/Opposition and U.S. Policy-Making," Columbia University Seminar on "the History of the Vietnam/Indochina War," November 17, 1990.
6. "Prefigurations of the Vietnamese Revolution," panel on "Social Movements and Ideologies: Papers in Honor of Eric R Wolf," American Anthropological Association Convention, New Orleans, December 1, 1990.
7. "Images of Viet Nam: A Review of Survey Texts on the Viet Nam War," at conference on "the United States and Viet Nam," Notre Dame University, December 2, 1993.

Born: March 1, 1942, Buffalo, New York

Education: B.A., major in history, Haverford College, 1963
PhD. in history, Harvard University, 1969

Graduate School Fields:

Early Modern France
Early Modern and Modern Intellectual
Ancient Greece

Dissertation:

"Child Rearing in Seventeenth-Century France" (chaired by Franklin Ford)

Faculty Positions:

UMass/Boston, 1969-present
Assistant Professor, History and Psychology, 1969-70
Assistant Professor, History, 1970-75
Associate Professor with tenure, History, 1975-present

Other Positions:

Co-Director, William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences, 1986-1993

Board of Directors, William Joiner Foundation, Boston, Massachusetts: October 1988-present

Vietnam Studies Committee/Association of Asian Studies: 1987-present

Co-Editor, Vietnam Studies Bulletin: 1991-present

Honors and Awards:

Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude at Haverford College

Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, 1963-64, first year of PhD. program, Harvard University

Fulbright Fellowship, 1966-67, dissertation research in Paris

Social Science Research Council Fellowship, 1968-69, post-doctoral study in clinical psychology, Social Relations Department, Harvard University

UMass/Boston College of Arts and Sciences distinguished teaching award, 1986

Indochina Scholarly Exchange Program/Social Science
Research Council Research Grant, for "Return of the
Festival," a study of popular culture in contemporary
Vietnam, 1991

Candidate Statement for Promotion File

My work explores the cultures of working people and especially of peasants and traces the paths they have followed from sociability to politics. It is of particular note to scholars interested in the Vietnam War and in recent Vietnamese history, in the French Revolution, and in peasant studies.

I am the only social historian studying the Vietnamese side of the "American War" and the only one to have spent years reading and learning from the French and English literatures on popular movements. The result has been an analysis of Vietnam's peasants that goes beyond the institutional focus found elsewhere in the literature, which does not always succeed in distinguishing between the self-organization of peasants and the external organizations that have attempted to coerce or mobilize the rural population. Peasants have participated in the making of society and history in Vietnam.

My work on France underscored the way in which a diverse, scattered peasantry managed to make a coherent statement, to function as a class, within the French Revolution. Here too my objective is to explore the relative autonomy of rural dwellers, who never choose their circumstances, but who never completely accept them either. Often portrayed as invisible or marginal, they have been among the architects of modern France.

My position within peasant studies is distinctive. Examining peasants and revolutions in France and Vietnam has enabled me to bring out the full range and complexity of agrarian politics in modern history and has provided a base from my critical commentary on many of the leading figures in the field. The comparative aspect of my work is not incidental. Virtually everything I have written draws from French history and from Vietnamese history and from theoretical debates.

Before receiving tenure in 1975, I had written a book and a monograph. Based on my dissertation, Parents and Children in History was an early attempt to combine psychological and historical approaches and anticipated my current interest in the connections between private and public life. Villagers at War, on the National Liberation Front in My Tho Province, remains the only local study of the guerrilla movement that examines in detail the political-administrative activities of the NLF, that gives voice to village cadres, and that treats the guerrilla effort in its relationship to popular culture.

Since 1975, I have published 17 articles and co-edited a book. The latter, entitled The American War in Vietnam, has a complicated history. In 1986, I was a member of the first educators' delegation since the end of the war to visit Vietnam (my commentary on this experience is included in the packet).

