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Education

MA & PhD, US History, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1995

BA, (highest honors), History, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1987

Two years undergraduate coursework, Rollins College, 1981-82

Academic Positions

Franklin College, University of Georgia

UGA AA Professor of History, 2016-present

College of William & Mary

Legum Professor of History, 2007-2016

Associate Professor of History, 2001-2007

Assistant Professor of History, 1994-2001

Director. summer research program. Summer 1994. Intensive history workshop to recruit talented African-American students into history graduate school

Honors, Prizes and Awards

Guggenheim Fellow, 2019-2020

Visiting Scholar, École des Hautes études en Sciences Sociales, France, 2018

Visiting Professor, University of Leiden, the Netherlands, 2016

Tack Faculty Lecturer, College of William and Mary, 2014

Resident Associate, National Humanities Center, 2012-13

Plumeri Award for Faculty Excellence, College of William & Mary, 2011

Charles Warren Fellow, Harvard University, 2010-11

Patrick Henry Writer's Fellow, Washington College, 2010-11 (declined)

Lloyd Lewis Fellow in American History, Newberry Library, 2009-10

OAH Distinguished Lecturer, Organization of American Historians, 2008-present

Legum Professor of the Social Sciences, 2007-2016

Commonwealth of Virginia Distinguished Scholar, 2007-2016

Awards for *Steel Drivin' Man* (all 2007)

Merle Curti Prize: best book in US Social and Cultural History, Organization of American Historians

Virginia Literary Award for Nonfiction

Anisfield-Wolf Literary Prize for Nonfiction

National Award for Fine Arts

Awards for *Ain't Nothing But a Man*

Jane Addams Prize, Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, 2009

NCTE Notable Children's Book in the Language Arts, National Center for Teachers of English, 2009

"Notable Book" & "Best Book for Young Adults," American Library Association, 2009

NCSS-NCB Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People, 2009

Aesop Prize: best book in folklore, American Folklore Society, 2008

Best of 2008 from *Booklist*, *Publishers Weekly*, and Chicago Public Library

C. Ballard Breaux Visiting Fellow, Filson Historical Society, Louisville, Kentucky, 2003

Alternate, American Council of Learned Societies Fellow, March 2003

Summer Research Grant, College of William and Mary, 1997

George E. Mowry Dissertation Fellow, University of North Carolina, 1994

Four-Year Fellow, UNC, guaranteed admission to doctoral program, 1987-1991

Phi Beta Kappa, University of North Carolina, 1987

Student Stores Scholarship, University of North Carolina, 1985

Martin Marietta Physics Internship, Summer 1982

Research

Books

Oceans of Grain: How American Wheat Remade the World (Basic, 2022)

Translated into Portuguese, Chinese and Turkish (2022). Translations planned in Russian, Japanese, and simplified Chinese.

A Nation of Deadbeats: An Uncommon History of America's Financial Disasters (Knopf, 2012)

Steel Drivin' Man: John Henry, the Untold Story of an American Legend (Oxford University Press, 2006)

Iron Confederacies: Southern Railways, Klan Violence, and Reconstruction (University of North Carolina Press, 1999)

Co-Authored Books

With Carol Sheriff, *A People at War: Civilians and Soldiers in America's Civil War* (Oxford University Press, 2007)

With Marc Aronson, *Ain't Nothing But A Man* (National Geographic Children's Books, 2007)

Edited Books

With Carol Sheriff, *The American Civil War at Home* (Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission, 2013)

Refereed Articles

"The Many Panics of 1819," *Journal of the Early Republic* 40, no. 4 (2020): 721-727.

"Who Put their Capitalism in My Slavery?" *Journal of the Civil War Era* 5.2 (June 2015): 289-310.

"The Ordeal of Eugene Debs: The Panic of 1893, the Pullman Strike and the Origins of the Progressive Movement," in Leon Fink, et. al., eds., *Workers in Hard Times: A Long View of Economic Crises* (University of Illinois Press, 2014), 99-110.

"A Storm of Cheap Goods: New American Commodities and the Panic of 1873," *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 10 (Oct. 2011): 447-453.

"An American War of Incarceration: Guerilla Warfare, Occupation, and Imprisonment in the American South, 1863-1865," in Stephen J. Rockel and Rick Halpern, *Inventing Collateral Damage: Civilian Casualties, War, and Empire* (Between the Lines, 2009), 115-128.

