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W. Caleb McDaniel

Positions

Rice University
Mary Gibbs Jones Professor of Humanities and Professor of History (2020-)
Associate Professor of History (2015-2020)
Assistant Professor of History (2008-2015)
University of Denver, Assistant Professor of History (2006-2008)

Education

Ph.D, History, Johns Hopkins University, 2006
M.A., Philosophy, Texas A&M University, 2001
B.A., History, Texas A&M University, 2000

Publications

Books

Slavery, Segregation, and the Second Founding of Rice University, coauthored by Alexander X. Byrd (Louisiana State University Press, 2025).

Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America (Oxford University Press, 2019).

Winner of the 2020 Pulitzer Prize in History.
Winner of the OAH Civil War and Reconstruction Book Prize.
Finalist for Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize.

The Problem of Democracy in the Age of Slavery: Garrisonian Abolitionists and Transatlantic Reform (Louisiana State University Press, 2013).

Winner of the OAH Merle Curti Award.
Winner of the SHEAR James H. Broussard Prize.

Co-Edited Journal Issue

Co-editor, with Bethany L. Johnson, of "New Approaches to Internationalizing the History of the Civil War Era," special issue of *Journal of the Civil War Era* 2, no. 2 (June 2012).

Articles and Chapters

"The First Juneteenth: Black Churches, Reconstruction Politics, and the Houston Origins of June 19 Celebrations," *Journal of Texas History* 2, no. 1 (June 2026), 11-40, https://doi.org/10.32855/3069-1052.1041.

"Slouching Towards Arlington House," *Journal of the Civil War Era* 16, no. 1 (March 2026), 68-81.

"No Union with Slaveholders: A Radical, Practical Abolitionist Plan," *Social Research* 92, no. 4 (Winter 2025), 863-885.

Roundtable with Hilary Green, Adam H. Domby, Alexander X. Byrd, et al., "Studying Slavery on Campus: Research, Reconciliation, and Public Engagement," *Journal of the Civil War Era* 13, no. 2 (June 2023), 155-177.

"The Trouble with Freedom," *Reviews in American History* 47, no. 2 (June 2019), 209-220.

"Involuntary Removals: 'Refugeed Slaves' in Confederate Texas," in *Lone Star Unionism, Dissent, and Resistance: Other Sides of Civil War Texas*, ed. Frank de la Teja (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2016), 60-83.

"The Transatlantic Mind of Wendell Phillips and the Problem of Democracy in America," in *Wendell Phillips, Social Justice, and the Power of the Past*, ed. A. J. Aiséirithe and Donald Yacovone (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2016), 50-72.

"The Bonds and Boundaries of Antislavery," *Journal of the Civil War Era* 4, no. 1 (March 2014), 84-105, http://dx.doi.org/10.1353/cwe.2014.0021.

"The Case of John L. Brown: Sex, Slavery, and the Trials of a Transatlantic Abolitionist Campaign," *American Nineteenth-Century History* 14, no. 2 (June 2013), 141–159, http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14664658.2013.805551.

"Saltwater Anti-slavery: American Abolitionists on the Atlantic Ocean in the Age of Steam," *Atlantic Studies* 8, no. 2 (June 2011), 141–163. Reprinted in *Abolitionist Places*, ed. Martha Schoolman and Jared Hickman (London: Routledge, 2013), 9–31, http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14788810.2011.562349.

"New Approaches to Internationalizing the History of the Civil War Era: An Introduction," co-authored with Bethany L. Johnson, *Journal of the Civil War Era* 2, no. 2 (June 2012), 145-150, http://dx.doi.org/10.1353/cwe.2012.0046.

"His Brothers' Keeper: John Brown, Moral Stewardship, and Interracial Abolitionism," *Slavery and Abolition* 32, no. 1 (March 2011), 27–52, http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0144039X.2011.538197.

"Philadelphia Abolitionists and Antislavery Cosmopolitanism, 1760-1840," in *Antislavery and Abolition in Philadelphia: Emancipation and the Long Struggle for Racial Justice in the City of Brotherly Love*, ed. Richard Newman and James Mueller (Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 2011), 149-173.

"John Brown, Quietist," *Common Knowledge* 16, no. 1 (Winter 2010), 31-47, http://dx.doi.org/10.1215/0961754X-2009-059.

"The Lincoln-Douglass Debates," *Reviews in American History* 38, no. 1 (March 2010), 169-177, http://dx.doi.org/10.1353/rah.0.0173.

"Repealing Unions: American Abolitionists, Irish Repeal, and the Origins of Garrisonian Disunionism," *Journal of the Early Republic* 28, no. 2 (2008), 243–269, http://hdl.handle.net/1911/27612. Winner of Ralph D. Gray Best Article Prize, SHEAR.

"The Fourth and the First: Abolitionist Holidays, Respectability, and Radical Interracial Reform," *American Quarterly* 57, no. 1 (2005): 129-151, http://hdl.handle.net/1911/27613.