Because of my publications and because the 1986 trip had made me known to Vietnamese historians, I was a logical choice for inclusion in the 1988 Hanoi conference on the Vietnam War, the first time Vietnamese and American scholars sat down together to discuss that topic (again, my description of this conference is included in the packet). Jayne Werner of Long Island University and I then joined forces to co-edit the volume of conference papers that the Southeast Asia Program at Cornell published in 1993. I authored one of the essays and co-wrote the introduction. A sequel to the Hanoi meeting, in which I participated, was held at Columbia University in 1990, and no doubt there will be others in the years ahead. The American War in Vietnam should be judged on its scholarly merits and also as part of a ground breaking cooperative effort between American and Vietnamese historians.

Here is a brief commentary on the articles listed in my resume.

1. "Remembering the Tet Offensive" was the first attempt in this country to break from the narrow, military framework previously employed to evaluate the Offensive and the first to pull together the evidence that it was a victory for the guerrillas. The article can be found in one of the anthologies designed for use in college courses (see resume for exact reference), where I am placed in the position of "debating" William Westmoreland.

2. "Popular Uprisings" discusses the work of Yves Marie Berce, whose studies of popular uprisings in seventeenth-century France had just appeared, and of Maurice Agulhon, the foremost living social historian of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century France. "Working People of France" (# 7) is a more developed treatment of Agulhon's contribution.

3. In "The People and Pierre Dolivier," I applied E. P. Thompson's notion of a "moral economy of the crowd" to the French Revolution. It argued that seemingly ephemeral "food riots" in the Paris region in 1789-91 were manifestations of a political struggle, in the course of which the national government was losing control of the countryside (the echoes of Vietnam in this treatment were deliberate). The essay is a contribution to the literature on the origins of the democratic and social republic that emerged in the year II. It is included in the packet.

4. A sequel to Villagers at War, "Village Culture and the Vietnamese Revolution" made the jump from the war to social history. It analyzes domestic and village struggles within the Vietnamese guerrilla effort and offers a general statement on the insights and blind spots of such cultural revolutions, including the dechristianization campaign of the French Revolution. The article was published by Past & Present, then the premier social

history journal in the English language. It is included in the packet.

5. "Theda Skocpol and the Peasant Route" was written soon after Skocpol's important States and Social Revolutions appeared in 1980. It was an effort to confront her interpretation with another reading of the evidence from France. I especially stressed the work of Georges Lefebvre, the greatest of all the historians of the French Revolution, and Florence Gauthier, whose research, published in 1977, had brought out the reality of a "peasant route," a distinctive agrarian vision of political and property relations, within the Revolution and modern French history. The article is included in the packet.

6. I had more to say about Lefebvre and Gauthier, and the editors of Social History encouraged me to turn the resulting article into a state-of-the-question essay, with additional sections on peasants in western France, treated in classic studies by Bois and Tilly and more recently by Le Goff and Sutherland. This piece is part of a general scholarly effort, carried on by Gauthier and Guy Ikni in France, Peter Jones in England (whose Peasantry in the French Revolution [1988] is the best recent synthesis), and Peter McPhee in Australia to demonstrate that there was indeed a "peasant politics" in the French Revolution. It was later translated and included in La Guerre du ble, a collection of work on the Revolution incorporating Thompsonian perspectives. The article is included in the packet.

7. I returned to Agulhon's work, along with that of Alain Corbin, in "Working People of France." This critical commentary was intended to underscore the wonders achieved by French social historians and to indicate how they have created an original starting point, distinct from more traditional liberal and Marxist paradigms, for research on popular culture and popular movements. The article is included in the packet.

8. "Freedom and Illusion" offers an extended analysis of Gabriel Kolko's Anatomy of a War, which remains the single best treatment of the Vietnam War, and of the field. A brief bibliographical note is appended. The article is included in the packet.

9. In 1987, The History Teacher excerpted a large portion of "History as Indoctrination," which Linda Gordon, Peter Weiler and I had co-authored and informally distributed in the early 1970s. The publication helped to validate our earlier critical project, designed to highlight problems in the "Western Civ." curriculum.

10. "Peasant Movements" demonstrates how rural activists of the French Revolution explored various options, leading toward

"feudal," "capitalist," and "socialist" outcomes, while remaining within the broad framework of "the peasant route." It completed a "trilogy," with "Peasant Politics" providing an overview, "The People and Pierre Dolivier" focusing on 1789, and "Peasant Movements" dealing with 1793. It is included in the packet.

