

CHICAGO HISTORY

IN FICTION AND NON FICTION

FINDING TRUTH IN THE POST-TRUTH AGE

Napoleon Bonaparte once said that “history is written by the winners.” Often what we think is history is not. Facts can be manipulated to make individuals, or a group of people look like heroes. In the past, text books taught us to believe in a history where the Native Americans were always the bad guys bent on doing evil to the innocent settlers. The Puritans landed at Plymouth Rock and made friends with the natives. Columbus discovered America. An altruistic Abraham Lincoln freed the poor slaves and instantly made life better for Black people.

Then came the backlash. The cowboys became the villains. The Puritans were hypocrites. Columbus should have stayed home. And slavery still existed, just in a different form.

The truth depends on who is telling the story.

History in Fiction and Non-Fiction is a program where historian Joe Rulli and Science Fiction author Steve Bellinger join forces to look at historical research in non-fiction and fiction in order to tell a fuller, more objective story of past events – a sort of “History Nerd meets Sci-Fi Geek” to plead for reason and objectivity instead of playing the blame game when dealing with contemporary issues.



In this 60-minute presentation, Rulli and Bellinger discuss their books; a historical account of the Haymarket Riot where actual court transcripts were used to piece together the facts and the other a time travel novel that uses little known true events to tell the story. Then they examine the concept of “false facts,” and give recommendations on how to deal with questionable news online.

History in Fiction and Non-Fiction been presented in several venues including:

- Chicago Public Library Edgewater Branch
- Oak Park Public Library
- Evanston Pubic Library
- Barnes and Noble DePaul Center
- Museums at Lisle Station Park



Joseph Rulli is the author of **Chicago Socialism - The People's History** (The History Press, 2019) and **The Chicago Haymarket Affair** (The History Press, 2016), a more objective look at the history of Socialism in Chicago and the events surrounding the Haymarket Riot of 1886, using reliable sources to help establish a clearer understanding.

★★★★★ "This concise and well written guide helped me to understand not only a period of Chicago's history, but also the history of the American labor movement." –*Amazon reviewer - The Chicago Haymarket Affair*



Steve Bellinger's novel, **Edge of Perception – A Paranormal Science Fiction Love Story** (Wordwooze Publishing, 2019) and his first novel **The Chronocar –An Urban Adventure in Time** (Wordwooze Publishing, 2019, 2nd edition) both take place in Chicago and required extensive research for historical and cultural accuracy. **The Chronocar** has won several awards, including 2018 Best Indie Book Award for Science Fiction and Readers' Favorite Gold Medal Award for Young Adult Science Fiction

★★★★★ "... the most innovative take on time travel that I have ever read" –*Ronald Jones, Black Science Fiction Society – The Chronocar*

"Steve and Joe illustrated the way history can be connected to our present and how today affects how we look at yesterday. Their talk was lively and interesting and their books are a welcome addition to your library shelves."

--*Joanna Hazelden-Chicago Public Library*

"Steve Bellinger and Joe Rulli took a unique approach in presenting "History in Fiction and Non-Fiction" at the Oak Park Public Library. Both are experienced writers and presenters. I can highly recommend their informative program."

--*Debby Preiser, Community Relations Coordinator, Oak Park Public Library*

"Joe Rulli and Steve Bellinger combine a thoughtful and energetic discussion of real historical events with a classic science fiction style that bridges the gap between science and history in this engaging presentation."

– *Ethan Peterman, The Museums at Lisle Station Park*

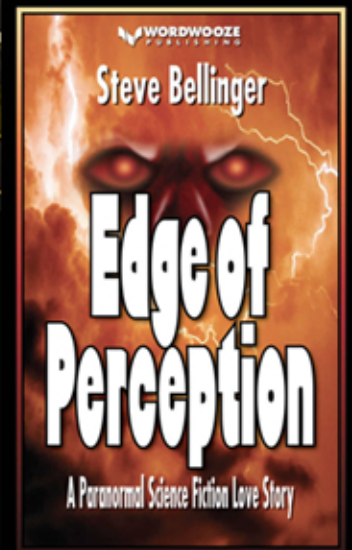
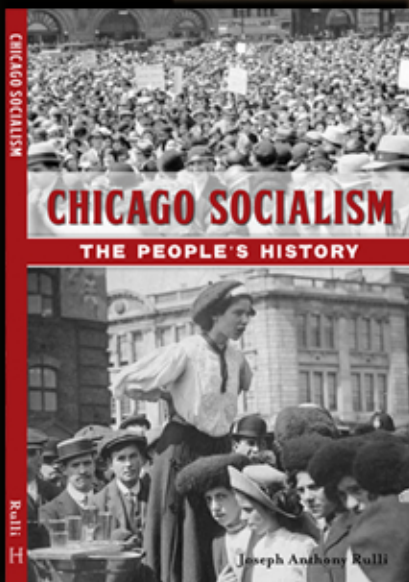
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A historian and
a science fiction author
discuss focal points
in Chicago history



Author and history nerd
Joe Rulli



Novelist and Sci-fi geek
Steve Bellinger