Other Essays

"From Houston Beginnings, the Lessons of Juneteenth Continue Today" (op-ed), *Houston Chronicle,* June 19, 2026.

"We're Professors. We're Parents. HISD Students Don't Deserve AI Slop" (op-ed), with Ragini Tharoor Srinivasan, *Houston Chronicle,* June 5, 2025.

"Houston is Right to Choose Juneteenth over Dick Dowling Confederate Monument" (op-ed), *Houston Chronicle,* June 12, 2020.

"The Former Slave Who Sued for Reparations, and Won" (op-ed), *New York Times*, September 4, 2019, https://nyti.ms/30UMlhV.

"The Nation's Unsettled Account," *Smithsonian Magazine*, September 2019.

"Historian: No, the Civil War Didn't Erase Slavery's Harm" (op-ed), *Houston Chronicle*, July 12, 2019.

"The South Only Embraced States' Rights as It Lost Control of the Federal Government," *The Atlantic*, November 1, 2017.

"Looking Back on a Backward Survey," *The American Historian* 7 (February 2016), 10-12, https://www.oah.org/tah/february-2/.

"History's Echoes in the Policing that Made Eric Garner Say 'Enough'," *Time*, Dec. 5, 2014.

"Heroes of the Sabine Pass," *New York Times*, "Disunion" blog, September 9, 2013, https://nyti.ms/47CJZrq.

"To Be Born on the Fourth of July," *The Atlantic*, July 4, 2013.

"Captivity in Black and White," co-authored with Andrew F. Lang, *New York Times*, "Disunion" blog, February 9, 2013, https://nyti.ms/4dh75ES.

"Abolitionism" in *The Palgrave Dictionary of Transnational History*, ed. Akira Iriye and Pierre-Yves Saunier (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009), 6-8.

"Blogging in the Early Republic: Why Bloggers Belong in the History of Reading," *Common-Place* 5, no. 4 (July 2005), https://commonplace.online/article/blogging-in-the-early-republic/. Reprinted in John Alberti, *Text Messaging: Reading and Writing about Popular Culture* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2008), 374–384.

Book Reviews

Dylan Penningroth, *Before the Movement: The Hidden History of Black Civil Rights,* in *Journal of Southern History* 90, no. 4 (November 2024), 850-852, https://doi.org/10.1353/soh.2024.a939536.

Jessica Goudeau, *We Were Illegal: Uncovering a Texas Family's Mythmaking and Migration,* in *New York Times Book Review,* June 17, 2024.

"The Slave Traders' Economy," featured review of Joshua D. Rothman, *The Ledger and the Chain: How Domestic Slave Traders Shaped America,* and Alexandra J. Finley, *An Intimate Economy: Enslaved Women, Work, and America's Domestic Slave Trade*, in *American Historical Review* 128, no. 4 (December 2023), 1814-1817, https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/rhad465.

Ilyon Woo, *Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom,* in *New York Times Book Review,* January 15, 2023.

Erin Kimmerle, *We Carry Their Bones,* in *New York Times Book Review*, June 14, 2022.

Ben Raines, *The Last Slave Ship: The True Story of How Clotilda Was Found, Her Descendants, and an Extraordinary Reckoning*, in *New York Times Book Review*, January 30, 2022.

Kellie Carter Jackson, *Force and Freedom: Black Abolitionists and the Politics of Violence*, in *Civil War History* 66, no. 1 (March 2020), 81-83, https://doi.org/10.1353/cwh.2020.0007.

Kimberly M. Welch, *Black Litigants in the Antebellum American South*, in *Journal of the Civil War Era* 9, no. 3 (September 2019), 464-467, https://doi.org/10.1353/cwe.2019.0056.

Corey M. Brooks, *The Liberty Power: Antislavery Third Parties and the Transformation of American Politics*, in *Common-place*, 17, no. 1 (2017), http://common-place.org/book/feelthebirney/.

Ira Berlin, *The Long Emancipation: The Demise of Slavery in the United States*, and Patrick Rael, *Eighty-Eight Years: The Long Death of Slavery in the United States, 1777-1865*, in *American Historical Review* 121, no. 3 (2016), 931-933, http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/ahr/121.3.931.

David Brion Davis, *The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Emancipation*, in *New West Indian Guide / Nieuwe West-Indische Gids* 89, nos. 3-4 (2015), 295-297, http://dx.doi.org/10.1163/22134360-08903002.

Lewis Perry, *Civil Disobedience: An American Tradition*, in *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 14, no. 2 (April 2015), 272-273, http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S1537781414000863.

Suzanne Cooper Guasco, *Confronting Slavery: Edward Coles and the Rise of Antislavery Politics in Nineteenth-Century America*, in *Journal of the Early Republic* 34, no. 3 (Fall 2014), 520-523, http://dx.doi.org/10.1353/jer.2014.0050.

Kenneth W. Howell, ed., *Still the Arena of Civil War: Violence and Turmoil in Reconstruction Texas, 1865–1874*, in *Western Historical Quarterly* 43, no. 2 (Summer 2013), 206.