11. "From the Millennial to the Everyday" analyzes the work of James Scott, one of the founding fathers of peasant studies, a protagonist in the "Scott/Popkin Debate" over the role of peasants in recent Vietnamese history, and an innovative commentator on "everyday resistance" among rural dwellers. My objective was to underscore his achievement, and in particular to explore the way he employs Thompson's concept of a "moral economy." The essay is included in the packet.

12. I was initially skeptical when Geoff Eley asked me, on behalf of Comparative Studies in Society and History, to review Stephen Hahn's book on Populism in Georgia. At his suggestion, "The Measure of Popular Culture" turned into a theoretical commentary on the location, density, plasticity, and political import of agrarian cultures. It is included in the packet.

13. "Coming To Terms" was a first attempt to make sense of my Joiner work and trips to Vietnam. A more developed treatment appeared in "The Anti-War Movement After the War" (# 15).

14. Originally a paper at the 1989 AHA conference, "Peasant Routes in France and Vietnam" was then solicited by the editors of Peasant Studies. Again, I employed Gauthier's notion of a "voie paysanne," here for the first time with reference to the Vietnamese situation. The article is included in the packet.

15. "The Anti-War Movement After the War" called attention to the unfinished business of the Vietnam War, especially for the American left. It is included in the anthology that came out of the Columbia conference on the war (see resume for exact reference).

16. The National Liberation Front has been seen in military terms, as a case study in guerrilla warfare or as a war of national liberation, and from an organizational perspective, as an emanation of Vietnamese Communism. But, as I argued in "U.S. Scholarship," these approaches are not sufficiently attentive to what a revolution is and how a revolutionary situation requires a social movement. A comment on the literature, the essay also provides a conceptual framework for my ongoing study of peasant movements in South Vietnam. The essay can be found in the attached copy of The American War in Vietnam.

17. "Prefigurations" is part of a festschrift (scheduled for publication by UCal Press later this year) in honor of Eric Wolf, who with Skocpol and Scott is a leader in peasant studies.

Again, the article completes a "trilogy," with "Prefigurations" addressing the general context, "Peasant Routes" concentrating on cooperatives in the North, and "U.S. Scholarship" treating the countryside in the South. In these essays, I hope to have confirmed a point doubted or overlooked by others, that there is a "peasant route" in Vietnam.

To sum up, the treatment of Eric Wolf carries forward a process of analysis that I began with respect to Skocpol, then continued in commentaries on Lefebvre, Agulhon, Scott, and Hahn, in the course of which I have shown how these scholars have helped to create peasant studies and where their work leaves paths unfollowed, questions unanswered. People who read Wolf and Scott do not usually read Lefebvre and Agulhon, while explorations in the other direction, from France to other terrains, are even less common. And none of these specialists has ever been asked to comment on Georgia Populists! Having made free-standing contributions to the literature on the French Revolution and to the literature on the Vietnamese Revolution, I have gone further than anyone else in drawing out the parallels between these two events and in formulating the implications of the peasant route.

In addition to these publications, I also call attention to my seven years as Co-Director of the William Joiner Center. The Center had developed a couple of courses before I arrived as Co-Director in 1986, but most of the score of offerings it has inspired have gone on the books since that date and with my active support. It has often been suggested at UMass that "war and social consequences" should be turned into a concentration, but I have preferred not to pursue this option, which would create a fictitious academic specialty and endow it with a programmatic status that it does not deserve or require. I have tried instead to highlight existing strengths in the curriculum (many faculty on their own have chosen to teach about Vietnam) and to supplement these where necessary with offerings organized and funded by the Center. UMass/Boston offers students a chance to study the political, social, military, diplomatic, psychological, and literary aspects of the Vietnam War. Formally designated "clusters" of courses on "Representations of War" and "Asian American Studies" offer road maps to particular areas of this terrain. I have not conducted a scientific survey, but would be willing to bet that the UMB program for study of the Vietnam War is unparalleled anywhere in the country.

