

RICHARD R. JOHN (updated 12 April 2026)

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EDUCATION

1989 Ph.D. Harvard University History of American Civilization
1983 M.A. Harvard University History
1981 B.A. Harvard University Social Studies (magna cum laude)

PRIMARY RESEARCH INTERESTS

history of communications
history of political economy since 1760
communications networks

BOOKS

Network Nation: Inventing American Telecommunications. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2010; paperback, 2015; in print. Chinese translation 2023 (Communication University of China Press) Chinese title: [网络国家: 作为制度遗产的电信](#). Translator: Gengxing Jin

Spreading the News: The American Postal System from Franklin to Morse. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1995; paperback, 1998; in print

BOOK IN PROGRESS

“Bad Business: How Monopoly Has Imperiled America from the War of Independence to the Age of Big Tech”
Under contract with Basic Books

DISSERTATION

“Managing the Mails: The Postal System, Public Policy, and American Political Culture, 1823-1836”
co directed by Alfred D. Chandler, Jr., and David Herbert Donald

HONORS

Fellow, Guggenheim Foundation, 2019
Thomas S. Berry Lecture, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia, March 2018
Visiting Professor, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris, spring
2016 Nanqiang Lecture, Xiamen University, Xiamen, China, May 2012
Visiting Professor, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris, spring 2011
Ralph E. Gomory Prize for the best historical monograph on “the consequences of business activity,” Business History Conference (BHC) (for Network Nation), 2011
Best Book Prize in Journalism and Mass Communication History for 2010, History Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) (for Network Nation)
President, Business History Conference (BHC), 2010-2011

- fifty-year-old organization specializing in the study of institutional history
- international membership, with strong representation from Europe and East Asia

Member, American Antiquarian Society, 2008
Faculty Fellow, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2008
Faculty Visitor, American Bar Foundation (ABF), 2006
Faculty Fellow, Great Cities Institute, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2004-2005
Harold F. Williamson Prize for a scholar at mid-career who has made “significant contributions to the field of business history,” Business History Conference (BHC) (co-winner with Angel Kwolek Folland), 2002
Lloyd Lewis Fellow, Newberry Library, Chicago, 2002-2003
Visiting Professor, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris, spring 2001
University Scholar, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1999-2002 (the highest honor awarded to scholars at UIC) Rundell

HONORS (continued)

Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 1998-1999

Vermeil Grande Prize, ITALIA '98 (for Spreading the News)

Special award for best presentation in 1998, Chicago Philatelic Society

Newcomen-Harvard Prize for the best essay in the Business History Review, 1997

Finalist, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) Book Prize for 1997
(for Spreading the News)

Diane B. Boehret Award for Excellence in Philatelic Literature, 1996-1997, American Philatelic Congress (for Spreading the News)

Gold Prize (with felicitations), PACIFIC '97 (for Spreading the News)

Cabeen Award for the best philatelic book in 1996, Collector's Club of Chicago (for Spreading the News)

Vermeil Prize (with felicitations), CHICAGOPEX '96 (for Spreading the News)

Vermeil Prize, SESCOAL '96 (for Spreading the News)

Institute of the Humanities Faculty Fellow, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1995-1996

John M. Olin Faculty Fellow in Political Thought and History, 1994

Allan Nevins Prize for the best-written dissertation in American history in 1989, Society of American Historians (later published as Spreading the News)

Herman E. Krooss Prize for the best dissertation in American business history in 1989, Business History Conference (BHC)

Delancey K. Jay Prize for the best essay relating to the history or development of constitutional government or free institutions in 1989, History Department, Harvard University
(for
dissertation)

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Commonwealth Center for the Study of American History and Culture, College of William and Mary, 1989-1991

AAS-NEH Postdoctoral Fellowship (alternate), American Antiquarian Society, 1989-1990 Finalist, Ralph Gabriel Prize for the best dissertation in American studies in 1989

Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, 1987

Frances Hiatt Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society, 1986

John E. Rovensky Fellowship in Business and Economic History, Lincoln Educational Foundation, 1984-1985 Phi Beta Kappa

GRANTS

"Anti-Monopoly and Democracy in the Political Economy of the United States from the War of Independence to Big Tech" (\$10,000)

"Anti-Monopoly as Industrial Policy," Center for Political Economy, Columbia University, 2024 (\$12,000) "Bad

Business: Anti-Trust as Anti-Monopoly," Center for Political Economy, Columbia University, 2023 (\$21,000) First

Round Proposal Grant, Anti-Monopoly Fund, Economic Securities Project, 2021 (\$30,000)

EDITED VOLUMES

Capital Gains: Business and Politics in Twentieth-Century America. Co-editor, with Kim Phillips-Fein. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016; paperback, 2019; in print.

Making News: The Political Economy of Journalism in Britain and America from the Glorious Revolution to the Internet. Co-editor, with Jonathan Silberstein-Loeb. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015; paperback, 2018; in print.

The American Postal Network, 1792-1914. 4 vols. London: Pickering & Chatto, 2012; in print.

Ruling Passions: Political Economy in Nineteenth Century America. University Park: Pennsylvania State

University Press, 2006. Originally appeared in the Journal of Policy History, 18 no. 1 (2006).

Computers and Communications Networks, special issue of Business History Review, 75 (Spring 2001).

Managing Big Business: Essays from the Business History Review. Co-editor, with Richard S. Tedlow. Boston: Harvard Business School Press, 1986.

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BOOK SERIES EDITORSHIPS

2014- "**Business, Technology, and Politics**," Johns Hopkins University Press

Mark Aldrich, The Rise and Fall of King Coal: American Energy Transitions in an Age of Markets, 1800–1940 (2025)

John K. Brown, Spanning the Gilded Age: James Fads and the Great Steel Bridge (2024)

Daniel Robert, Courteous Capitalism: Public Relations and the Monopoly Problem, 1900–1930 (2023)

Christopher William England, Land and Liberty: Henry George and the Crafting of Modern Liberalism (2023)

Sean Seyer, Sovereign Skies: The Origins of American Civil Aviation Policy (2021)

James P. Kraft, Havoc and Reform: Workplace Disasters in Modern America (2021)

Benjamin Sidney Michael Schwantes, The Train and the Telegraph: A Revisionist History (2019)— winner of the Alice Hanson Jones Biennial Prize, Economic History Association (EHA)

Lee Vinsel, Moving Violations: Automobiles, Experts, and Regulations in the United States (2019)

Joanne Yates and Craig N. Murphy, Engineering Rules: Global Standard Setting since 1880

(2019) Helen Tangires, Movable Markets: Food Wholesaling in the Twentieth-Century City (2019)

Michael Stamm, Dead Tree Media: Manufacturing the Newspaper in Twentieth-Century North America (2018) – winner of the annual best book prize, Canadian Business History Association

Mark Aldrich, Back on Track: American Railroad Accidents and Safety 1965-2015 (2018)

2007-2017 "**How Things Worked: Institutional Dimensions of the American Past**," Johns Hopkins University Press (with Robin Einhorn, University of California at Berkeley)

Johann N. Neem, Democracy's Schools: The Rise of Public Education in America (2017; paperback 2017)