Angela F. Murphy, *American Slavery, Irish Freedom: Abolition, Immigrant Citizenship, and the Transatlantic Movement for Irish Repeal*, in *Journal of British Studies* 51, no. 3 (July 2012), 776-777, http://dx.doi.org/10.1086/665402.

Margot Minardi, *Making Slavery History: Abolitionism and the Politics of Memory in Massachusetts*, in *Civil War Book Review* (Summer 2011), online at http://www.cwbr.com.

Robert E. McGlone, *John Brown's War Against Slavery*, in *Journal of Southern History* 77, no. 2 (May 2011), 436-7.

Brian McGinty, *John Brown's Trial*, in *Journal of American History* 97 (September 2010), 512-513.

Bruce A. Ronda, *Reading the Old Man: John Brown in American Culture*, in *Journal of Southern History* 76, no. 1 (February 2010), 169-170.

George M. Fredrickson, *Big Enough to Be Inconsistent: Abraham Lincoln Confronts Slavery and Race*, in *Journal of Southern History* 75, no. 4 (November 2009), 1062-1063.

Lorien Foote, *Seeking the One Great Remedy: Francis George Shaw and Nineteenth-Century Reform*, in *Civil War History* 52, no. 2 (2006), 178-180.

Stanley Harrold, *The Rise of Aggressive Abolitionism: Addresses to the Slaves*, in H-Net Reviews, September 2004.

Born-Digital Works

"How 'Arlington House' Became 'The Robert E. Lee Memorial" (2026), *Rice Research Repository,* https://doi.org/10.25611/3KFS-1A94

Co-Director (with Lisa Spiro), *Harvey Memories Project*. A community-driven digital archive of images, stories, and audio-visual recordings about the lived experience of Hurricane Harvey. https://harveymemories.org/

Every3Minutes, a retired Twitter bot on the American slave trade, reviewed in *Journal of American History*.

"Data Mining the Internet Archive Collection," peer-reviewed tutorial for *The Programming Historian*, March 3, 2014. https://programminghistorian.org/en/lessons/data-mining-the-internet-archive

Editor, *Dick Dowling and Sabine Pass in History and Memory.* An online exhibit hosted at the Woodson Research Center, Fondren Library, Rice University.

Awards and Honors

2023 Inducted into the Texas Institute of Letters

2022 George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching (Rice)

2021 Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer

2021 Northside Independent School District (San Antonio) Pillar of Character

2021 Faculty Award for Excellence in Research, Teaching and Service (Rice)

2020 Pulitzer Prize in History

2020 Civil War and Reconstruction Book Prize, Organization of American Historians

2017 George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching (Rice)

2015 Charles Duncan Award for Outstanding Faculty Achievement (Rice)

2015 Finalist, Sophia Meyer Farb Phi Beta Kappa Prize for Teaching (Rice)

2014 Merle Curti Award for Best Book in American Intellectual History, Organization of American Historians

2014 James H. Broussard First Book Prize, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (co-winner)
2014 Finalist, Sophia Meyer Farb Phi Beta Kappa Prize for Teaching (Rice)
2011 Virginia and Griff Lawhon Digital Education Award (Rice)
2009 Ralph D. Gray Article Prize from the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, awarded to the best article published in the 2008 volume of the *Journal of the Early Republic*
2004 Honorable Mention, La Pietra Dissertation Travel Fellowship in Transnational History, Organization of American Historians
2002 Alexander Butler Prize, for the best paper by a first-year history doctoral student at Johns Hopkins University

Grants

2024 Creative Ventures Fund Grant for the "Second Foundings" Conference
2024 Humanities Research Center Grant for the "Second Foundings" Conference
2018 Rice HERE Grant for Harvey Memories Project ($50,000)
2018 Rice Humanities Research Center Grant for Harvey Memories Project ($10,000)
2016 Public Scholar Grant, National Endowment for the Humanities ($50,400)
2015 Faculty Research Fellowship from Humanities Research Center, Rice University (one semester teaching release for Fall semester)
2013 Yale University Faculty Fellowship from Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition ($3,275 honorarium for four weeks as a scholar-in-residence at the Center)
2013 Seed Grant for a Digital Humanities Project from the Humanities Research Center, Digitization in the Humanities Workshop ($2,000)
2012 Grant to organize and host a year-long series of "master classes" to introduce undergraduates and graduate students to the field of digital history, Humanities Research Center, Rice University ($6,000)
2004 Scholarly Fellowship, Library of the New-York Historical Society and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
2004 Prize Teaching Fellowship from the Center for Africana Studies, Johns Hopkins University
2003 Dean's Teaching Fellowship, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, Johns Hopkins University

2001 Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies
2001 William and Lois Diamond Fellowship, awarded to one outstanding incoming doctoral student in the Department of History

Selected Presentations

Invited Lectures

University of Houston-Downtown: "AI (Archival Investigation) in an Age of Artificial Intelligence; or, Why Study History When There's a Chatbot on your Phone," Keynote for HHL Student Research Conference, Houston, TX, December 1, 2025.