"After Slavery: Forced Drafts of Irish and Chinese Labor in the American Civil War, or The Search for Liquid Labor" in Emma Christopher, Cassandra Pybus, and Marcus Rediker, ed., *Many Middle Passages: Forced Migration and the Making of the Modern World* (University of California Press, September 2007)

"Who Was John Henry? Railroad Construction, Southern Folklore and the Birth of Rock and Roll," *Labor: Studies of Working Class History of the Americas* 2 (May 2005), 53-79. Reprinted in Pippa Holloway, ed., *Other Souths: Diversity and Difference in the U.S. South, Reconstruction to Present* (University of Georgia Press, 2008)

"Red Strings and Half-Brothers: Civil Wars in Alamance County, North Carolina" in John Inscoe and Robert Kenzer, ed., *Enemies of the Country: Unionism in the South During the*

Civil War (University of Georgia Press, 2001), 37-53.

"Livestock, Boundaries, and Public Space in Spartanburg: African-American Men, Elite White Women and the Spectacle of Conjugal Relations," in Martha Hodes, ed., *Sex, Love, Race: Crossing Boundaries in North American History* (New York University Press, 1999)

"The Confederacy serves the Southern: the Construction of the Southern Railway Network, 1861-65," *Civil War History* 41 (September 1995): 227-43

Languages

Reading ability in German & Russian; limited French & Spanish

Commissioned Scholarly Writing

"Seeds of Discord in Ukraine," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 28 Apr. 2014

"The Soul of Invention," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 25 Mar. 2013

"'Django' Untangled: the Legend of the Bad Black Man," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 11 Jan. 2013

"Borrowed Dreams," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 14 Sep. 2012

"Attribution Lacking, or the Day a Dutch Financial Newspaper Stole My Grandmother," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 24 April 2009. Reprinted in the *Toronto Star*

"Mad Men in the He-Cession: Masculinity, Macaroni, and Mayhem in America's Financial Panics," *Chronicle of Higher Education* 17 January 2010

"A Symbiotic Relationship," "Echoes of 1893," and "Wool Suits, Canned Goods and the P.C." all commissioned articles for the *New York Times* "Room for Debate" blog, 2009

"The Paradox of the Perp Walk," *Chronicle of Higher Education* 13 July 2009

"The Real Great Depression" *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 17 Oct. 2008. Released online on 1 October 2008, this article about the Panic of 1873 has since been translated into German (*Weltwoche*), French (*Le Devoir*), Spanish (*La Republica* in Peru, *Cotizalia* in Spain), Italian (*Il Foglio*), Korean (*Hankyoreh*), and Hungarian (*Portfolio*). It has also been featured in the Metro section of the *New York Times*

Invited Talks and Keynote Addresses

"Nation of Deadbeats," Federal Reserve Board, Richmond, June 2013

"Nation of Deadbeats," Banner Lecture, Virginia Historical Society, November 2012

- "Nation of Deadbeats," Penn Social Science and Policy Forum, October 2012
- "Financial Crises and the Political Pendulum: How Trade Wars, White Whales, and Stimulus Packages Have Created American Presidents," Wellesley College, October 2012
- "America's First Great Depression: Monkey Jackets, the Uncorked Mississippi and the Panic of 1819," Kendrick J. Kelley Lecture, Davidson College, November 2011
- "From Mortgage Crisis to Market Meltdown: the Infamous 1870s," President's Reception, Newberry Library, Chicago, June 2010
- "From Mortgage Crisis to Market Meltdown: the Infamous 1870s," CLSA-U seminar for fund managers, Las Vegas, Nevada, February, 2009 and Hong Kong, China, June 2009
- Seminar Series on the Financial Crisis, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, January 2009
- West Virginia Humanities Council Lecture, "The Ballad of John Henry," Huntington, West Virginia, November 2008
- Keynote Speaker, Baker-Nord Center - Cleveland Foundation Lecture, "Taking Folklore Seriously," Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio, October 2008
- American History Colloquium, "The Revolution of Little Cans and the 'American Commercial Invasion' of Europe," Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland, February 2008
- The Clinton Institute for American Studies Conference, "Civil War Provisioning, Branded Foods, and the Agricultural Origins of American Empire," University College Cork, Ireland, April 2008
- Annual Sutphin Lecturer in the Humanities, University of Indianapolis, Indiana, October 2007
- Newberry Library Seminar, "Defecation Fictions: The Closed Economy of the Prison Camp," Chicago, Illinois, December 2006
- Colligan Memorial Lecture, Miami University of Ohio-Hamilton, "The Death of John Henry and the Birth of Rock and Roll," Hamilton, Ohio, March 2006
- Black History Month lecture, "Take this Hammer," Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, Virginia, February 2006
- Smithsonian Journeys, "Three lectures on Southern Culture," Delta Queen Riverboat from Memphis to New Orleans, April 2005
- Second Annual Farnsworth Lecture in History, Keene State College, "Take this Hammer: the