Sharon Ann Murphy, Other People's Money: How Banking Worked in the Early American Republic (2017; paperback 2017)

Philip G. Payne, Crash! How the Economic Boom and Bust of the 1920s Worked (2015; paperback 2015)

Bob Luke and John David Smith, Soldiering for Freedom: How the Union Army Recruited, Trained, and Deployed the U. S. Colored Troops (2014; paperback 2014)

David B. Danbom, Sod Busting: How Families Made Farms on the Nineteenth-Century Plains (2014; paperback 2014)

Ronald H. Bayor, Encountering Ellis Island: How European Immigrants Entered America (2014; paperback 2014)

Sean Patrick Adams, Home Fires: How Americans Kept Warm in the Nineteenth Century (2014; paperback 2014)

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BOOK SERIES EDITORSHIPS (continued)

2007-2012 “**American Business, Politics, and Society**,” University of Pennsylvania Press (with Pamela Laird, University of Colorado at Denver, and Mark Rose, Florida Atlantic University)

Robert MacDougall, The People's Network: The Political Economy of the Telephone in the Gilded Age (2014)

Albert J. Churella, The Pennsylvania Railroad, vol. 1: Building an Empire, 1846-1917 (2012)

Michael Stamm, Sound Business: Newspapers, Radio, and the Politics of New Media (2011; paperback 2016)

Eric J. Morser, Hinterland Dreams: The Political Economy of a Midwestern City (2010)

Louise Nelson Dyble, Paying the Toll: Local Power, Regional Politics, and the Golden Gate Bridge (2009; paperback 2013)

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CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED

“Global Cities, Local Knowledge? The Power of Networks,” School of Journalism and Communication, Fudan University, June 2016 [with Huang Dan]

- 12 specialists from China, the United States, and Australia; 50 attendees

“Networking East and West: Communications, Commerce, Culture,” School of Journalism and Communication, Renmin University, Beijing, July 2014 [with Huang Dan]

- 12 specialists from China, the United States, and Europe; 50 attendees

“Free Market, Free Press? The Political Economy of News Reporting in the Anglo-American World since 1688,” Heyman Center, Columbia University, November 2012 [with Jonathan Silberstein-Loeb]; “Making News,” Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, Oxford University, United Kingdom, August 2013 [with Jonathan Silberstein-Loeb and Robert Picard]

- 17 specialists from the United States, France, and the United Kingdom; 20 attendees

“New Technologies and Cultures of Communication in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries,” German Historical Institute, Washington, D. C., May 2013 [with Peter Jelavich, Benjamin Schwantes, and Clelia Caruso]

“The Intellectual Foundations of Global Communications and Commerce, 1860-1970,” Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, March 2013 [with Heidi Tworek]

ARTICLES, ESSAYS, AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“Home Protection: Frances E. Willard, Anti-Monopoly, and the Liquor Traffic in a Victorian Age.” Business History Review, under consideration.

“The Managerial Revolution and the Historical Imagination: Alfred Chandler’s Visible Hand. In A Guide to Key Theories in Business History: Concepts and Practice, edited by Teresa de Silva Lopes. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, forthcoming 2027.

“Sound Policy: How the Federal Communications Commission Worked in the Age of Radio.” In How the New Deal Was Run, edited by Sarah E. Igo and Ganesh Sitaraman. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, forthcoming 2026.

“Coming to Terms: The Postal System and the Sovereign State in a Transimperial Age.” In Postal History:

Multidisciplinary and Diachronic Perspectives, edited by Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi and Raffaella Gerola. Prato: Istituto di Studi Storici Postali, forthcoming June 2026.

"The Universal Postal Union, Parcel Post, and U.S. Postal Policy, 1894-1912," in Faire du monde "un seul territoire postal": L'Union postale universelle dans l'histoire / The World as 'a Single Postal Territory': The UPU's role in history, ed. Léonard Laborie, Sébastien Richez, pp. 347-73. Brussels: Peter Lang, 2025.

"Power, Privilege, Precedent: Opposition to the U. S. Postal Monopoly from Anne Royall to Frank Chodorov." In Postal History: Multidisciplinary and Diachronic Perspectives, edited by Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi, pp. 47-75. Prato: Istituto di Studi Storici Postali, 2024.

"Reframing the Monopoly Question: Commerce, Land, Industry." In Antimonopoly and American Democracy, edited by Daniel A. Crane and William J. Novak, pp. 35-82. New York: Oxford University Press, 2023.

"Debating New Media: Rewriting Communications History." Technology and Culture, 64, no. 2 (April 2023): 308-58.

"Regulatory History by the Book" [review essay on William J. Novak's New Democracy: Creating the Modern American State]. Yale Journal on Regulation, 22 July 2022, <https://www.yalejreg.com/nc/symposium-novak-new-democracy-07/>

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ARTICLES, ESSAYS, AND BOOK CHAPTERS (continued)

"Political Contestation and the Second Great Divergence" [review essay on Thomas Piketty's Capital and Ideology]. History Compass, 2022, <https://compass.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/hic3.12722>

"The Historical Role of Communications Networks," interview with Gengxing Jin, Historiography in Mass Communication (2021), [file:///Users/richard/Desktop/John%20and%20Jin_Historiography_vol.%207.4%20\[2021\].pdf](file:///Users/richard/Desktop/John%20and%20Jin_Historiography_vol.%207.4%20[2021].pdf)

"Publicity, Propaganda, and Public Opinion from the Titanic Disaster to the Hungarian Uprising" [with Heidi J. S. Tworek]. In Information: A Historical Companion, edited by Ann Blair, Paul Duguid, Anja Silvia Goeing, and Anthony Grafton, pp. 212-37. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2021.

"John Bull, Uncle Sam, Transatlantic Steamships, and the Mail." In Postal History: Multidisciplinary and Diachronic Perspectives, edited by Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi and Raffaella Gerola, pp. 194-207. Prato: Istituto di Studi Storici Postali, 2020.

"When Techno-Diplomacy Failed: Walter S. Rogers, the Universal Electrical Communications Union, and the Limitations of the International Telegraph Union as a Global Actor in the 1920s." In History of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU): Transnational Techno-Diplomacy from the Telegraph to the Internet, edited by Gabriele Balbi and Andreas Fickers, pp. 55-75. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2020.

"Global Communications" [with Heidi J. S. Tworek]. In Routledge Handbook of the Makers of Global Business, edited by Teresa da Silva Lopes, Christina Lubinski, and Heidi J.S. Tworek, pp. 315- 331. London: Routledge, 2020.

"'Circuits of Victory': How the First World War Shaped the Political Economy of the Telephone in the United States and France" [with Léonard Laborie]. History and Technology, 35, no. 2 (2019): 115-37. Translated into French as "Circuits of Victory: L'Entreprise Bell et L'Engagement du Signal Corps en France," in L'engagement des Américains dans la guerre 1917-1918, edited by Olivier Chaline & Olivier Forcade, pp. 341-62. Paris: Sorbonne Université Presses, 2020.

"Corporations, Democracy, and the Historian." Business History Review, 93 (December 2019): 805-15. Review essay on Naomi R. Lamoreaux and William J. Novak, eds., Corporations and

American Democracy.

