This was a very busy and productive Annual Meeting for our organization. Our mini-conference, organized with Radical History Review, drew large audiences, including over 100 people for the “Is the U.S. Turning Towards Fascism?” and “Is Israel Turning Fascist?” panels.

With Scholars for a New Deal in Higher Education and many affiliate societies, we organized an Open Meeting on the subject: “How Can Historians Defend Honest History?”. We remain in touch with many people that attended these conference sessions, and some have become new H-PAD members.

We also mobilized significant support for our resolution “In Defense of the Right to Learn” at the Business Meeting; after H-PAD steering committee member Ellen Schrecker gave a powerful speech in support and public discussion, it passed unanimously.

Many of our sessions were recorded. For access to these recordings, check p. 3 of this newsletter.

Vigil for the People of Gaza

Following the Business Meeting, H-PAD members were joined by other historians as we marched to Union Square in San Francisco. There we held a “Vigil for the People of Gaza” that became a powerful speak-out. See photo left.
Culture Wars Archive updated

Since it first came out in 2022, we’ve periodically updated the Culture Wars on Education archive, which compiles articles, analyses, and other resources detailing the ongoing war on honest, robust education in the United States.

The archive is publicly available on the H-PAD website. H-PAD steering committee member Molly Nolan recently completed its latest update, bringing it up to date with current developments.

This is an important resource that deserves wider attention. At the AHA we distributed promotional fliers for the archive (left), and so expect that many new users will find their way to the resource. We hope the archive will continue to help teachers and students at all levels educate themselves about the current crisis and find constructive ways to respond to it.

Report from the Israel/Palestine Working Group

H-PAD relaunched the Israel-Palestine Working Group (IPWG) in mid-October 2023, responding to both the savage attacks on Israeli communities and the brutal response from Netanyahu’s government. We support a ceasefire and an end to Israel's war on Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

Members of the IPWG have published letters and articles in The Nation, the St. Louis News Dispatch, the Chicago Tribune, El Espectador's Magazín Cultural (Bogota, Colombia), the Daytona Beach-News Journal, and the Orlando Sentinel.

We have developed a template people can use to write to their elected officials urging them to support a ceasefire.

We circulated a letter for historians to sign calling for a cease fire, which we then sent to the Jerusalem Post, President Biden, Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate Charles Schumer.

We are currently developing one minute videos on various topics to circulate in social media. Our first, on US funding for the Israeli war machine that is demolishing Gaza, can be viewed on youtube.

We welcome new members. Please contact Margaret Power (power@iit.edu) if you are interested in working with us.
Audio recordings from AHA 2024

Of the seventeen RHR/H-PAD sessions that were held during the 2024 American Historical Association Annual Meeting (an eighteenth session was transformed into the Vigil for the People of Gaza) eight were recorded on audio.

These recordings can be access by clicking on the titles below, while the conference schedule entry for each can be found on our website by clicking here.

1. Discussion of Margaret Power's Solidarity across the Americas: The Puerto Rican Nationalist Party and Anti-imperialism, 3:30pm-5pm, Thursday, January 4, 2024. A critical consideration of the key arguments, insights, and contributions of this recent book.

2. The United States and China: A Discussion, 10:30am-12pm, Friday, January 5, 2024. This session gathers together US-based academics involved in the Critical China Scholars collective, a group born of the 2019-2020 pandemic-era scapegoating of US-China relations.

3. Secrets and Lives: A Roundtable Discussion of Biography & History in the Cold War Americas, 3:30pm -5:00pm, Friday, January 5, 2024. This roundtable will bring together five historians to begin a discussion of the practice of biography and the place of individual lives in the history of the Cold War across the Americas.

4. America’s Cold Wars: Past and Present, 3:30pm -5:00pm, Friday, January 5, 2024. This roundtable will bring together five historians to begin a discussion of the practice of biography and the place of individual lives in the history of the Cold War across the Americas.

5. Is the United States Turning toward Fascism?, 10:30am -12:00pm, Saturday, January 6, 2024. This roundtable goes beyond topical analyses to ask a more elemental question: Is fascism, however defined, now a real possibility in the U.S., and if so, what are its historical origins.

6. Labor Struggles in Contemporary Higher Education, 1:30pm-3:00pm Divisadero, Saturday, January 6, 2024. Higher education is a dramatically growing arena of struggle for a complex work force around working conditions, adequate resources, teaching to the needs of the society, and providing quality education for diverse students. The panelists are all activist leaders and intellectual commentators in various fields of higher education.

7. Teacher Educators, Teachers, and Activists Speak on Teaching Difficult Subjects in Contentious Times, 3:30pm–5:00pm, Saturday, January 6, 2024. K-12 teachers, academics, and school activists will discuss strategies for creating socially responsible curriculum, connecting schools and the academy, and finding ways to contest the attack on public education.