Death of John Henry and the Birth of Rock & Roll," Keene, NH, March 2005

Filson Historical Society Lecturer, "The Life and Death of John Henry," Louisville, May 2004

Keynote Address, Virginia Collegiate Honors Council, "The Ballad of John Henry: Hammer Men, New Technologies and a Dirge for the New South," March 2004

Keynote address, Thirtieth Annual John Henry Festival, "Following the trail of John Henry on the C&O Railroad", Morgantown, West Virginia, October 2002

Keynote address, YMI Cultural Center's Education and the Arts Forum, "The Plantation South Meets the Mountain South: How Asheville and other Railroad Hubs Became the Birthplace of American Music", Asheville, North Carolina, October 2002

Phi Alpha Theta Lecture, UNC Asheville, "The Spectacle of Engineering Power and Colossal Failure: the ballad of John Henry," Asheville, North Carolina, October 2002

American Chemical Society Landmark Presentation, New York University, "John W. Draper analyzes the American Civil War: Chemistry, Geography, Psychohistory," New York, New York, November 2001

Selected Scholarly Talks

"A Nitroglycerin Apocalypse" Economic History Seminar, Paris Jourdan Sciences Economiques, Université Paris 1, Paris, France, March 2018

"Monkey Jackets, White Whales, and the Sod Frontier: How Bad Debt built a Nation and brought a Civil War," American Studies Association Conference, Washington, DC, November, 2013

" 'There is that Leviathan Whom Thou Hast Made': Rethinking Jackson's Bank War," Harvard Program on Justice, Welfare and Economics, March 2011

"Who Put the Roar in the Roaring Twenties? The Federal Reserve, the European Bond Boom, and the Second Great Depression, 1929-1939, Harvard University Workshop on the History of North America in Global Perspective, January 2011

" 'Take this Hammer': The Life and Death of John Henry," Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, April 2006

"After Slavery: Forced Drafts of Irish and Chinese Labor in the American Civil War," Middle Passages Conference, Fremantle Maritime Museum, Western Australia, July 2005

"Hammer's Gonna Be the Death of Me: How the Black Code in Prince George County Killed John Henry, the Steel-Drivin' Man," Conference on African-Americans and the Civil War, Petersburg, Virginia, May 2005

- “An American War of Incarceration: Guerilla Warfare, Occupation, and Imprisonment in the American South, 1863-1865,” for “Collateral Damage: Civilian Casualties from Antiquity through the Gulf Wars,” Toronto, Ontario, May 2004
- “Defecation Fictions: Circulation and the Closed Economy of the Prison Camp,” Whitney Humanities Seminar on Gender, Violence, and Human Rights, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, January 2000
- “Embodying Landscapes: Railway Construction Workers Build the New South” for “The Color of Sweat: Race, Gender, and the Body in Labor History” at the Social Science History Association, Chicago, Illinois, November 1998
- “Red Strings and Half Brothers: Civil War in Alamance County, North Carolina” at the University of Richmond, Douglas Southall Freeman Symposium, Richmond, Virginia, April 1998
- “Domestic Partnerships in Bloody Spartanburg: African-American Men, Elite White Women and the Spectacle of Conjugal Relations” at the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Chapel Hill, NC, June 1996
- “Constructing the Carolina Klansman: Railway Networks, Interstate Trade and the Fashioning of Whiteness during Reconstruction, 1868-1871,” at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Washington, DC, April 1995
- “Race, Reason and the State: White Workers and Southern Railroads after 1865” for panel on “Race, Labor and Power in the Postbellum South” at the annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association, Louisville, Kentucky, November 1994

Reviews of Books

I have reviewed books in *Journal of American History*, *American Historical Review*, *Reviews in American History*, *William and Mary Quarterly*, *American Nineteenth Century History*, *Atlanta History*, *International Labor and Working-Class History*, *Journal of Southern History*, *Public Administration Review*, *Journal of Social History*, *Labor History*, *Florida Historical Quarterly*, *Western Historical Quarterly*, and *Science and Society*.