- "Freedom of Expression in the Digital Age: A Historian's Perspective." Church, Communication, and Culture, 4, no. 1 (2019): 25-38.
- "The State is Back In: What Now?" Journal of the Early Republic, 38, no. 1 (Spring 2018): 105-18.
- "The Public Image of the Universal Postal Union in the Anglophone World, 1874-1949." In Exorbitant Expectations: International Organizations and the Media in the Nineteenth and the Twentieth Centuries, edited by Jonas Brendebach, Martin Herzer, Heidi J.S. Tworek, pp. 38-69. London: Routledge, 2018.
- "Adversarial Relations? Business and Politics in Twentieth-Century America." In Capital Gains: Business and Politics in Twentieth-Century America, edited by Richard R. John and Kim Phillips-Fein, pp. 1-22. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017.
- "Beyond the New Deal: Thomas K. McCraw and the Political Economy of Capitalism" [with Jason Scott Smith]. In Capital Gains: Business and Politics in Twentieth-Century America, edited by Richard R. John and Kim Phillips-Fein, pp. 95-116. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017.
- "Proprietary Interest: Merchants, Journalists, and Antimonopoly in the 1880s." In Media Nation: The Political History of News in Modern America, edited by Bruce Schulman and Julian E. Zelizer, pp. 10- 35. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017.

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ARTICLES, ESSAYS, AND BOOK CHAPTERS (continued)

- "American Political Development and Political History." In Oxford Handbook of American Political Development, edited by Richard Valelly, Suzanne Mettler, and Robert Lieberman, pp. 185-206. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.
- "Letters, Telegrams, News." In The Edinburgh Companion to Nineteenth-Century American Letters and Letter-Writing, edited by Celeste-Marie Bernier, Judie Newman, and Matthew Pethers, pp. 119-35. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2015.
- "From Political Economy to Civil Society: Arthur W. Page, Corporate Philanthropy, and the Reframing of the Past in Post-New Deal America." In Boundaries of the State in U. S. History, edited by James T. Sparrow, William J. Novak, and Stephen W. Sawyer, pp. 295-324. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015.
- "Markets, Morality, and the Media: The Election of 1884 and the Iconography of Progressivism." In America at the Ballot Box: Elections and Political History, edited by Gareth Davies and Julian E. Zelizer, pp. 75-97, 285-88. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015.
- "Point-to-Point: Telecommunications Networks from the Optical Telegraph to the Mobile Telephone" [with Gabriele Balbi]. In Handbook of Communications Science, vol. 5: Communication and Technology, edited by Lorenzo Cantoni and James A. Danowski, pp. 35-55. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton, 2015.
- "Projecting Power Overseas: U.S. Postal Policy and International Standard-Setting at the 1863 Paris Postal Conference." Journal of Policy History, 27, no. 3 (July 2015): 416-438.
- "Communications Networks in the United States from Chappe to Marconi." In International Encyclopedia of Media Studies, vol. 1: Media History and the Foundations of Media Studies, edited by Angharad N. Valdivia, pp. 310-332. London: Blackwell, 2013.
- "From Franklin to Facebook: The Civic Mandate for American Communications." In To Promote the General Welfare: The Case for Big Government, edited by Steven Conn, pp. 156-72. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

"Robber Barons Redux: Antimonopoly Reconsidered." Enterprise and Society, 13, no. 1 (March 2012): 1- 38.

"Business Historians and the Challenge of Innovation." Business History Review, 85 (Spring 2011): 185-202. Review essay on The Challenge of Remaining Innovative: Insights from Twentieth-Century American Business, edited by Sally H. Clarke, Naomi R. Lamoreaux, and Steven W. Usselman.

"The Political Economy of Postal Reform in the Victorian Age." Smithsonian Contributions to History and Technology, 55 (2010): 3-12.

"Putting the United States in North America." Nuevo Mundo/Mundos Nuevos (March 2010), on-line at <http://nuevomundo.revues.org/59397>

"Expanding the Realm of Communications." In An Extensive Republic: Print, Culture, and Society in the New Nation, edited by Robert A. Gross and Mary Kelley, pp. 211-220. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

"Who Were the Gilders? And Other Seldom-Asked Questions about Business, Technology, and Political Economy in the United States, 1877-1900." Journal of the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era, 8, no. 4 (October 2009): 474-80.

"The Postal Monopoly and Universal Service-A History." School of Public Policy, George Mason University, posted December 2008, on line at <http://www.prc.gov/prc-pages/library/USOAppendices.aspx> • 88-page report commissioned by the U. S. Postal Regulatory Commission as mandated by the U. S. Congress in the Postal Enhancement and Accountability Act (PAEA) (2006).

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ARTICLES, ESSAYS, AND BOOK CHAPTERS (continued)

"Bringing Political Economy Back In." Enterprise and Society, 9, no. 3 (September 2008):

487-490. "Telecommunications." Enterprise and Society, 9, no. 3 (September 2008): 507-520.

"Turner, Beard, Chandler: Progressive Historians." Business History Review, 82, no. 2 (Summer 2008): 227-40.

"Rethinking the Early American State." Polity, 40, no. 3 (July 2008): 332-339.

"Post Office." In Encyclopedia of the New American Nation, edited by Paul Finkelman, vol. 2, pp. 575-78. Detroit: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2006.

"Ruling Passions: Political Economy in Nineteenth-Century America." Journal of Policy History, 18, no. 1 (2006): 1-20.

"Patent Politics: Intellectual Property, the Railroad Industry, and the Problem of Monopoly" [with Steven W. Usselman]. Journal of Policy History, 18, no. 1 (2006): 96-125.

"Private Enterprise, Public Good? Communications Deregulation as a National Political Issue, 1839-1851." In Beyond the Founders: New Approaches to the Political History of the Early American Republic, edited by Jeffrey L. Pasley, Andrew W. Robertson, and David Waldstreicher, pp. 328-354. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004. Translated into Italian.

"Telephony" and "Mail Delivery." In Encyclopedia of Chicago History, edited by James R. Grossman, Ann Durkin Keating, and Janice L. Reiff, pp. 503-504, 812-813. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004.

"Farewell to the 'Party Period': Political Economy in Nineteenth-Century America." Journal of Policy History, 16 no. 2 (2004): 117-25.

"Affairs of Office: The Executive Departments, the Election of 1828, and the Making of the Democratic Party." In The Democratic Experiment: New Directions in American Political History, edited by Meg Jacobs, William Novak, and Julian Zelizer, pp. 50-84. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003.

"Postal Systems." In Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History, edited by Joel Mokyr, vol. 4, pp. 315-318. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.

"Citizens, Clients, and Consumers: Rethinking the Advent of American Telecommunications." Antenna, 15 (April 2002): 6-7.

"Rites of Passage: Postal Petitioning as a Tool of Governance in the Age of Federalism" [with Christopher J. Young]. In The House and Senate in the 1790s: Petitioning, Lobbying, and Institutional Development, edited by Kenneth R. Bowling and Donald R. Kennon, pp. 100-138. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2002.

"Cinderella Reigns," Reviews in American History, 29, no. 2 (June 2001): 271-80. Review essay on Regina Lee Blaszczyk, Imagining Consumers: Design and Innovation from Wedgwood to Corning.

"Rendezvous with Information? Computers and Communications Networks in the United States." Business History Review, 75, no. 1 (Spring 2001): 1-13.

"Postal Systems." In International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences, edited by Neil J. Smelser, vol. 17, pp. 11834-38. Oxford: Elsevier, 2001.

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ARTICLES, ESSAYS, AND BOOK CHAPTERS (continued)

"Recasting the Information Infrastructure for the Industrial Age." In A Nation Transformed by Information: How Information Has Shaped the United States from Colonial Times to the Present, edited by Alfred D. Chandler, Jr., and James W. Cortada, pp. 55-105. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000. Translated into Spanish.

John Quincy Adams." In The Reader's Companion to the American Presidency, edited by Alan Brinkley and Davis Dyer, pp. 83-91. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000.

"Theodore N. Vail and the Civic Origins of Universal Service." Business and Economic History, 28 (Winter 1999): 71-81.

"Le Debat sur la Telegraphie Publique aux Etas-Unis." Reseaux, 17 (1999): 391-411. In French.

"Abraham Bradley, Jr.," "William Augustine Davis," "William George Fargo," "Cyrus West Field," "Norvin Green," "James Webster Hale," "James Holbrook," "Hiram Sibley," "Theodore Newton Vail." In American National Biography, edited by John Arthur Garraty and Mark C. Carnes, vol. 3, pp. 369- 70; vol. 6, pp. 237-38; vol. 7, pp. 711-712, 876-78; vol. 9, pp. 503-4, 825-26; vol. 11, pp. 25-26; vol. 19, pp. 915-17; vol. 22, pp. 132-34. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

"The Illusion of the Ordinary: John Lewis Krimmel's Village Tavern and the Democratization of Public Life in the Early Republic" [with Thomas C. Leonard]. Pennsylvania History, 65 (Winter 1998): 87-96.

"The Politics of Innovation." Daedalus, 127, no. 4 (Fall 1998): 187-214.

"Eben Norton Horsford, the Northmen, and the Founding of Massachusetts." In Essays in Cambridge History, edited by Luise M. Erdmann, et al., pp. 117-44. Cambridge: Cambridge Historical Society, 1998. Also issued as Cambridge Historical Society Proceedings, 45 (1980-85).

"The Lost World of Bartleby the Ex-Officeholder: Variations on a Venerable Literary Form." New England Quarterly, 70, no. 4 (December 1997): 631-41.

"Governmental Institutions as Agents of Change: Rethinking American Political Development in the

Early Republic, 1787-1835." Studies in American Political Development, 11, no. 2 (Fall 1997): 347-380.

- "Elaborations, Revisions, Dissents: Alfred D. Chandler, Jr.'s., The Visible Hand after Twenty Years." Business History Review, 71, no. 2 (Summer 1997): 151-200.
- Received the Newcomen-Harvard Prize for the best essay in the Business History Review, 1997
 - On-line at <http://www.thebhc.org/publications/rjbhr.html>
- "Hiland Hall's 'Report on Incendiary Publications': A Forgotten Nineteenth-Century Defense of the Constitutional Guarantee of the Freedom of the Press." American Journal of Legal History, 41, no. 1 (January 1997): 94-125.
- "Leonard D. White and the Invention of American Administrative History." Reviews in American History, 24, no. 2 (June 1996): 344-360.
- "Like Father, Like Son: The Not-So-Strange Career of John C. Calhoun." Reviews in American History, 23, no. 3 (September 1995): 438-443. Review essay on Irving H. Bartlett, John C. Calhoun: A Biography.
- "American Historians and the Concept of the Communications Revolution." In Information Acumen: The Understanding and Use of Knowledge in Modern Business, edited by Lisa Bud-Frierman, pp. 98- 110. London: Routledge, 1994.
- "Communications and Information Processing." In Encyclopedia of Social History, edited by Mary Kupiec Cayton, et. al., vol. 3, pp. 2349-61. New York: Scribner's, 1993.
- "Election of 1824," "Election of 1828," "Albert Gallatin." In Political Parties and Elections in the United States: An Encyclopedia, edited by L. Sandy Maisel, pp. 286-288; 421. New York: Garland, 1991.

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ARTICLES, ESSAYS, AND BOOK CHAPTERS (continued)

- "Remembering McLuhan." Reviews in American History, 18, no. 3 (September 1990): 419-24. Review essay on George Sanderson and Frank McDonald, Marshall McLuhan: The Man and his Message.
- "Taking Sabbatarianism Seriously: The Postal System, the Sabbath, and the Transformation of American Political Culture." Journal of the Early Republic, 10, no. 4 (Winter 1990): 517-67.
- "Out of Control." Isis, 79 (December 1988): 675-679. Review essay on James R. Beniger's The Control Revolution: Technological and Economic Origins of the Information Society.
- "Eben Norton Horsford: Enterprising Antiquarian." Harvard Magazine, 91 (September-October 1988): 44- 45.
- "Private Mail Delivery in the United States during the Nineteenth Century—A Sketch." Business and Economic History, 2d ser. 15 (1986): 131-43.
- "Hawthorne's Boston Custom House." Nathaniel Hawthorne Newsletter, 9 (Spring 1985): 15-17.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY/FINDING AIDS

- "Archival Sources for American Postal History." In Postal History Seminar Book, edited by Douglas A. Kelsey, pp. 91-147. Tucson, Az.: Postal History Foundation, 1991.
- "Pre-1850 U.S. Postal Pamphlets and Printed Speeches." In Postal History Seminar Handbook, edited by Douglas A. Kelsey, pp. 73-79. Tucson, Az.: Western Postal History Museum, 1989.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of “Crossed Wires: The Conflicted History of U.S. Telecommunications, from the Post Office to the Internet,” by Dan Schiller, Journal of Social History, 2025 <https://doi.org/10.1093/jsh/shaf022>

Review of Manufacturing Catastrophe: Massachusetts and the Making of Global Capitalism, 1813 to the Present, by Shaun S. Nichols, Journal of American History, 112, no. 1 (June 2025): 132-33.

“Empire and News in Colonial India,” review of Amelia Bonea, The News of Empire: Telegraphy, Journalism, and the Politics of Reporting in Colonial India, c. 1830-1900, in Monde, 26 (September 2024): 177-82.

“Reimagining Business: Virtue, Spirituality, Wisdom,” review of Geoffrey Jones, Deeply Responsible: A Global History of Values-Driven Leadership, Business History Review, 98 (spring 2024): 327-32.

Review of Amanda Frisken, Graphic News: How Sensational Images Transformed Nineteenth-Century Journalism, in Social History, 47, no. 2 (2022): 228-30.

Review of Dara Orenstein, Out of Stock: The Warehouse in the History of Capitalism, in Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 51, no. 4 (2021): 642–64.

“After Managerial Capitalism,” review of Nicholas Lemann, Transaction Man, and Brian R. Cheffins, The Public Company Transformed, in Business History Review, 95, no. 1 (Spring 2021): 151-57.

Review of Martin Collins, A Telephone for the World: Iridium, Motorola, and the Making of a Global Age, in American Historical Review, 124 (October 2019): 1479-80

Review of Jeffrey Sklansky, Sovereign of the Market: The Money Question in Early America, in Journal of the Early Republic, 39 (Winter 2019): 785-87.

Review of Martin Collins, A Telephone for the World: Iridium, Motorola, and the Making of a Global Age, in American Historical Review, 124 (October 2019): 1479-80.

Review of Jonathan Taplin, Move Fast and Break Things: How Facebook, Google, and Amazon Cornered Culture and Undermined Democracy, in Business History Review, 92 (Spring 2018): 191-93.

Review of Noam Maggor, Brahmin Capitalism: Frontiers of Wealth and Populism in America's First Gilded Age, in Journal of American History, 104 (March 2018): 1032.

Review of Jefferson Pooley, James W. Carey and Communication Research: Reputation at the University's Margins, in Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly, 94, no. 4 (2017): 282-84.

Review of John O'Brien, Literature Incorporated: The Cultural Unconscious of the Business Corporation, in Early American Literature, 52, no. 2 (2017): 491-496.

Review of John Nerone, The Media and Public Life—A History, in Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly, 94, no. 2 (2017): 599-601 [lead review].

Review of Katherine Grandjean, American Passage: The Communications Frontier in Early New England, in Historian, 79 (Summer 2017): 340-41.

Review of Kevin Butterfield, The Making of Tocqueville's America: Law and Association in the United States, in American Historical Review, 122 (April 2017): 513–14.

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BOOK REVIEWS (continued)

Review of John A. Britton, Cables, Crises, and the Press: The Geopolitics of the New International Information System in the Americas, 1866-1903, in Technology and Culture, 57 (April 2016):

Review of Brenton J. Malin, Feeling Mediated: A History of Media Technology and Emotion in America, in Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 46 (spring 2016): 612-14.

“Somewhere Under the Sea,” review of Nicole Starosielski, Undersea Network, in Metascience, 25, no. 1 (November 2015): 131-34 [on-line only].

“Knowledge for What?” review of Jeremy Black, The Power of Knowledge: How Information and Technology Made the Modern World, in Reviews in American History, 43 (September 2015): 420- 26.

Review of David F. Ericson, Slavery in the American Republic: Developing the Federal Government, 1791- 1861, in Journal of the Early Republic, 33 (Summer 2013): 386-70.

Review of Nathan Ensmenger, The Computer Boys Take Over: Computers, Programmers, and the Politics of Technical Expertise, in Business History, 55 (March 2013): 846-47.

“Train of Catastrophes,” review of Richard White, Railroaded: The Transcontinentals and the Making of Modern America, in Reviews in American History, 41 (March 2013): 99-106.

Review of Capitalism Takes Command: The Social Transformation of Nineteenth-Century America, edited by Michael Zakim and Gary J. Kornblith, in Journal of Economic History, 72 (December 2012): 1113-1115.

“The Culture of Capitalism,” review of Joyce Appleby, The Relentless Revolution: A History of Capitalism, in Business History Review, 86 (Spring 2012): 129-37.

Review of Adam Tuchinsky, Horace Greeley’s New York-Tribune: Civil War Era Socialism and the Crisis of Free Labor, in Journal of the Civil War Era, 1 (December 2011): 573-75.

Review of Erik van Der Vleuten and Arne Kaijser, eds., Networking Europe: Transnational Infrastructures and the Shaping of Europe, 1850-1900, in Business History, 50 (March 2008): 229-30.

Review of Georg Leidenberger, Chicago’s Progressive Alliance: Labor and the Bid for Public Streetcars, in Business History Review, 81 (Winter 2007): 795-98.

Review of Cathy Matson, ed., The Economy of Early America: Historical Perspectives and New Directions, in William and Mary Quarterly, 54 (July 2007): 643-46.

“Where in the World is the United States?” review of Thomas Bender, A Nation among Nations: America’s Place in World History, in Common-Place, 7 (July 2007): <http://www.common-place.org/>

“Elongating the Progressive Era,” review of Rebecca Edwards, New Spirits: Americans in the Gilded Age, 1865-1905, in Journal of the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era, 6 (January 2007): 110-112.

Review of Paul Starr, Creation of the Media: Political Origins of Modern Communication and Kenneth Silverman, Lightning Man: The Accursed Life of Samuel F. B. Morse, in Journal of the Early Republic, 27 (Spring 2007): 192-96.

“Shop Talk: Liberalism, Consumerism, and the American Revolution,” review of T. H. Breen, The Marketplace of Revolution: How Consumer Politics Shaped American Independence, in Enterprise and Society, 7 (September 2006): 592-95.

Review of David Paull Nickles, Under the Wire: How the Telegraph Changed Diplomacy, in American Historical Review, 110 (June 2005): 765-66.

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BOOK REVIEWS (continued)

Review of Daniel R. Headrick, When Information Came of Age: Technologies of Knowledge in the Age

of Reason and Revolution, 1700-1850, in William and Mary Quarterly, 60 (April 2003): 442-45.

“Follow the Yellow Brick Road: Rethinking American Industrialization,” review essay on Richard Franklin Bense, The Political Economy of Industrialization

- Electronic essay commissioned by the Miller Center at the University of Virginia
- On-line at http://216.239.53.100/search?q=cache:d7yZWRiAR_kC:www.americanpoliticaldevelopment.org/townsquare/print_res/reviews/Richard%2520John%2520Review1.pdf+Follow+the+Yellow+Brick+Road+Richard+John&hl=en&ie=UTF-8

“The Postal System and the Making of German Literary Culture,” Electronic Book Review, 11 (2000), at <http://www.altx.com/ebr/reviews/rev11/r11john.htm> [Review of Bernard Siegert, Relays: Literature as an Epoch of the Postal System]

Review of Brian Winston, Media Technology and Society—A History: From the Telegraph to the Internet, in Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 31 (Autumn 2000): 296-98.

Review of Peter J. Hugill, Global Communications since 1844: Geopolitics and Technology, in Technology and Culture, 41 (July 2000): 568-70.

“Contextualizing the Corporation,” Journal of Policy History, 12, no. 2 (2000): 287-92. Review of Thomas K. McCraw, Creating Modern Capitalism, Neil J. Mitchell, The Conspicuous Corporation, and William G. Roy, Socializing Capital.

- On-line at http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_policy_history/v012/12.2john.html

Review of Jos C. N. Raadschelders, Handbook of Administrative History, in Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 30 (Winter 1999): 490-91.

Review of Charles R. Geisst, Wall Street: A History, in Journal of American History, 85 (December 1998): 1107-8.

Review of Philip Scranton, Endless Novelty: Specialty Production and American Industrialization, 1865- 1925, in Business History Review, 72 (Autumn 1998): 483-85 [lead review].

Review of William G. Shade, Democratizing the Old Dominion: Virginia and the Second Party System, 1824-1861, in Journal of Southern History, 64 (May 1998): 353-55.

Review of Herbert E. Sloan, Principle and Interest: Thomas Jefferson and the Problem of Debt, in Journal of Economic History, 57 (June 1997): 561-62.

Review of Rosalind Remer, Printers and Men of Capital: Philadelphia Book Publishers in the New Republic, (Fall 1996) in H-BUSINESS (H-NET electronic list). On-line at <http://eh.net/bookreviews/library/0015>

Review of Robert J. Stets, Postmasters and Postoffices of the United States, 1782-1811, in William and Mary Quarterly, 53 (January 1996): 236-37.

Review of David Hackett Fischer, Paul Revere's Ride, in New England Quarterly, 48 (March 1995): 166-68.

Review of Robert A. Gross, ed., In Debt to Shays: The Bicentennial of an Agrarian Rebellion, in Canadian Review of American Studies, 25 (Spring 1995): 139-141.

Review of John A. Andrew, III, From Revivals to Removal: Jeremiah Evarts, the Cherokee Nation, and the Search for the Soul of America, in Journal of Southern History, 60 (November 1994): 786-87.

Review of Ronald J. Zboray, A Fictive People: Antebellum Economic Development and the American Reading Public, in Journal of American History, 80 (March 1994): 1466.

BOOK REVIEWS (continued)

- Review of Paul Israel, From Machine Shop to Industrial Laboratory: Telegraphy and the Changing Context of American Invention, 1830-1920, in Business History Review, 68 (Spring 1994): 158-59.
- Review of William J. Gilmore, Reading Becomes a Necessity of Life: Material and Cultural Life in New England, in Business History Review, 67 (Autumn 1993): 465-67.
- Review of Charles Sellers, The Market Revolution: Jacksonian America, 1815-1846, in New England Quarterly, 66 (June 1993): 302-5 [lead review].
- Review of James W. Carey, Communication as Culture: Essays on Media and Society, in Technology and Culture, 33 (January 1992): 200-202.
- Review of Richard B. Kielbowicz, News in the Mail: The Press, Post Office, and Public Information, 1700- 1860s, in William and Mary Quarterly, 3d ser., 48 (October 1991): 633-35.
- Review of Thomas D. Clark, Footloose in Jacksonian America: Robert W. Scott and His Agrarian World, in Journal of American History, 78 (September 1991): 659.
- Review of John K. Alexander, The Selling of the Constitutional Convention: A History of News Coverage, in Journal of the Early Republic, 11 (Fall 1991): 404-6.
- Review of Richard D. Brown, Knowledge is Power: The Diffusion of Information in Early America, 1700- 1865, in Technology and Culture, 32 (June 1991): 617-19.
- Review of Donald R. Hoke, Ingenious Yankees: The Rise of the American System of Manufactures in the Private Sector, in Journal of American History, 78 (June 1991): 312-13.
- Review of Christine MacLeod, Inventing the Industrial Revolution: The English Patent System, 1660-1800, in Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 509 (May 1990): 180.
- Review of David Cressy, Coming Over: Migration and Communication between England and New England in the Seventeenth Century, and Ian K. Steele, English Atlantic, 1675-1740: An Exploration of Communication and Community, in Technology and Culture, 30 (July 1989): 682-85.
- Review of Edwin Gabler, The American Telegrapher: A Social History, 1860-1900, in Business History Review, 63 (Summer 1989): 424-25.
- Review of Cindy Sondik Aron, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Civil Service: Middle-Class Workers in Victorian America, in Business History Review, 63 (Spring 1989): 196-98.
- Review of M. J. Daunton, Royal Mail: The Post Office since 1840, in Business History Review, 62 (Spring 1988): 352-53.
- Review of Richard E. Beringer, et al., Why the South Lost the Civil War, in Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 494 (November 1987): 190-91.
- Review of Wayne R. Austerman, Sharps Rifles and Spanish Mules: The San Antonio-El Paso Mail, 1851- 1881, in Technology and Culture, 28 (July 1987): 715-16.
- Review of Johanna Nichol Shields, The Line of Duty: Maverick Congressmen and the Development of American Political Culture, 1836-1860, in Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 491 (May 1987): 204-5.
- Review of John M. Findlay, People of Chance: Gambling in American Society from Jamestown to Las Vegas, in Harvard Review, 1 (Fall 1986): 176-79.
- Review of David O. Whitten, The Emergence of Giant Enterprise, 1860-1914: American Commercial Enterprise and Extractive Industries, in Business History Review, 58 (Winter

PAPERS

- “Town-Born and City Bred: Anti-Monopoly in a Trans-Imperial Age,” Business History Conference (BHC), London, England, March 2026.
- “Agrarian Justice? Anti-Monopoly in Gotham, 1844-1862,” Columbia History Department workshop, March 2026.
- “Does Political History Have a Future?” **plenary address**, Policy History Conference, Charlotte, North Carolina, June 2025.
- “The Curse of Smallness: Anti-Monopoly, William Randolph Hearst, and the Election of 1904,” Policy History Conference, Charlotte, North Carolina.
- “The Folklore of Thurman Arnold: Anti-Monopoly in the Shadow of War,” Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Delaware, December 2024 (zoom).
- “Gods of Creation: The Three Bell Consent Decrees –1913, 1956, 1982,” Antitrust and Competition Conference at the Stigler Center, Booth School of Business, University of Chicago, April 2024.
- “Daniel Bell, Anti-Monopoly, and the Coming of Post-Industrial Society,” Business History Conference (BHC), Providence, Rhode Island, March 2024.
- “How the Universal Postal Union Shaped Postal Policy in the United States, 1874-1913,” conference on “Achieving ‘a single postal territory’: A Global Promise – Past and Present 150 Years of the UPU,” Berne, Switzerland, February 2024.
- “Land Reform, Free Soil, and Emancipation,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 2023
- “Land Monopoly and Economic Development in the United States, Great Britain, and France,” conference on “The American Developmental State: The Origins of American Capitalism in Comparative Perspective,” Paris, France, May 2023
- “Frances Willard, Anti-Monopoly, and the Liquor Machine in Victorian America,” Business History Conference (BHC), Detroit, Michigan, March 2023
- “Opponents of the U. S. Postal Monopoly from Anne Royall to Frank Chodorov,” Istituto di Studi Storici Postali, Prato, Italy, June 2022
- “Anti-Monopoly Before Anti-Trust: Why It Matters Today,” **plenary address**, conference on “The American Antimonopoly Tradition in Global Perspective,” Rothermere American Institute, Oxford University, December 2021
- “The Founders, The Problem of Monopoly, and the Making of an American Tradition,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), virtual, July 2021
- “John Bull, Uncle Sam, and the Controversy over North Atlantic Postal Communications, 1840-1851,” Istituto di Studi Storici Postali, Prato, Italy, June 2019
- “Economic Inequality, the Problem of Monopoly, and the Challenge of Henry George,” Business History Conference (BHC), Cartagena, Colombia, March 2019
- “Communications Networks in the United States from Condorcet to Lazarsfeld,” preconference on “Network(ed) Histories,” International Communications Association (ICA), Prague, Czech Republic, May 2018
- “Financial Speculation, Public Utility, and the Legitimation of Managerial Capitalism,” Business History Conference (BHC), Baltimore, Maryland, March 2018

"The Grounding of Antitrust: Antimonopoly, Democracy, and Public Utility in the Late-Nineteenth-Century," conference on "The History of American Democracy," Tobin Project, Cambridge, Massachusetts, June 2017

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PAPERS (continued)

"John Sherman, the 1890 Antitrust Act, and the Reconstruction of the Antimonopoly Tradition, 1890-1940," conference on institutional history, Wharton School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 2017

"Robert H. Bork and the Antimonopoly Tradition," Economic History Seminar, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, March 2017

"The Founders, the Problem of Monopoly, and the Making of an American Tradition," Early American History Seminar, Columbia University, February 2017

"Antimonopoly, the Bank Veto, and Public Finance, 1790-1863," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), New Haven, Connecticut, July 2016

"Local Knowledge, Global City? Cyrus Field, the New York Chamber of Commerce, and the Invention of Tradition," Conference on "Global Cities, Local Knowledge? The Power of Networks," Fudan University, Shanghai, China, June 2016

"Ida Tarbell, Standard Oil, and Antimonopoly," Policy History Conference (PHC), Nashville, Tennessee, June 2016

"The Iconography of the Universal Postal Union in the Anglo-American World, 1863-1949," conference on "Communicating International Organizations in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries," European University, Florence, Italy, March 2016

"Media Capture: The Long View," **plenary address**, conference on "Media Capture in an Age of Political Polarization: Preserving Media Independence," Columbia University, April 2016

"Bridges, Boundaries, Benchmarks: Putting the History of Communications on the Map," **plenary address**, conference on "Bridges and Boundaries: Communications History," European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA), Venice, Italy, September 2015

"Patents and 'Free Enterprise': The TNEC Reconsidered," Business History Conference (BHC), Portland, Oregon, March 2016; Columbia University 20th Century Politics and Society Seminar, October 2019

"Coal, Cables, and Radio: U. S. Communications Policy in the Pacific before the Second World War," Twenty Second International Congress of Historical Science in Jinan, China, August 2015

"De-Provincializing Soft Power: The View from the United States," conference on "De-provincializing Soft Power," Columbia Global Center, Istanbul, June 2015

"Operator Please? Rewriting the Social History of the Telephone Business in the United States in its Formative Era," Joint Journalism History Conference, New York, March 2013; Organization of American Historians (OAH), San Francisco, April 2013

"Knowledge and Development," ENGLOBE Summer School, Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, Versailles, France, June 2012

"Antimonopoly: The Anatomy of an American Obsession," conference on "Capitalism in America: A New History," University of Georgia, Athens, February 2012

"Media History as Business History: The Political Economy of American Telecommunications in Comparative Perspective," American Historical Association (AHA), Chicago, January 2012

“Projecting Power Overseas: The 1863 Paris Postal Conference, the American Civil War, and the Creation of International Communications Networks,” Sorbonne University, Paris, September 2013; Policy History Conference (PHC), Richmond, Virginia, June 2012; Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), Cleveland, November 2011

“Communications Networks in Crisis,” Harry S. Truman Institute, conference on “Civil Wars and the Civil War,” Hebrew University, Jerusalem, June 2011

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PAPERS (continued)

“Robber Barons Redux: Antimonopoly Reconsidered,” Business History Conference (BHC), St. Louis, March 2011 • presidential address

“Nickel-in-the-Slot: The Public Telephone and the Political Economy of Telephony in the United States, 1894-1907,” Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), Lisbon, Portugal, October 2008; Policy History Conference (PHC), Clayton, Missouri, May 2004; Historical Society, Boothbay Harbor, Maine, May 2004; American Society for Legal History (ASLH), Austin, Texas, October 2004; Urban History Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 2004; Chicago Urban History Seminar, January 2005 (invited); Hagley Museum and Library, February 2005 (invited)

“Samuel F. B. Morse and the Political Economy of the Telegraph,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Philadelphia, July 2008

“The Nineteenth-Century American State as a Conceptual Variable: Governmental Institutions, Civic Ideals, and Political Economy,” American Political Science Association (APSA), Chicago, September 2007

“Professor Morse’s Lightning: The Political Origins of the Telegraph Industry in the United States,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Worcester, Massachusetts, July 2007; Newberry Library Seminar on Technology, Politics, and Culture, Chicago, June 2007

“The New York Telegraph Act of 1848 and the Culture of Entrepreneurship in the Nineteenth-Century U. S. Telegraph Industry,” Business History Conference (BHC), Cleveland, Ohio, June 2007

“Should We Abolish the Gilded Age? Perspectives from the History of Business, Technology, and Law,” Organization of American Historians (OAH), Minneapolis, March-April 2007

“Ruling Passions: Political Economy in Nineteenth-Century America,” CEHIS-CEMCA-CRALMI-IFFA Conference on “The Nation-State during the Nineteenth-Century in America: State, Territory, Parties,” Externado University, Bogota, Columbia, November 2006

“Postal Networks and American Telecommunications,” International Economic History Conference, Helsinki, Finland, August 2006. This paper was part of a roundtable on “postal networks since 1600” that I organized. The roundtable featured 11 papers by 13 scholars from 7 different countries (Canada, United States, France, Germany, Italy, Denmark, and Taiwan)

“One Great Medium? The Balkanization of American Telecommunications, 1907-20,” Business History Conference (BHC), Toronto, Canada, June 2006; Policy History Conference (PHC), Charlottesville, Virginia, June 2006; American Bar Foundation (ABF) Legal History Workshop, Chicago, January 2007

“The Political Economy of Technological Innovation during the Second Industrial Revolution,” American Historical Association (AHA), Philadelphia, January 2006

“The Advent of American Telecommunications,” Business History Workshop, Harvard Business School, Boston, Massachusetts, November 2005

“Telephomania: The Contested Origins of the Urban Telephone Exchange in the United States, 1879-1894,”

Business History Conference (BHC), Minneapolis, May 2005; Newberry Library Seminar on Technology, Politics, and Culture, Chicago, March 2005

"When Corporations were Voluntary Associations: Arthur W. Page and the Mystification of Corporate Identity at AT&T," Willamette University, Salem, Oregon, March 2005 (invited); American Bar Foundation (ABF), Chicago, January 2006; University of Chicago Political History Workshop, January 2006

"Networks," American Political Development Workshop, University of Chicago, October 2004 (invited)

"Communications and Union: The Politics of Electrical Telegraphy, 1845-1861," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Providence, Rhode Island, July 2004

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PAPERS (continued)

"Political Economy," Organization of American Historians (OAH), Memphis, Tenn., April 2003 •
Specially convened roundtable on the state-of-the-field in American political history

"Private Enterprise, Public Good? Communications Deregulation as a National Public Issue, 1839-1851," Conference on "Sul Filo della Comunicazione: La Telegrafia nell'Occocento fra economia, politica e tecnologia," Istituto di Studi Storici Postali, Prato, Italy, September 2002 (invited); Economic History Association (EHA), St. Louis, October 2002

"The Creation of the Nationwide Telephone Grid in the United States, 1885-1919," conference on "Constructing Markets, Shaping Production: The Historical Construction of Product Markets in Europe and America," Stockholm School of Economics, Idöborg, Sweden, July 2002 (invited)

"Affairs of Office: The Jacksonian Ascendancy and the Dismantling of the Early American State," Politics Workshop, Political Science Department, University of Chicago, April 2002; Policy History Conference (PHC), Clayton, Missouri, May 2002

"How Enterprise Became Private: Communications and Public Life in the 1840s," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Baltimore, July 2001

"Whence the Information Age? Writing the History of Communications in a Postmodern World," Historical Society, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, February 2001

"The Significance of Postal Telegraphy: Toward an Alternative Genealogy of the Information Age," Seminar on Business, Technology, and Society, Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Delaware, December 2000

"Riding the Leviathan: Western Union in the Gilded Age," American Historical Association (AHA), Chicago, January 2000 • Organized panel, which included one of the first papers given at the AHA on the history of the Internet

"How Governmental Institutions Shaped Communications Policy in the United States during the Early Republic," Policy History Conference (PHC), Clayton, Missouri, May 1999
• Part of a "featured" panel on state-building in the early republic organized by Joel H. Silbey
• Also delivered at the American Sociological Association (ASA), Chicago, August 1999

"Theodore N. Vail and the Civic Origins of Universal Service," Business History Conference (BHC), Chapel Hill, N. C., March 1999

"Recasting the Information Infrastructure for the Industrial Age," Economic History Workshop, UCLA, Los Angeles, March 1999

"The Politics of Private Enterprise: Government Prosecution of Independent Mail Delivery Firms in the Nineteenth Century United States," Social Science History Association (SSHA), Chicago, November 1998, and University of California at Santa Barbara, March 1999

- “Expanding the Realm of Communication: The Postal System, Public Opinion, and the Creation of a Disembodied Public Sphere, 1792-1835,” Social Science History Association (SSHA), Chicago, November 1998
- “The Challenge of Private Enterprise: Communications Policy in the United States, 1837-1851,” Conference on State and Society in Antebellum America, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the University of Chicago, May 1998
- “Voice of the People? Postal Petitioning in the 1790s,” Capitol Historical Society, Washington, D. C., April 1998; broadcast live on C-SPAN
- “The Rationale for Government Telegraphy in the United States,” Business History Conference (BHC), Glasgow, Scotland, July 1997

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PAPERS (continued)

- “The Electric Telegraph and the Origins of the Modern Communications Infrastructure in the United States,” Institute of the Humanities, University of Illinois at Chicago, March 1996
- “State and Society in the Early American Republic,” Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, D. C., December 1995
- conference convened by the Center to discuss this paper
 - participants included Gordon Wood, Daniel Walker Howe, and Hendrik Hartog
 - paper also delivered at the Workshop in Comparative Legal History, University of Chicago, October 1995; Seminar in Social History, Newberry Library, Chicago, December 1995
- “The Lost World of Bartleby the Scrivener,” American Studies Association (ASA), Pittsburgh, November 1995; Newberry Library, Chicago, December 1995
- “The Communications Revolution and the Democratization of American Public Life, 1792-1835,” Conference on Communications and Democracy, Case Western University, Cleveland, April 1995
- “American Business History after The Visible Hand,” Business History Conference (BHC), Fort Lauderdale, Florida, March 1995
- “The Reactionary Origins of Jacksonian Democracy,” American Historical Association (AHA), Chicago, January 1995
- “James W. Hale, the Non-Governmental Mail Delivery Business, and the Meaning of Private Enterprise in Victorian America,” Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), Lowell, Massachusetts, October 1994
- “The Postal System and the Creation of a National Market in the United States, 1792-1837,” International Economic History Conference, Milan, Italy, September 1994
- “The Postal System, the ‘Public Sphere,’ and the Social Construction of Time and Space in the Early Republic,” Organization of American Historians (OAH), Atlanta, April 1994
- “John McLean and the Making of the Post-Constitutional Communications Infrastructure,” Business History Conference (BHC), Williamsburg, Virginia, March 1994; University of Illinois at Chicago Sociology Department Organizational Behavior Seminar, April 1994
- “Beyond the State of Courts and Parties: Patronage and Bureaucracy in Nineteenth-Century American Political Development,” American Political Science Association (APSA), Chicago, September 1992
- “Rhetoric and Reality in the Information Age,” Conference on Global Perspectives on Business Information, University of Reading, England, April 1992

“Was the Suppression of the Abolitionist Tracts Illegal? The Charleston Post Office Break-In, the Communications Revolution, and the Freedom of the Press,” Southern Historical Association (SHA), Fort Worth, Texas, November 1991

“A Shopkeeper’s Millennium? A State-Centered Perspective on Antebellum Moral Reform,” Conference on American Studies Connecting with Religion, UCLA, Los Angeles, May 1991

“The Postal System and the Creation of American Society,” American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts, June 1989; Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, October 1989; Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies (PCEAS), University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, May 1990; Organization of American Historians (OAH), March 1991

“Did Big Business Precede Big Government in the United States?” Business History Seminar [at invitation of Alfred D. Chandler, Jr.], Harvard Business School, Boston, March 1989

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PAPERS (continued)

“The Lost World of Bartleby the Scrivener: Toward a Cultural History of Officeholding in the Early Republic,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Sturbridge, Massachusetts, July 1988

“The Campaign for Cheap Postage: A Neglected Antebellum Reform Movement,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Philadelphia, July 1987

“Enterprise Denied: Henry Leavitt Goodwin, the Penny Post Company of California, and the San Francisco Post Office, 1855-1859,” Economic and Business History Society (EBHS), San Francisco, March 1987

“The Government and the Telegraph in the United States,” Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), Pittsburgh, October 1986; Economic History Workshop, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, October 1987

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CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Chair, “What Happened to the Organizational Synthesis in American History?” Business History Conference (BHC), London, March 2026.

Chair, roundtable on anti-trust and anti-monopoly, “New (and Old) Directions in Historical Political Economy,” Institute of Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP), Columbia University, May 2024.

Commentator, “The Collapse of Free Expression? A Roundtable” [on Jordi Pujol’s [The Collapse of Free Expression](#)], Columbia University, March 2023.

Commentator, “Walter Lippmann’s [Public Opinion at 100](#),” Columbia Journalism School, New York, New York, October 2022.

Participant, roundtable on “Anti-Monopoly Past and Present,” Policy History Conference, Tempe, Arizona, June 2022. Presenters included journalists Barry Lynn and Matt Stoller

Commentator, roundtable panel on Ariane Liazos, [Reforming the City: The Contested Origins of Urban Government, 1890–1930](#), Policy History Conference, Tempe, Arizona, June 2022.

Participant, roundtable on “The New Brandeisians and Anti-Trust,” American Historical Association (AHA), virtual, February 2022

Participant, panel on “Tech History and Tech Policy,” Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), virtual, September 2021

Chair, panel on “Competition, Cartels, and Monopolies,” Business History Conference (BHC), virtual, March 2021

Commentator, roundtable on Thomas Piketty’s Capital and Ideology, Business History Conference (BHC), Charlotte, North Carolina, March 2020

Commentator, lunchtime panel on the future of business history, American Historical Association (AHA), New York, New York, January 2020

Commentator, roundtable on Laura Phillips Sawyer, American Fair Trade: Proprietary Capitalism, Corporatism, and the 'New Competition, 1890–1940, American Society for Legal History (ASLH), Boston, