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Education

Harvard University	Ph.D.	History	1995
Harvard University	A.M.	History	1990
U. C. Berkeley	B. A., <i>with highest honors</i>	History	1989

Academic Positions

Penn State University: George Winfree Professor of History and Women's Studies, 2018-
Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of Humanities, 2012-2018
Liberal Arts Research Professor, 2011-2012
Professor of American History and Women's Studies, 2006-2011
Associate Professor, 2001-2006
Assistant Professor, 1995-2001
Acting Director, Richards Civil War Era Center, 2005-2006
Co-Director, Program in American Studies, 1998-2000

U.C. Berkeley: Visiting Scholar, Department of History, fall, 2002

Research Interests

The social, cultural, diplomatic, and political history of the United States, 1789-1865; U.S. in the world; gender history and constructions of masculinity; territorial expansionism; transnational history.

Books

Who's Afraid of a Little Empire? Imperialism and Its Discontents, 1780- 1900, Work in Progress.

Lady First: The World of First Lady Sarah Polk (Alfred A. Knopf, 2019; Vintage Books, revised paperback edition, 2020).

A Wicked War: Polk, Clay, Lincoln and the 1846 U.S. Invasion of Mexico, (Alfred A. Knopf, 2012). Winner: Best Book Prize, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic; Robert Utley Award, Western History Association; Myra Bernath Book Prize, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. Main selection: History Book of the Month Club. Selection: Book of the Month Club, Military Book of the Month Club: Finalist: L.A. Times Book Prize.

A Wicked War: Polk, Clay, Lincoln and the 1846 U.S. Invasion of Mexico (Vintage Books, revised paperback edition, 2013).

Manifest Destiny and American Territorial Expansion: A Brief History with Documents. The Bedford Series in History and Culture (Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2012) Revised 2nd Edition, 2017.

Manifest Manhood and the Antebellum American Empire (Cambridge University Press, 2005)

Cause for Alarm: The Volunteer Fire Department in the Nineteenth-Century City (Princeton University Press, 1998; paperback edition, 2014)

Journal Articles, Book Chapters, and Review Essays

“Afterward: ‘The Practicability of Annexing Canada’: Or, the Manifest Destiny of Canada, According to the United States” in *Revolutions Across Borders: Jacksonian America and the Canadian Rebellion*, Maxime Dagenais and Julien Mauduit eds, McGill/Queens University Press, 2019): 352-367

“New Mexico Reservations,” *Reviews in American History* 47.2 (June 2019): 198-203

“‘The Way of the Transgressor is Hard’: The Black Hawk and Mormon Wars in the Construction of Illinois Political Culture, 1832-1846,” in *Somewhere between Citizens and Foreigners: Perceptions of Mormons in American Political Culture*, Spencer McBride and Keith Erikson, eds. (Forthcoming, Cornell University Press)

“Race, Slavery, and the Caribbean Empire,” in *The Worlds of James Buchanan and Thaddeus Stevens: Place, Personality, and Politics in the Civil War Eras*, John Quist, Michael Birkner, and Randall Miller, eds. (LSU press, 2019).

[Great Men and Men Who Think They Are Great: The Challenges of Teaching Foreign Policy History During the Trump Presidency](#), *The Panorama: Expansive Views from the Journal of the Early Republic*, September 5, 2017

“Interchange: Globalization and its Limits between the Revolution and the Civil War,” *Journal of American History* 102 (September 2016): 1-34

“How Do You Solve a Problem Named Louisa: Gender, Politics, and an Adams Family Revival,” *Reviews in American History* 44 (September 2016): 400-410.

“The Ranchero Spotty: An 1848 Perspective on Abraham Lincoln’s Congressional Term,” in *Lincoln, Congress and Emancipation*, Paul Finkelman and Donald R. Kennon, eds. (Ohio University Press, 2016): 39-61.

“From Walker to Riel: State Formation on the Margins of Empire,” in *Continent in Crisis: Transnational Histories of the Civil War Era*, Frank Towers and Jewel Spanger, eds. (forthcoming, Fordham University Press).

“Gender and the Wars of Nation Keeping and Building in the Americas, 1830s-1870s,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Gender, War, and the Western World since 1600*, Karen Hagemann and Stefan Dudink, eds. (forthcoming, Oxford University Press).