The Center has secured for the university a number of important research collections, most especially the PBS Archive (the largest collection of images of the Vietnam War anywhere in the world), and the "Captured Documents" (a major source on the war as it was fought in the villages of South Vietnam). I had known about the "Captured Documents" from my earlier work and was instrumental in arranging their acquisition, and I also brought

William Turley to the campus for an extended visit in 1987 and conferred with him regularly about the report he had been commissioned to prepare on the materials. I also worked out arrangements for the Center to provide extensive funding to the Vietnam Union Catalogue (a computer-based bibliography of Vietnamese-language books available in the U.S. with concurrent bibliographies being prepared in France, England, Australia, and Vietnam); the Social Science Research Guide (a comprehensive handbook on scholarly programs and resources in the U.S.); and the Vietnam Forum and Lac Viet Monograph Series (Southeast Asia Studies Program/Yale University). In 1987, I employed a special grant from the University to purchase many volumes on Vietnam and related topics, including close to 100 unpublished dissertations, for the Healey Library.

In 1986 when the Center organized an oral history project to collect the stories of Southeast Asian students, I ran orientation sessions for student interviewers on the history of the war. The next year, I played an active role in the hiring of Peter Kiang to serve as coordinator for Joiner programs having to do with Vietnamese, Lao, and Cambodian students at UMB and with the refugee community in Boston. I offered support to Kiang in subsequent years, as he designed a cluster of three courses on Asians in America and assisted Asian students on campus in many ways.

In this and other respects, the Joiner Center has had a major impact in insuring diversity at UMass/Boston. Its work with student-veterans, who number over 1,000 and who are mainly from poor and working class backgrounds, is pertinent here. The Center has maintained projects for women, black, and Hispanic veterans, and has organized conferences and courses dealing with such issues. I worked with the Center in coordinating three national conferences for women veterans (1986, 1988, 1990); set up several topics courses on women veterans and women and war in the Women's Studies Program and co-wrote the proposal that established "Blacks in U.S. Military History" as a permanent offering in the Black Studies Department; recruited contributors and edited copy for a special issue of the Trotter Review on "African Americans and the Military"; and helped organize special sections of the Writers Workshop on women veteran writers in 1991 and Puerto Rican writers in 1992.

At a time of budget cuts and attrition, the Center has maintained many contacts with the off-campus world and in the process has done much to keep alive a sense of intellectual vitality at UMB. In June 1993, I helped inaugurate the Vietnam Institute, designed to support teaching about the Vietnam War in Massachusetts secondary schools. The three-day session was attended by invited scholars, Joiner staff, and 35 middle and high school teachers from the region.

Over the years, the Center has brought a great many scholars, critics, poets, novelists, activists, and political leaders to campus. I have been particularly active in selecting and hosting academic visitors, including Paul Joseph (Tufts), William Turley (Southern Illinois), Jerome Long (Wesleyan), Harry Haines (Trinity/San Antonio), Ngo Vinh Long (Maine/Orono), Jayne Werner (LIU), Kristin Pelzer (Hawaii), Keith Taylor (Cornell), Lorrie Smith (Saint Michaels/Vermont), Bruce Franklin (Rutgers), Alfred McCoy (Wisconsin), Bruce Cumings (Chicago), Harry Haines (Trinity/San Antonio), Marilyn Young (NYU), and Hy Van Luong (Toronto).

In 1987, Linda Dittmar of the English Department and I came up with the idea for a conference on war films, and I recruited Gene Michaud as Media Coordinator for the Center to help coordinate it. Held in March 1988, "The War Film: Contexts and Images," featured 18 panels, five special presentations, and 26 film and video screenings. Over 70 scholars and film makers from Vietnam and the U.S. participated. Papers from the conference were later published in From Hanoi to Hollywood: The Vietnam War in American Film (Newark: Rutgers University Press, 1990). I also helped Michaud in designing a three-course cluster on "representations of war" and found a home for it in American Studies.

I have been active in organizing the Vietnam Veteran Writers Workshop, a highly successful Joiner initiative that was launched in 1988, and in arranging literary exchanges between Vietnam and the U.S. The Center has brought many literary figures to UMB, including four National Book Award Winners (Gloria Emerson, Paul Fussell, Larry Heinemann, Tim O'Brien). It has also hosted Vietnamese writers from Vietnam, including Le Luu, Nguy Ngu, Nguyen Khai, Nguyen Quang Sang, Phan Tien Duat, Huu Thinh, Nguyen Quang Thieu, and Le Minh Khue. I have helped in choosing these guests, arranging their programs while in Boston, and developing plans for future cooperation. I set up a position in the English Department for veteran poet W.D. Ehrhart, who was the Center's second Visiting Professor of War and Social Consequences in 1990. That same year, I led a delegation of veteran writers to Vietnam.