University of Texas at Austin: "Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America," Littlefield Lecture Series, April 16, 2025.

Rice Alumni: "Treading the Path to *E Pluribus Unum*," with Alexander X. Byrd, Washington, D.C., March 8, 2025.

Johns Hopkins University: "Before Emancipation Park: Urban Reconstruction and the Origins of Juneteenth," Department of History Seminar, Baltimore, MD, March 3, 2025.

Heritage Society of Houston: "Captain's Story: Slavery and Freedom in the Archives of The Heritage Society and Rice University," Houston, TX, February 20, 2025.

Emancipation Park Conservancy, Emancipation Conversations Lecture Series: "Histories and Legacies of Emancipation in Black Houston's History" (with Alex Byrd, Erika Thompson, and Karen Kossie-Chernyshev), Houston, TX, June 14, 2024.

Weber State University: "Sweet Taste of Liberty," 23rd Annual Lampros Lecture, Ogden, UT, October 5, 2023.

Scientia Lecture Series, Rice University: "Houston, Rice, and Race: A History in the Fourth Ward," Houston, TX, November 15, 2022.

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration: "Sweet Taste of Liberty," Featured Presenter, Natchez, MS, February 24-26, 2022.

Texas A&M University: "Sweet Taste of Liberty," Keynote for History Graduate Student Association Annual Conference, February 18, 2022.

University of Washington: "A Case of Reparations?", Stephanie Camp Memorial Lecture, Seattle, May 11, 2022.

Columbia University: "Sweet Taste of Liberty," Lehman Center for American History, September 23, 2021 (online).

Christ Church Cathedral, Houston, TX: "Sweet Taste of Liberty," May 14, 2021 (online).

Houston Young Lawyers Association: "Sweet Taste of Liberty," April 20, 2021 (online).

Xavier University: "Sweet Taste of Liberty," Contextualizing Xavier's Historic Relationship to Racism, March 3, 2021 (online).

Humboldt State University: "Sweet Taste of Liberty," A More Perfect Union Grant teacher's workshop, Department of Education and Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, February 27, 2021 (online).

University of Detroit, Mercy: "Sweet Taste of Liberty," February 2, 2021 (online).

Federal Bar Association, Southern District of Texas: "Sweet Taste of Liberty," Houston, TX, November 12, 2020 (online).

Ismaili Jamatkhana and Center, Sugar Land, TX: "Sweet Taste of Liberty: Conversations on Truth, Freedom and Justice," October 20, 2020 (online).

University of Maryland, College Park: "Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America," Miller Center for Historical Studies, November 19, 2019.

University of North Texas, Texas Edges Lecture Series: "Doom and Dawn: A True Story of Slavery in Civil War Texas," November 13, 2019, Denton, TX.

Houston Community College: "Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America," October 14, 2019, Houston, TX.

Reed College: "Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America," September 23, 2019, History Department, Reed College, Portland, OR.

Rice University: "A Case of Reparations: One Woman's Story of Restitution for Slavery in Nineteenth-Century America," February 26, 2018, History Department Brown Bag Seminar, Rice University, Houston, TX.

University of North Texas: "Slave Sales on Twitter," November 16, 2015, Symposium on Digital Scholarship, Denton, TX.

AHA THATCamp (The Humanities and Technology): "Beyond Networking: Twitter as a Medium for History," January 6, 2015, New School for Social Research, New York City, NY.

Rice University Center for Teaching Excellence: "Beyond Busy Work: Designing Assignments for an Audience of More than One," with Scott E. Solomon, November 10, 2014, Brown Bag Series at Huff House.

Louisiana State University: "Constitution Burning: The Radical Agitation of American Abolitionists in Transatlantic Context," October 10, 2014, Modern History Colloquium.

Yale University: "How Slavery Survived the Civil War: Rethinking Confederate Refugees to Texas, 1862–1866," December 4, 2013. Brown Bag Lecture at Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition.

Houston Baptist University: "Before Juneteenth: The Emancipation Proclamation in Texas," September 22, 2012. Plenary Lecture at "The Emancipation Proclamation: A Turning Point," a Regional Commemoration and Conference.

Houston Museum of Natural Science: "Dick Dowling and the Battle of Sabine Pass: The View from Emancipation Park," April 24, 2012. Featured Speaker, Distinguished Lecture Series.

Rice University Digital Media Center: "Teaching with Blogs," October 14, 2010.

Texas A&M University: "Saltwater Antislavery: Abolitionist Journeys on the Atlantic Ocean in the Age of Steam," April 23, 2010. Keynote Address at "Encounters along the Journey," the Spring 2010 Interdisciplinary Symposium of the Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research.

Lone Star College, Cy Fair: "Abraham Lincoln and the Road to the Emancipation Proclamation," January 18, 2012. Invited Speaker in series held in conjunction with *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, a traveling exhibition from the National Constitution Center.

University of Montreal: "Beyond Anti-Exceptionalism: Using Transnational History to Write the History of Nationalism," October 29, 2007.

Conferences

Conferences Organized

Co-organizer, "Second Foundings: Universities, Slavery, and Struggles for Justice in Texas and Beyond," a conference hosted at Rice University and Texas Southern University in collaboration with Universities Studying Slavery and the Texas Consortium of Universities and Colleges Studying Slavery and Race, October 10-13, 2025.

Organizer, "Capitalism and Convict Leasing in the American South: A Symposium," Rice University, April 12, 2019.

Co-organizer, "The South and the World in the Civil War Era," Rice University, February 20-22, 2009.

Invited Conference Papers

Texas A&M University: "Second Founders: The African American Odysseys of Professor J. H. Townsend and Professor Albert Broussard," May 2, 2025, for the symposium, "African Americans and the West: A Conference Honoring the Legacy of Dr. Al Broussard."

African American History Research Center (Gregory Campus), Houston Public Library: "Black Houstonians and Rice University: Two Histories," March 23, 2023, part of the inaugural symposium, "Black Houston(s): Research, Policy and Activism–Past and Future."

Tougaloo College: "Punishment for Profit: Prison Labor and Mass Incarceration," October 11, 2019, Historians Against Slavery Conference.

CUNY Graduate Center: "Garrisonian Abolitionists and the Half-Way House of Antislavery Politics," October 18, 2014. Part of The Antislavery Bulwark: The Antislavery Origins of the Civil War.

Texas State University: "Slaveholding Refugees in Wartime Texas," April 5, 2014. Part of symposium on Lone Star Unionism and Dissent: The Other Civil-War Texas.

Harvard Law School: "Wendell Phillips and the 'Ever-Restless Ocean' of Democracy," June 2-4, 2011. Part of Wendell Phillips Bicentennial Symposium, Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice.

Yale University: "John Brown, William Lloyd Garrison, and Nonviolent Abolitionists," October 31, 2009. Invited Panelist for "John Brown, Slavery, and the Legacies of Revolutionary Violence in Our Own Time: A Conference Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Harpers Ferry Raid," 11th Annual International Conference of the Gilder Lehrman Center.

Rice University: "Ghosts of Distinction: Reconsidering John Brown's Interracial Relationships," September 9, 2008. Invited presentation to Houston Area Southern Historians (HASH) Symposium.

Johns Hopkins University: "Are They a Nation? Civic Nationalism in Transnational Perspective," April 27-28, 2007. Symposium Honoring Dorothy Ross.

Conference Papers

OAH (Organization of American Historians) Annual Meeting: "Wood v. Ward: A Case of Kidnapping and Reparation in Nineteenth-Century America," April 5, 2019, Philadelphia, PA.

Conference on Remaking North American Sovereignty: "Beyond Failure: Rethinking Confederate State Policies on the Western Frontier," August 1, 2015, Banff, Alberta, Canada, http://hdl.handle.net/1911/81440.

OAH Annual Meeting: "Remembering Henry: Refugeed Slaves in Civil War Texas," April 13, 2014, Atlanta, GA, http://hdl.handle.net/1911/75992.

BrANCH (British American Nineteenth Century Historians) Bi-Annual Meeting: "American Abolitionists, John Stuart Mill, and the Transatlantic Problem of Democracy," October 12-14, 2012, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, UK.

SHEAR (Society for Historians of the Early American Republic) Annual Meeting: "Spreading the News about Hydropathy: How Did Americans Learn to Stop Worrying and Trust the Water Cure?," July 19-22, 2012, Baltimore, Maryland, http://hdl.handle.net/1911/64493.

CLAW (Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World program) International Conference on "Civil War-Global Conflict": "The Case of John L. Brown: Slavery, Sex, South Carolina, and the Whispering Gallery of Transatlantic Abolitionism," March 3-5, 2011, College of Charleston, SC, http://hdl.handle.net/1911/37261.

OAH Annual Meeting: "'All Hail, Public Opinion!': American Abolitionists on British Liberalism and the Repeal of the Corn Laws," March 17-20, 2011, Houston, TX.

OAH Annual Meeting: "What Counts as Radical Abolitionism? A Reconsideration of Recent Scholarship," Organization of American Historians, March 26-28, 2009, Seattle, WA, http://hdl.handle.net/1911/27611.

AHA (American Historical Association) Annual Meeting: "Repealing Unions: American Abolitionists, Irish Repealers, and the Coming of the Civil War, 1842-1847," January 5-8, 2006, Philadelphia, PA.

OAH Annual Meeting: "Our Country is the World: American Abolitionists, Louis Kossuth and Philanthropic Revolutions," March 25-28, 2004, Boston, MA, http://hdl.handle.net/1911/27609.

Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture Annual Conference: "Haiti versus Jamaica: American Abolitionists, Anglophilia and West Indian Emancipation," June 6-8, 2003, New Orleans, LA, http://hdl.handle.net/1911/27610.

Sixth Annual Conference on Holiday, Ritual, Festival, Celebration, and Public Display: "The Abolitionist Fourth of July," May 30-June 1, 2002, Bowling Green State University.

Roundtable Panels

OAH Annual Meeting: "Open Access, Transparent Peer Review," April 14, 2018, Sacramento, CA.

AHA Annual Meeting: "The History Major in a Digital Age," Roundtable on the Future of the History Major, January 4, 2015, New York City, NY.

AHA Annual Meeting: "Resolutions for Teaching Digital History," Roundtable on Teaching Digital History Methods for History Graduate Students, January 6, 2013, New Orleans, LA.

University of Houston: "New Directions in the Study of the Civil War Era: A Roundtable Forum," Invited Panelist for forum cosponsored by the Center for Public History and the Department of History, October 18, 2010.

Panel Chair or Commentator

Chair, "Roundtable: Honoring James Brewer Stewart," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Philadelphia, PA, July 16-19, 2026.

Chair and Commentator, "From Segregation to Silence: Resistance to Change at Texas Universities," Alliance for Texas History, Fort Worth, TX, May 27-29, 2026.

Commentator, "African American Enslavement, Racial Violence, and the University in Texas," Southern Historical Association, St. Pete Beach, Florida, November 5-8, 2025.

Chair, "Roundtable on the 20th Anniversary of Stephanie M. H. Camp's *Closer to Freedom,*" Organization of American Historians, New Orleans, April 2024.

Chair, "Reconciling Slavery and Freedom in the Postbellum South," Southern Historical Association, Charlotte, NC, November 9-12, 2023.

Chair and Commentator, "Slavery in the Confederate States of America," Southern Historical Association, Online, November 3-6, 2021.

Chair, "Passages from Quantitative History to Digital Humanities," American Historical Association, Chicago, IL, January 3-6, 2019.

Chair and Commentator, "Coercion by Any Other Name: Reconstruction of White Supremacy in the Long Nineteenth Century," Annual Meeting of the Southern Historical Association, Dallas, TX, November 9-12, 2017.

Chair, "American Reform Radicalized: The Impact of Transnational Contant in Shaping Antebellum Reform," Annual Meeting of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, St. Louis, Missouri, July 18-21, 2013.

Commentator, "The Memory of John Brown & Radical Antislavery Culture in America, 1880-1940," Organization of American Historians, Washington, D.C., April 7-10, 2010.

Commentator, "American Civic Identity and Practice in Comparative Perspective," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Philadelphia, PA, July 19, 2008.

Panels Organized

Organized panel in honor of David Brion Davis for Annual Meeting of Society for U.S. Intellectual History, New School, New York, NY, November 9, 2019.

Organized and led break-out sessions on Open Notebook History and Programming for Historians at THATCamp (The Humanities and Technology Camp) AHA 2013, January 3, 2013.

Member, Organizing Committee for "Global Modernities: Keywords and Methods" Conference at Rice University (May 18-20, 2012)

Organized panels on "New Perspectives on African American Mobility in the South," at the OAH Annual Meeting (2014); "Rethinking Radicalism in the Antislavery Movement" at the OAH Annual Meeting (2009); "Transnational Histories of the American Civil War Era" at the AHA Annual Meeting (2006); and "Revolutions in Atlantic Abolitionism" at the OAH Annual Meeting (2004).

Selected Interviews

"'The Sweets of Liberty': A Q&A with W. Caleb McDaniel," *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 124, no. 1 (Winter 2026), 97-106, https://doi.org/10.1353/khs.2026.a988041

Interviewed for *Conversations with Kenyatta*, a genealogy and history podcast hosted by Kenyatta Berry, 2024.

Interviewed for *Pay the Tab*, a podcast about reparations hosted by Tony Tolbert and Adam Radinsky, 2023.

Interviewed for *The Reckoning*, a national public radio series and podcast, 2020.

Interviewed for a *Backstory with Larry Potash*, aired on WGN, 2020.

Guest on Houston Matters, Houston Public Media: September 11, 2014; March 23, 2016; April 18, 2019; January 28, 2020; February 28, 2025; February 4, 2026.

Interviewed for New Books in American Studies podcast by Daniel Kilbride, September 20, 2013.
Interviewed on-screen for *The Abolitionists*, a three-part American Experience documentary airing nationally on PBS in January 2013.

Teaching

Courses Taught

Undergraduate

FWIS 173: "Legendary Americans"
HIST 118: "The United States since the Civil War"
HUMA 122: "Who Should Vote?"
HIST 246: "American Civil War Era"
HIST 318: "Digital History Methods"
HIST 423: "American Radicals and Reformers"
HIST 497: "Houston Histories"

Graduate

HIST 525: "The Black Freedom Struggle"
HIST 535: "Rice, Slavery, & Segregation"
HIST 587: "Nineteenth Century U.S. Research"
HIST 588: "Nineteenth Century America"

Graduate Directed Readings Courses

Fall 2013: Comparative Slavery and Abolition
Spring 2012: Nineteenth-Century U.S. History Readings
Spring 2010: Civil War Era Readings
Spring 2009: Slavery and Politics in Early Republic

Undergraduate Independent Study Courses

Fall 2025: Sand Creek in History and Memory
Fall 2018: William Marsh Rice and Slavery
Fall 2014: Abolitionist Poetry

Spring 2011: Civil War Memory
Fall 2009 to Spring 2010: Independent Research on African American Abolitionist Movement

Supervised Undergraduate Senior Theses

Kenzie Langhorne (Fall 2026-Spring 2027)
Katelyn Landry (Fall 2021-Spring 2022)
Ben Schachter (Fall 2021-Spring 2022)
Kathryn Skilton (Fall 2011-Spring 2012)
Caitlin Miller (Fall 2009-Spring 2010)

Graduate Students

Doctoral Thesis Committees (Director)

Dru Sanders, "'An Empire Worth Fighting For': Commerce, War, and Local Power in the Lower Rio Grande, 1846–1866" (defended August 2026)
Bryson Kisner, "From Borderland to Southern Land: The Changing Landscape of the Sabine River Valley, 1800-1877" (defended July 2024; co-directed by Randal Hall)
Arang Ha, "Free Labor, Free Trade, and Free Immigration: The Vision of Pacific Community after the Civil War" (defended November 2021)
Edward Valentin, "Black Enlisted Men in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands: Race, Citizenship, and Military Occupation, 1866-1930" (defended March 2020)
Christina Regelski, "Strangers in a Strange Land: Voluntary Exile in the Civil War South" (defended April 2019)
Keith McCall, "Reconstructing Race, Place, and Population: Postemancipation Migrations and the Making of the Black South, 1865-1915" (defended March 2019)
William R. Black, "No Northern or Southern Religion: Cumberland Presbyterians and the Christian Nation, 1800-1877" (defended July 2018)
William Skidmore, "Informed Activism: Antislavery Knowledge Production and the Global Discourse of Slavery, 1833-1843" (defended June 2018; co-directed by Jim Sidbury)
Maria R. Montalvo, "The Slavers' Archive: Enslaved People, Power, and the Production of the Past in the Antebellum Courtroom" (defended April 2018)

Thomas Blake Earle, "The Liberty to Take Fish: Cod Fisheries, American Diplomacy, and Atlantic Environments, 1783-1877" (defended April 2017)

Whitney Nell Stewart, "The Racialized Politics of Home in Slavery and Freedom" (defended April 2017; co-directed by Jim Sidbury)

Lauren Brand, "Sovereign Spaces: Negotiating Native and Federal Power in the Old Southwest" (defended April 2016, winner of the Longcope Award from Department of History and the John W. Gardner Award from the School of Humanities)

Doctoral Thesis Committees (Member)

Emily A. Lampert, "The Virginian Atlantic: Enslaved Reproduction and the American South in the British Imagination, 1790-1860" (defended June 2026)

Chaney E. Hill (English), "What is Forgotten Can Change: Reckoning with Sites of Public Memory in Texas" (defended April 2025)

John Mayer Crum, "Headwaters of Empire: Landscapes of Power and Refuge in the Tennessee Valley, 1794-1870" (defended April 2023)

Maki Kodama, "For the Relief of 'Lewd and Abandoned' Women: An Urban History of Late Antebellum New Orleans" (defended November 2022)

Scott A. Pett (English), "No More New Worlds: Utopic Anxiety and the US Settler Imagination, 1885-1925" (defended August 2022)

Sean Morey Smith, "Race and Abolition in the Anglophone Atlantic, c. 1730-1840" (defended April 2020)

William D. Jones, "Remaking African America in the Lower Mississippi Valley, 1790-1860" (defended April 2020)

S. Wright Kennedy, "Lowering Mortality: A Spatial History of Segregation, Environment, and the Mortality Transition in New Orleans" (defended August 2018)

Rachel Hooper (Art History), "American Art Histories: Framing Race in Exhibitions, 1842-1876" (defended April 2018)

Cara J. Rogers, "Jefferson's Sons: *Notes on the State of Virginia* and Virginian Antislavery, 1760-1832" (defended March 2018)

Amanda Moehnke, "Building the Body: Gendered Space and Urbanization in Rio de Janeiro and New York City, 1890-1930" (defended April 2017)

John Garrison Marks, "Race and Freedom in the African Americas: Free People of Color and Social Mobility in Cartagena and Charleston" (defended August 2016)

Kelly Weber Stefonowich, "The Ideology of White Southern Daughterhood, 1865-1920" (defended August 2016)
Ben Wright, "Gospel of Liberty: Antislavery and American Salvation" (defended March 2014)
Mercedes Harper, "White Women's Heritage Organizations in Texas, 1870-1970" (defended January 2014, winner of John W. Gardner Award from the School of Humanities)
Zachary W. Dresser, "The Theology of Reconstruction: White Southern Religious Leaders in the Aftermath of the Civil War" (defended July 2013)
Andrew F. Lang, "The Garrison War: Culture, Race, and the Problem of Military Occupation during the American Civil War Era" (defended April 2013, winner of Longcope Award from Department of History and John W. Gardner Award from the School of Humanities)
Sarah Bischoff Paulus, "Abraham Lincoln's Northwestern Approach to the Secession Crisis" (defended April 2013)
Carl Paulus, "The Slaveholding Crisis: The Fear of Insurrection, the Wilmot Proviso, and the Southern Turn against American Exceptionalism" (defended April 2012)
Joseph Locke, "Making the Bible Belt: Preachers, Prohibition, and the Politicization of Southern Religion, 1877-1918" (defended April 2012)
Wesley A. Phelps, "A Grassroots War on Poverty: Community Action and Urban Politics in Houston, 1964-1976" (defended March 2010, winner of Longcope Award from Department of History and John W. Gardner Award from the School of Humanities)

Graduate Comprehensive Examination Committees (Chair)

Kensi May (2025)
Morgan Bettin-Coleman (2024)
Nkili Cooper (2023)
Olivier Peloquin (2023)
Dru Sanders (2021)
Serena Barbieri (2021)
Bryson Kisner (2021)
Arang Ha (2018)
Edward Valentin (2017)
Christina Regelski (2016)
Keith McCall (2015)
William Black (2015)
Wes Skidmore (2014)
Maria Montalvo (2014)
Cara Rogers (2014)
Wright Kennedy (2014)
Blake Earle (2013)
Lauren Brand (2012)

Graduate Comprehensive Examination Committees (Member)

Dionne Babineaux (2026)
Emily Lampert (2023)
Summer Perritt (2023)
John Crum (2019)
Maki Kodama (2018)
Cynthia Martinez (2018)
Will Jones (2016)
Erika Rendon (2015)
Whitney Stewart (2013)
Kelly Weber (2012)
John Marks (2012)
Andrew Lang (2010)
Sarah Bischoff (2010)
Zachary Dresser (2010)
Carl Paulus (2009)

Selected Service

Professional Service

Editor, *Journal of Southern History* (2026-present)
Program Committee Member, 2024 Annual Meeting of the Texas State Historical Association
Jury Member, Pulitzer Prize for Biography (2021)
Elected Member, Advisory Council, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, SHEAR (2019-2021)
Proposal Evaluator, Public Scholar Program, National Endowment for Humanities (2019)
2017 Merle Curti Award Committee, Organization of American Historians
Editorial Board Member, *The Programming Historian* (2014-2017)
Board Member and Social Media Coordinator, Historians Against Slavery (2013-2015)
Elected Member, Nominations Committee, SHEAR (2013-2015)
Co-Book Review Editor, H-SHEAR, the H-Net mailing list for the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (2007-2013).
2010 Ralph D. Gray Article Prize Committee, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic.
Manuscript or proposal reviewer for *Journal of American History*, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, *Journal of the Early Republic*, *Journal of Southern History*, *Journal of the Civil War Era*, Louisiana State University Press, *American Nineteenth Century History*, *Civil War History*, Oxford

University Press, Yale University Press, Cornell University Press, Harvard University Press, University of Pennsylvania Press, and others.

University Service

Member, Search Committee for Pinn Postdoctoral Associate, Center for African and African American Studies (2025-2026)
Member, Advisory Committee for Office of Faculty Development (2024-present)
Co-Chair, Task Force on Slavery, Segregation, and Racial Injustice (2019-2023)
Co-Chair, Review Committee for Rice University Race and Anti-Racism Research Fund (2020)
Member, IT Council (2018-2020)
College Magister, Duncan College (2015-2020)
Faculty Member-at-Large, IT Council (2015-2016)
Member, Advisory Committee on Campus Bookstore (2015)
Member, Shared Research Cyberinfrastructure Working Group (2015-2017)
Member, Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum (2014-2015)
Faculty Fellow, Center for Teaching Excellence (2013-2016)
Divisional Advisor, Duncan College (2014-2015)
Head Resident Fellow, Duncan College (2012-2015)
Associate, Duncan College (2012-present)
Member, Committee on Examinations and Standing (2010-2012)
Faculty Mentor, Will Rice College (2011-2012)
Associate, Will Rice College (2008-2012)

Departmental Service

Department Chair (2020-2023, 2026-2027)
Elected Member, Executive Committee (2017-2019)
Member, Graduate Committee (2009-present)
Webmaster (2011-2013)
Member, Senior U.S. History Search (Fall 2010-Spring 2011)

Community Service

Faculty Director, Humanities Texas workshop for area K-12 teachers on the American Civil War, Rice University (Summer 2023)

Speaker at Humanities Texas Teacher's Workshop on the American Civil War, Houston, TX (February 3, 2023)

Fort Bend Independent School District Advisory Committee on the "Sugar Land 95" (2019)

City of Sugar Land Task Force on Convict Leasing Memorial (2018)