

## EAAS Postgraduate Travel Grant 2022

### Final Report

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#### **Host Institutions:**

Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Kislak Center for Special Collections, Manuscripts and Rare Books, University of Pennsylvania

Thanks to the Transatlantic Grant kindly conferred by the European Association for American Studies, I was able to spend a research period in Philadelphia between January 4<sup>th</sup> and February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, with the goal of completing the archival research for my dissertation and specifically for its last chapter. My dissertation traces an intellectual history of Henry Charles Carey's political economy within the context of nineteenth-century U.S. economic, social and political history. Writing between the 1830s and the 1870s, Carey (1793-1879) was one of the first and most influential nineteenth-century U.S. economists, advocating social harmony, tariff protectionism, a gradual abolition of slavery, a stronger role of the federal State and a global expansion of American empire. The first three chapters focus on Carey's writings between the 1830s and the 1860s. The first one reads his political economy in the 1830s as a response to the first U.S. labor movement, arguing that Carey engaged an ideological and political battle with the Philadelphia organized journeymen in order to overturn their claims and to scientifically legitimize the U.S. social structure as fundamentally "classless" and wage labor as a form of "free labor". The second chapter takes into account Carey's protectionist writings and social science between the late 1840s and the late 1850s, showing how he envisioned a stronger role of the American State as the engine of economic development, both within the nation, to affirm capitalism within the home market, and abroad, to affirm U.S. empire within the world market. The third chapter reconstructs Carey's views on slavery, emancipation and the sectional conflict between the late 1840s and the Civil War, maintaining that his political economy of emancipation was elaborated in opposition to the abolitionist movement's discourse, in the attempt to guarantee the command over black labor even after the abolition of slavery and thus to maintain the racial and class hierarchies upon which U.S. capitalism, both North and South, was grounded.

The fourth and last chapter, which I am currently in the process of writing, focuses instead on Carey's reflection between the end of the Civil War and his death in 1879. The chapter argues that his perspective on Reconstruction centered on the role of the State in guaranteeing protection and an abundant supply of money with the goal of fostering the industrial development of the South. The research period in Philadelphia was necessary for two reasons: on the one hand to broaden the archival research for the dissertation in general, particularly focusing on Carey's correspondence, and on the other hand to collect primary sources for the last chapter.

At the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, I mostly worked on Carey's correspondence with leading intellectuals and with Republican politicians. The vast majority of it is held in the eleven boxes of the «Henry C. Carey Papers, 1825-1936», series 5, section b of the «Edward Carey Gardiner Collection, 1673-1949» (collection 227A), which took a lot of time and efforts to fully explore. A smaller part of his correspondence is held in the «Henry C. Carey Correspondence, 1824, 1846-48» (collection 3671). Several letters are scattered among other collections, namely the «George M. Conarroe autograph collection, 1643-1882» (collection 0146) and the «Ferdinand J. Dreer collection, 1492-1975» (collection 175), particularly in series XII, «Presidents of the United States and their Cabinet». I spent the first three weeks at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania consulting this huge correspondence, which spans from the 1830s to the 1870s and which gave me a lot of useful material to further substantiate my dissertation's broader argument, to reconstruct Carey's intellectual and political network and to trace the elaboration of his theoretical works. After that, I spent a few days collecting material, both published and unpublished, on the Constitutional Convention of Pennsylvania of 1873, to which Carey participated as chairman of the Committee on Industrial Interests and Labor. Also at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, I spent a week collecting labor and economic pamphlets from the 1830s which might be very useful in broadening the scope of my dissertation.

At the Kislak Center for Special Collections of the University of Pennsylvania I mainly worked on four scrapbooks (vols. 12-15) of Carey's unsigned journalistic articles contained in the «Miscellaneous Works of Henry C. Carey» (Rare Book Collection 330 C18a), a twenty-five-volume collection of Carey's published books and pamphlets. Largely unexplored until today, these scrapbooks will represent a very original contribution to my dissertation. At the Kislak Center I also consulted «Henry C. Carey Miscellaneous Manuscripts, 1825-1865» (Manuscripts Misc Mss Box 3, folders 21-22) and the «Carey, Lea & Blanchard Correspondence, 1823-1849» (Manuscripts Ms. Coll. 421), which contained a few scattered letters to and from Carey. There, I also accessed the «Stephen Colwell Papers, 1838-1866» (Manuscripts Ms. Coll. 423), an economist and politician who had a close intellectual relationship with Carey and was later appointed in the National Revenue Commission in 1866.

Finally, while studying for the last chapter, I came across the writings of Damon Y. Kilgore, a radical labor leader who was active in the 1870s, and of his wife Carrie S. Burnham, a pioneer feminist activist in late-nineteenth-century Philadelphia. Both of them participated, together with Carey, at the 1873 Constitutional Convention of Pennsylvania. Having discovered that their papers were held at the Swarthmore College archives, which is only half-an-hour from Philadelphia, I went there one day. Specifically, at the Friends Historical Library, I accessed the «Damon Young Kilgore and Carrie Sylvester Burnham Kilgore», series 4 of the «George A. Hoadley Family Papers» (collection: SFHL-RG5-327).

Alongside the archival research, I spent several days studying and researching at the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library of the University of Pennsylvania, whose extremely rich collections were crucial in broadening the historiographical framework of my dissertation's last chapter.

Overall, this research period in Philadelphia was highly productive and extremely relevant for the successful conclusion of my PhD dissertation. Therefore, I am grateful to the EAAS for making this possible through the Postgraduate Travel Grant.