Courses Taught

History of American Capitalism

United States History Survey – *both halves of this survey*

Research Seminar in US history, 1815-present – *graduate research seminar*

Gender and the Civil War – *undergraduate research seminar*

The Literature and History of American History - *graduate seminar on historical methods and historiography. Both halves of this survey.*

American Civil War - *upper-division undergraduate lecture*

The Gilded Age - *undergraduate lecture on U.S. History, 1865-1901*

Graduate Students Directed

MAAs directed

Bridget Reddick, History, 2002

Ellen Adams, History, 2002

Zachary Lowe, History, 2003

Jill Pesesky, History, 2004

Michael Sclafani, History, 2006

Jackson Sasser, American Studies, 2007

Judge Glock, History, 2007

Jeff Flanagan, History, 2010

Peter Carr Jones, History, 2015

Elise Salles, History, 2015

Paloma Carroll, History,

PhDs directed

Julie Lautenschlager, American Studies, "Food fight!: America's ideological battle over lunch," 2003 (published 2006 by McFarland & Co.)

Toby Chieffo-Reidway, American Studies, "Nathaniel Jocelyn: in the service of art and abolition," 2005

Leni Sorensen, American Studies, "Absconded: fugitive slaves in the daybook of the Richmond Police Guard, 1834-1844," 2005

Jennifer Luff, American Studies, (coadvisor) "Judas exposed: labor spies in the United States," 2006 (published 2012 by UNC Press)

Seth Bruggeman, American Studies, "Birthing Washington: Objects, Memory, and the Creation of a National Monument," 2006 (published 2008 by U. of Georgia Press)

Kate Cote-Gillin, History, "'From Eager Lips Came Shrill Hurrahs': Women, Gender, and Racial Violence in South Carolina, 1865-1900," 2007 (published 2013 by U. of SC Press)

Sarah Grunder, American Studies, "The spectacle of citizenship: Halftones, print media, and constructing Americanness, 1880–1940," 2010

Jackson Sasser, American Studies, "Poor and Dead and Much Involved: The Afterlife of Private Debt in Post-Revolutionary Virginia," 2015

Chase Wallace, History, "'Dread of Elder Titles': John Haywood and the Occult Origins of the Confederacy," 2015

Alexandra Finley, History, "Blood Money: Sex, Family, and Finance in the Antebellum Slave Trade," 2017 (under contract, UNC Press)

Kristina Poznan, History, "Migrant Nation-Builders: The Development of Austria-Hungary's National Projects in the United States, 1880s-1920s," 2018

August Butler, History, "Making a Home out of No Home: 'Colored' Orphan Asylums in Virginia, 1867-1930, 2019

Amanda Gibson, History, "Credit is Due: African Americans as Borrowers and Lenders in Antebellum Virginia," 2021

Selected Professional Service

President, Southern Labor Studies Association, 2012-13

Associate Editor, *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*, 2003-2011

Editorial Board, *Virginia Magazine of History & Biography*, 2007-2011

Editorial Board, *Labor: Studies of Working Class History of the Americas*, 2007-present

Mellon Advisory Board, Project TORCH: The Online Resource Center in the Humanities, Spring 2003-Fall 2004. Project to build an online archive of University Press monographs

Electronic communications chair, Labor and Working Class History Association, 1998-2001

Editorial Board, Society for the History of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, 1998-2001

Selected University Service

William & Mary

Chair, Retention, Promotion, Tenure Committee, 2012

Co-Chair, Collegewide E-learning Committee, 2012-2013

Member, Retention, Promotion, Tenure Committee, 2011-12

Ombudsperson, Graduate Arts and Sciences, 2005-2007, 2001-2003

Secretary, Faculty Assembly, Fall 2005-Spring 2006

Faculty Assembly Representative, Fall 1998-Spring 2001, Fall 2002-Spring 2003, Fall 2005-Spring 2006

Information Technology Advisory Committee, Fall 2002-Fall 2003

American Studies Executive, Fall 2001-Fall 2003

University of Georgia

Member, University Council, 2017-

Chair, Committee on Facilities, 2020-