I have been part of the translation team for Le Luu's novel, Thoi Xa Vang ("Long Time Passing"). Nguyen Ba Chung, a local Vietnamese with an advanced degree in American literature, and I are responsible for chapters 7-13. The text has now been sent out to readers by UMass Press. Apart from its literary merits, the novel is a wonderful source on Vietnam's recent social history, as noted in "Hanoi Renaissance" (a copy of which is included in the packet). I have also provided critical input for a volume of soldiers' poetry, selected from our research collections and entitled Poems from Captured Documents, Thanh Nguyen and Bruce Weigl, eds. (Amherst: UMass Press, forthcoming in 1994).

I took part in the planning for Center collaboration with the Washington Project for the Arts on "War and Memory," featuring readings, screenings, exhibits, and lectures in Washington, D.C. in the fall of 1987. One offshoot of the project, funded by the Center, is Unwinding the Vietnam War: From War to Peace (Seattle: Real Comet Press, 1987), an anthology of poems, personal accounts, and critical essays on the war and its aftermath. Another was a campaign to organize an exhibit of paintings by Vietnamese and American veterans, to be toured in both countries; see As Seen by Both Sides: American and Vietnamese Artists Look at the War, David Thomas, ed. (Boston: Indochina Arts Project/William Joiner Foundation, 1991). I sat in on the planning and organizing meetings for this ambitious project and helped move it along in many ways, for example, by negotiating with skeptical officials in Vietnam's Ministry of Culture during a May 1988 visit to Hanoi. Vietnam Veteran photographer Bill Short, who was associate director of "As Seen By Both Sides," and Le Tri Dung, one of Vietnam's foremost contemporary painters, presented their work in person at the Addison Gallery in February-March 1992, an endeavor I again helped to advance, for example, by dealing with various bureaucratic obstacles impeding Dung's trip to the U.S. while in Hanoi in January 1992.

Joiner services are vital in making the campus a hospitable place for veteran-students. In 1992, the Center and the Office of Academic Support hammered out a formal arrangement, which I facilitated, for cooperation in serving these students. With the support of the State Legislature, the Center is conducting research on the situation and needs of veterans in the Commonwealth. For more, see From a Troubled Past to an Uncertain Future: Vietnam Veterans, A Community at Risk (Boston: WJC/UMB, 1991), which I co-wrote.

The Vietnam veterans movement has contributed to recent U.S. history in many ways, but perhaps its most notable insights concern Agent Orange and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. By documenting the toxic effects of herbicide spraying in Vietnam, veterans have found a place in a broader movement that since the 1960s has raised environmental consciousness in the U.S. And their insistence on the reality of stress disorders has enlarged understanding of the psychological consequences of trauma not only among combat veterans, but also among the many others -- refugees, survivors, rape victims, abused children -- touched by domestic, community, or natural violence.

In February 1987, I assisted in organizing a conference on Agent Orange, with presentations by 75 doctors, scientists, scholars, and legal experts, from the U.S., Sweden, and Canada. For a summary of the conference, see Agent Orange: Medical, Scientific, Legal, Political and Psychological Issues, Paul

Atwood, ed. (Boston: WJC/UMB, 1990). I have helped in hosting Vietnamese medical teams specializing in the study of toxins in the environment, for example, physician and National Assembly member Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong and health administrator Le Diem Huong from Ho Chi Minh City, and epidemiologists Le Cao Dai and Hoang Trong Quynh from Hanoi, in October 1987. In 1988, I was part of the team that coordinated a session on "Health Effects of the Vietnam War: American and Vietnamese Perspectives" at the Annual Convention of the American Public Health Association, with George McGovern giving the keynote address and Bailus Walker, President of the APHA, introducing the session, and with many presentations by U.S. and Vietnamese specialists. Measuring the damage done by spraying, especially the reproductive effects, has been a central issue in the studies of Massachusetts veterans conducted by the Center; see details in From A Troubled Past.

Vietnam veterans have also brought "PTSD" into our language, thereby shedding light on the psychological problems of those traumatized by violence of all sorts. In 1989, the Center invited internationally known specialist Erwin Parson to campus as its first Visiting Professor of War and Social Consequences, and as a result of my negotiations with the Psychology Department, he taught UMB's first course on "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder." A similar offering later became a permanent part of the curriculum. The Center also forged relationships with the Psychology Service at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Jamaica Plain and was written into the grant that resulted in the facility being included in the national PTSD Center created by the VA a couple of years ago. Parson and the Psychology Service are working with the Center on "Full Circle," a research project designed to measure the healing effects for veterans of returning to Vietnam. As part of this inquiry, the Center sent two delegations, 23 veterans in all, to Vietnam in 1990. I helped organize Full Circle and have participated actively in thinking through the research design. I remain in close touch with the Psychology Department, for example, visiting Leslie Lebowitz's classes on PTSD to lecture on the Vietnam War and serving on the dissertation committee for PhD candidate William Haddad, who is studying the psychological consequences of combat experience. Haddad's conceptual design is heavily influenced by Eric Erikson, for whom I was a teaching assistant while at Harvard in the 1960s and who is the major theoretical inspiration for my book on child rearing in early modern France.

I have visited Vietnam nine times and have been an integral part of all Joiner assistance and exchange programs. Because of the Joiner Center, no American university is better known than UMass/Boston in Hanoi and Hue and Ho Chi Minh City, and for a time in the late 1980s friends were half-seriously remarking that the Center had more extensive and meaningful contacts with the Vietnamese than did the U.S. Government, whose policy toward Vietnam was based on economic embargo and diplomatic non-recognition. This experience has provided for me an opportunity to function as a historian, a teacher, an administrator, and as a

person who loves Vietnam and hopes for deepening friendship and more frequent contacts between that country and the United States.

In 1993, the Joiner Center joined others in urging the U.S. Government to give the Vietnamese a set of the Captured Documents, which contain a wealth of information on the circumstances in which individual guerrilla soldiers were killed during the war. In phone conversations with State Department representatives, I described Vietnamese sensibilities with respect to people who die unattended and alone (a section in "Prefigurations" examines a festival in honor of these "lost spirits") and explained that hundreds of thousands of "missing in action" are an important and painful part of recent social history in Vietnam. Perhaps the humanitarian argument in favor of this gesture would have sufficed, but I like to think that the scholarly aspect of the case, my commentary on Vietnamese culture and recent history, had something to do with the U.S. Government decision in August 1993 to hand over a portion of the documents to the Vietnamese.

I have been instrumental in Center efforts to forge ties with refugee communities in the United States. Over the years, we have hosted writer and translator Lucy Nguyen, poet and scholar Toan Do, novelist and editor Nguyen Mong Giac, critic Tran Qui Phiet (Schreiner College/Texas), prose writer Tran Kim Lan, sociologist Chung Hoang Chuong (San Francisco State), and Cambodian poet U Sam Oeur. The 1990 Writers Workshop included a special section on refugee prose and poetry. I helped negotiate Joiner support for the Lac Viet monograph series at Yale University, whose publications include To Be Made Over: Tales of Socialist Reeducation in Vietnam (New Haven: Yale Southeast Asia Studies, 1988), a collection of writings from emigres who were imprisoned in "reeducation camps" after 1975. Its harsh anti-communist tone raised eyebrows in Hanoi when we showed the volume to our friends there, while our hospitality to guests from Vietnam and other "pro VC" initiatives have drawn criticism from local Vietnamese. But I and the Joiner Center remain committed to good relations with all the Vietnamese people, here and in Vietnam.

To sum up, singling out my contribution to a common effort that at its most well-funded moments drew on the talents of 20 staff members is not an easy task. But since 1986 I have been the only faculty member in the Center and have been primarily responsible for shaping the academic aspects of its program. I have contributed leadership and organizing skills as well as my experience as a teacher and historian in providing direction and impetus for a Joiner program that has blended scholarship, pedagogy, and advocacy in an original fashion.