“A Christian Soldier in the U.S.-Mexican War,” *History Now* 43 (Fall 2015).
<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/first-age-reform/essays/ralph-w-kirkham-christian-soldier-us-mexican-war>

“Conquest and the Nation State,” *Reviews in American History* 42(1): 58-64.

“‘Time’s Noblest Empire is the Last’: Texas Annexation in the Presumed Course of American Empire,” in *Contested Empire: Rethinking the Texas Revolution*, Sam Haynes and Gerald Saxon, eds. (Texas A&M University Press, 2015): 139-164.

“Marshaling the Imaginary/ Imagining the Martial: Or, What’s at Stake in the Cultural Analysis of War?” Afterward to *The Martial Imagination: Cultural Aspects of American Warfare*, Jimmy L. Bryan, Jr. ed. (Texas A&M University Press, 2013): 219-233.

“Manifest Destiny – U.S. Expansionism During the 19th Century,” *The Oxford World History of Empire*, C. A. Bayly, Walter Scheidel, Peter Bang, eds. (forthcoming- Oxford University Press, 2016).

“Fighting Fires (or not) in Porfirian Mexico,” in *Flammable Cities: Urban Conflagration and the Making of the Modern World*, Greg Bankoff, Uwe Lübken, Jordan Sand, ed. (University of Wisconsin Press, 2012): 126-143.

“Destiny’s Hangover: Congress Confronts Territorial Expansion and Martial Masculinity in the 1850s,” in *Congress and the Crisis of the 1850s*, Paul Finkelman, ed. (Ohio University Press, 2011): 97-119.

“1848/1898: Memorial Day, Places of Memory, and Imperial Amnesia,” *PMLA* 124 (October 2009): 1869-73.

“Keeping Occupied: The Civil War Homefront in Fiction and History,” *Reviews in American History* 38 (December 2010): 683-688.

“Soldado o don nadie: una revisión de la recepción de William Walker en los Estados Unidos, 1855 al presente,” [Soldier or Cipher: The Contested Reception of William Walker, 1856- Present] *Filibusterismo y Destino Manifiesto en las Américas*, Víctor Hugo Acuña Ortega, ed. (Museo Histórico Cultural Juan Santamaría, 2010): 225-238.

“Domesticating the Border: Manifest Destiny and the Market in the United States-Mexico Border Region, 1848-1854,” in *Land of Necessity: Consumer Culture in the United States-Mexico Borderlands*, Alexis McCrossen, ed. (Duke University Press, 2009): 84-112.

[“The Politics of Martial Manhood: or why falling off a horse was worse than falling off the wagon in 1852.”](#) *Common-place* 9 (October 2008).

“Fayaway and Her Sisters: Gender, Popular Literature, and Manifest Destiny in the Pacific, 1848-1860” in *“Whole Oceans Away”: Melville and the Pacific*, Jill Barnum, Wyn Kelley and Christopher Sten, eds. (Kent State University Press, 2007): 17-30.

“Männlichkeiten, territoriale Expansion, und die amerikanische *Frontier* im 19. Jahrhundert” [Territorial Expansion and Masculinities: Gender and Manifest Destiny on the American Frontier], in *Väter, Soldaten, Liebhaber: Männer und Männlichkeiten in der nordamerikanischen Geschichte. Ein Reader* [Fathers, Soldiers, Lovers: Men and Masculinities in North American History. A Reader] Jürgen Martschukat and Olaf Stieglitz, eds. (Bielefeld, 2007): 103-121. Translation by Nina Witjes.

“Americans in the Tropics: The Imperialist Imagination from Filibustering to Reality TV” *Common-Place* 6 (October 2005) at www.common-place.org

"Pirates, Patriots, and Public Meetings: Antebellum Expansionism and Urban Culture." *Journal of Urban History* 31 (July 2005): 634-650.

“The Origins of the American Municipal Fire Department: Nineteenth-Century Change from an International Perspective,” in *Municipal Services and Employees in the Modern City: New Historic Approaches*, Michèle Dagenais, Irene Maver, and Pierre-Yves Saunier, eds. (Ashgate Press, 2003), 47-65.

“Volunteer Fire Companies and Community Formation in Baltimore, 1780-1858,” in *From Mobtown to Charm City: New Perspectives on Baltimore’s Past*, Jessica Elfenbein, Tom Hollowak, and Jack Breihan, eds. (The Maryland Historical Society, 2002): 14-32.

“A Gray-Eyed Man: Character, Appearance, and Filibustering,” *Journal of the Early Republic* 20 (Winter 2000): 673-699.

“Irish in the City: Recent Developments in American Urban History.” *The Cambridge Historical Journal* 42 (June 1999): 571-581.

“Babbit Who? The Decline of Small Town America,” *Reviews in American History* 27 (June 1999): 267-274.

“Fights/Fires: Violent Firemen in the Nineteenth-Century American City,” in *Men and Violence: Gender, Honor, and Rituals in Modern Europe and America*, Pieter Spierenburg, ed. (Ohio State University Press, 1998): 159-189.

“Mayhem in Mobtown: Firefighting in Antebellum Baltimore,” *the Maryland Historical Magazine* 90 (Summer 1995): 164-179.

“Creating Americans: Early American Schoolbooks,” *The Berkeley Undergraduate Journal* 2 (Spring 1989): 1-12.

Book Reviews: 40 since 1997

Major Awards and Honors

President, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, 2020-2021.

OAH China Residency Program, Fujian Normal University, 2019.

Elected Member, Society of American Historians, 2015.

Myra Bernath Biennial Book Prize, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, 2014
(*Wicked War*)

Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer, 2014

Class of 1933 Distinction in the Humanities Award, Penn State University, 2014

Best Book Award, 2013, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (*Wicked War*)

Robert Utley Award, 2013, Western History Association (*Wicked War*)

L.A. Times Book Prize, finalist, 2013 (*Wicked War*)

Kansas City *Star*, Top 100 Books of 2012 (*Wicked War*)

History News Network, “Top Young Historians” 12/9/07. Profile:

<http://hnn.us/roundup/entries/45411.html>

The Atherton Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1999. University award given to top instructors of undergraduates in the Pennsylvania State University System.

The Kent Forster Memorial Award for Excellence in Research and Teaching, 1998, PSU.

Derek Bok Center Awards for Excellence in Teaching, Fall 1991, Spring 1992, Fall 1992,
Harvard University awards based on student evaluations of teaching performance.

University Metal Finalist, U.C. Berkeley, 1989.

Phi Beta Kappa, 1989.

Fellowships

National Endowment for the Humanities, Public Scholar Grant, 2016-2017

National Endowment for the Humanities, University Faculty Fellowship, 2013-14

John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, 2009-1010

American Philosophical Society Sabbatical Fellowship, 2009-10.

Institute for Arts and Humanities Residential Fellowship, PSU, Fall 2009.

McCabe Research Fellowship, Richards Civil War Era Center, PSU, 2007.

Gilder Lehrman Fellowship at the New-York Historical Society, June 2005.

Archibald Hanna, Jr. Fellow, the Beinecke Library, Yale, May, 2003.

Andrew Mellon Foundation Fellow, the Huntington Library, July - August, 2002.

W. M. Keck Foundation Fellow, the Huntington Library, May, 2000.

Institute for Arts and Humanistic Studies, Research Grant, 1999, Penn State University.

Global Fund Grant for International Conference Travel, 1998, Penn State University.

PSU Faculty Support Grants for Research, Spring 1996, Spring 1997.

Mellon Foundation, Graduate Society Fellowship, 1994-1995.

Eliot Fellowship for Dissertation Completion, Harvard University, 1995.

Charles Warren Center Traveling Fellowships, Harvard University. 1992, 1993.

Derek Bok Center Writing Fellowship, Harvard University, Spring 1992.

Charles Warren Center Graduate Fellowship, Harvard University, 1989.

Santa Barbara Scholarship Foundation Honor Fellowship, 1986-1990.

Teaching

Graduate Courses:

- The Civil War and Reconstruction
- Early American Republic
- Gilded Age and Progressive Era
- Proseminar in the Historiography of the Nineteenth Century
- American Urban History

Upper-Division Undergraduate:

- The Early American Republic
- The American West
- American Indian History
- Latin America and the U.S
- Manifest Destiny and Expansionism
- The Civil War and Reconstruction
- The Age of Jackson
- The U.S.-Mexico War
- Love and War in Antebellum America
- The Twentieth-Century City
- American Urbanization, 1100-1900
- Gender and Deviance in Post-War America (American Studies)

Lower-Division Undergraduate:

- Sex and Violence in Nineteenth-Century America
- American Civilization, 1607-1877
- American Civilization (honors course)
- History of the Family in America
- The American Experience

Ph.D. Committees

- Chair, Xiangyun Xu (History) 2019
- Chair, Sean Trainor (History) 2015
- Chair, Evan Rothera's (History) 2017
- Co-Chair, William Cossen (History) 2016
- Co-Chair, Paul Matzko 2016
- Outside member, Melissa Gismondi (History, U. Virginia) 2018
- Member, Andrew Marshall (Geography) 2018
- Member, Christopher Hayashada-Knight 2017
- Member, Kathryn Falvo (History) 2017
- Member, Tyler Roeger (English) 2015
- Member, Joshua Tendler, (English) Ph.D. Committee, 2014
- Member, Michael Tuttle (History) 2013
- Member, Jeremy Fisher (Geography) 2012
- Member, Eric Norton (English) 2012
- Member, Tim Wesley (History) 2010
- Member, Brian Neff (English) 2010

Member, Timothy Donovan (English) 2007
 Member, Michael Glass (Geography) 2007
 Member, Daniel Hicks (History) 2006
 Member, Jana Byars (History) 2006.
 Member, Ann Hubbard (History) 2005
 Member, Michael Smith (History) 2005
 Member, Darlene Marshall (Art History) 2005
 Member, Hank Rademacher (Geography) 2004
 Member, Andrew Slap (History) 2002
 Member, Ed Osowski (History) 2001
 Member, Frank Boscoe (Geography) 2001
 Member, Lori Jirousek (English) 1999

Undergraduate Honors Theses Directed

James Friedken, "Pennsylvania and the U.S.-Mexican War," 2020.

Derek Banister, "Boom and Bust Economics in the Early American Republic," 2018

Olivia Raub, "German Sexuality between the Wars," 2017

James Mangiaracina, "The Constitutionality of Secession," 2017

Emily Snyder, "Chautauqua after the Heyday," 2016

Allison Muck, "The Constitution of 1812: An Exercise in Spanish Constitutional Thought," 2015

Ryan M. Stephens, "Trade Relations between the U.S. and China in the Era of Exclusion," 2013

Neil C. Jackson, "Native and American Identities: The Ambiguous White Understanding of the Indian in the U.S.-Mexico War Era," 2008

Rebecca M. Keister, "The Limits of Liberty in the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention, 1837-1838," 2005

Professional Service

Academic Editor: Cornell University Press, "U.S. in the World" book series, Jan, 2014-

Editorial Boards: Common-place.com, 2008-2013; *Diplomatic History*, 2012- 14; *Journal of Urban History*, 2004-09.

Advisory Board: Center for Greater Southwest Studies, University of Texas at Arlington.

Book Prize Committees: L.A. Times Book Prize in History, 2014-2016 (chair 2015); OAH Richard W. Leopold Prize, 2014-2016; AHA Beveridge Award, 2011-2013; SHEAR, 2007-2010 (chair 2010); UHA, 2005

Article Prize Committees: Common-Place.com, 2013; SHEAR (chair), 2006; UHA, 2002.

Board of Directors/Advisory Boards: Society of American Historians Nominating Committee, 2017-, SHAFR (American Foreign Relations), 2016-2019, including ad-hoc committees on activism, fellowships, and funding; SHEAR, 2013-16, 2001-04, Development

Committee 2003-2006; UHA, 2001-2004; “Early American Places” book series, Mellon Foundation/NYU Press/U. Georgia Press/Northern Illinois University Press, 2009-2014.

Program Chair: SHEAR 2012.

Program Committees: SHAFR (American Foreign Relations): 2011, 2010, 2009; SHEAR, 2012, 2011, 2008, 2003, 1999, 1997; “John Brown Remembered: 150th Anniversary of the Raid on Harpers Ferry,” Harpers Ferry National Park, West Virginia, Oct 2009.

Grant/Fellowship Evaluation: NEH Public Scholar program 2019; National Historical Publications and Records Commission, 2018, 2017, 2009; Guggenheim Foundation, 2019, 2018, 2016; ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowships, 2010-12; NEH America’s Media Makers, 2010; Postdoctoral Fellowship Selection Committee, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, 2009; Grant proposal Review.

Tenure/Promotion Review: 38 reviews since 2008.

Other: External evaluator, Smithsonian Institution NMAH, 2019; Historical Advisory Committee, “Fire in Boston” exhibit, the Bostonian Society, 2001.

Documentaries

“James Buchanan,” LancasterHistory.org, 2018

“The Frontiersmen,” The History Channel, 2018.

“Against Mexico: The Making of Heroes and Enemies,” Michelle Garcia films, 2011.

“Manifest Destiny: To Conquer or Redeem,” JAK/LucasFilms, 2009.

“Col. Crockett’s Tour to the North and Downeast,” Brian Huberman films, 2004.

Media

9/08/19: [“The Forgotten Story of the 1865 Fireman’s Riot,”](#) SFGate.com.

3/22/19: [“The World of First Lady Sarah Polk”](#), The Age of Jackson Podcast, episode 68

3/15/19: [“During the Mexican-American War, Irish Americans fought for Mexico,”](#) Interview with *Smithsonian Magazine*.

2/16/19: [“Q & A with Amy Greenberg”](#): C-Span Interview with Brian Lamb initially broadcast March, 2019.

2/12/19: [Interview with WESA radio](#), Pittsburgh about *Lady First*

2/5/19 [Interview with Smithsonian Magazine](#) about *Lady First*

6/10/18: “Politics and Strategy in the U.S.-Mexican War” [The Strategy Bridge Podcast](#)

8/19/17: [“Is ‘history’ what happened or a foil for vile acts and beliefs?”](#) CNN Roundup.

5/3/17: Quotes in Graham Vyse, [“Trump’s Ignorance is Radicalizing U.S. Historians,”](#) *The New Republic*, May 3, 2017.

4/2/17: [Responding to Donald Trump’s remarks on the Civil War.](#) CNN Roundup.

3/20/16: [Washington Post Podcast interview on James K. Polk](#). From the “Presidential” series.

7/26/16 [“Presidents are People too”](#) interview. Audible podcast.

9/17/15: Q&A Interview about AP American History curriculum revisions. *High Country News*: <https://www.hcn.org/articles/will-ap-history-changes-bury-manifest-destinys-more-sordid-past-1>

10/31/13: Quoted in the *New York Times*, “A Reminder of a Conflict that Faded into History,” http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/31/world/americas/a-reminder-of-a-conflict-that-faded-into-history.html?pagewanted=1&_r=0&ref=world

8/27/13: “Who do you think you are?” The Learning Channel. Historical consultant and appearance.

6/18/13- Podcast on the Brad Bogner Show: <http://www.bradbogner.com/?p=669>

5/6/13: Attacked by Rush Limbaugh.

http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/daily/2013/05/06/mo_rocca_s_dead_serious_low_info_cbs_news_report_greedy_america_stole_half_of_mexico_in_an_unjust_war

5/5/13: NPR: BackStory with the American History Guys: “Mission Accomplished: How Wars End” <http://backstoryradio.org/shows/mission-accomplished-how-wars-end-2/>

5/5/13: CBS Sunday Morning interview with Mo Rocca. http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-3445_162-57582787/americas-forgotten-war-south-of-the-border/

4/17/13: C-Span coverage of speech about “American Arguments” at the L.A. Book Fair <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/PanelonAmer>

12/7/12 Chicago television appearance about *A Wicked War*:

<http://www.latimes.com/videogallery/73610195/News/Author-of-a-Wicked-War-apos-on-book>

12/6/12: Radio Interview with Milt Rosenberg, “Extension 720”:

<http://www.wgnradio.com/shows/ext720/wgnam-x720-greenberg-20121206,0,2307525.mp3file>

12/5/12: C-Span coverage of address at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Center: <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/AWic>

Op-ed Piece: “The Origins of the Latino “Immigration Problem,” History News Network, 11/26/12 <http://hnn.us/articles/origins-latino-immigration-problem>
(Chosen as one of the top ten HNN Articles of 2012, 12/25/12.)

Memberships

American Historical Association

Organization of American Historians

Society for Historians of the Early American Republic
Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations