Role-Playing in Athens in 403 BC
Hands-On Workshop

USM Symposium, September 29, 2016
New Designs for Learning: Games and Gamification

Presented by Shoshana Brassfield, Sally Boniece, Eleanor McConnell and Suzanne McCoskey
Presentation Overview

- Condensed role play and example of “Reacting to the Past”
  - 1:45 – 2:00 “Introduction to Athens in 403 BC”
  - 2:00 – 3:00 Game
  - 3:00 – 3:15 Game Wrap-Up

- Panel Discussion on RTTP at Frostburg State University
  (3:15 – 4:00)
Welcome to Athens ...
Ancient Athens and Democracy

- The legendary “birthplace” of democracy (not as we know it)
  - Direct democracy: all adult male citizens can meet & vote in the “Assembly” (Pnyx) [not slaves, foreigners, or women]
  - All offices, councils & juries selected by lot from all citizens
Resentment toward Sparta and Athenian Collaborators

- The Thirty Tyrants
  - Included Critias: pupil of Socrates, relative of Plato, banished after fall of the 400 in 411 (previous oligarchy)
What will Athens look like in the future? This is the challenge of the full Athens game.

- How to heal the rifts in the polity?
  - Pass a “Reconciliation Agreement”?
- Who will have political rights?
- Organization of the government: assembly, councils, courts, officials?
- Economics and finances?
- Fate of Socrates: follow his critique of democracy?
Game Procedure

- **Faction time, 2:00-2:15**
  - Faction strategy meetings
    - Indeterminates select a president and herald by lot
    - Distribute faction name tags
  - Faction members and Indeterminates mingle

- **Assembly Session, 2:15-2:50**
  - President convenes assembly
  - Herald sacrifices a pig
  - Podium rule: everyone who approaches the podium will have a chance to speak (time permitting)
  - Brief Q&A after each speech

- **President writes out proposed law and everyone votes, 2:50-3:00**

- **Debriefing, 3:00-3:15**

- **Panel Discussion on RTTP at FSU, 3:15-4:00**
FSU is a founding member of the Reacting Consortium.
## RTTP Games Are Interdisciplinary and Experiential

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Dr. Shoshana Brassfield
Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy

Games Taught:

The Trial of Galileo: Aristotelianism, The “New Cosmology,” and the Catholic Church, 1616-1633
The Threshold of Democracy: Athens in 403 B.C.E.
Climate Change in Copenhagen 2009
London 1854: Cesspits, Cholera, and Conflict over the Broad Street Pump

Games Played:

Frederick Douglass, Slavery, Abolitionism, and the Constitution: 1845
Confucianism and the Succession Crisis of the Wanli Emperor, 1587
Greenwich Village, 1913: Suffrage, Labor, and the New Woman
Patriots, Loyalists and Revolution in New York City, 1775-76
The Pluto Debate: The International Astronomical Union Defines a Planet Challenging the USDA Food Pyramid
Changing the Game: Title IX, Gender, and Athletics in American Universities
London 1854: Cesspits, Cholera, and Conflict over the Broad Street Pump
Climate Change in Copenhagen 2009
The Trial of Galileo: Aristotelianism, the "New Cosmology," and the Catholic Church, 1616-33
The Threshold of Democracy: Athens in 403 B.C.
Dr. Eleanor H. McConnell  
Assistant Professor, Department of History

- Regularly teaches Colonial America, American Revolution, Early Republic, Civil War and Reconstruction, 20th-Century World History

**Games Taught:**

- *Forest Diplomacy: War, Peace, and Land on the Colonial Frontier, 1756-1757*
- *Patriots, Loyalists, and Revolution in New York City, 1775-1776*
- *Frederick Douglass, Slavery, Abolitionism, and the Constitution: 1845*
- *Kentucky, 1861: Loyalty, State, and Nation*
- *Climate Change in Copenhagen 2009*

**Games Played:**

- *Frederick Douglass, Slavery, Abolitionism, and the Constitution: 1845*
- *Greenwich Village, 1913: Suffrage, Labor, and the New Woman*
- *Patriots, Loyalists and Revolution in New York City, 1775-76*
- *Changing the Game: Title IX, Gender, and Athletics in American Universities*
- *Climate Change in Copenhagen 2009*
- *Are Atoms Real? 1860 Karlsruhe Conference of Chemistry*
- *The Trial of Galileo: Aristotelianism, the "New Cosmology," and the Catholic Church, 1616-33*
- *Red Clay, 1835: Cherokee Removal and the Meaning of Sovereignty*
- *America’s Founding: The Constitutional Convention*
- *Rousseau, Burke, and Revolution in France, 1791*
Dr. Sally A. Boniece
Professor, Department of History

- Regularly teaches 20th-Century World History, Modern Europe, Imperial Russia, Revolutionary and Soviet Russia, Women’s Issues in World History.

- Has used RTTP in Introduction to International Studies (Climate Change in Copenhagen), Honors 20th-Century World History (India on the Eve of Independence; The Collapse of Apartheid) and Revolutionary and Soviet Russia (February Revolution)

- Currently developing RTTP game *The February Revolution and Dual Power in Petrograd, 1917*
Dr. Suzanne K McCoskey
Associate Professor, Department of Economics

- Regularly teaches *Macroeconomics*, *Comparative Economic Systems* and *Economic Development*.

- Has used RTTP in Comp Systems (“February Revolution/Petrograd”) and Macroeconomics (“Firestone”).

More Information about RTTP

RTTP web site: [https://reacting.barnard.edu](https://reacting.barnard.edu)


June 8-11, 2017: Seventeenth Annual Faculty Institute, New York, NY

July 12-15, 2017: Sixth Annual Game Development Conference, Wichita, KS


Contact: Administrative Director: Jennifer Worth, Barnard College: jworth@barnard.edu

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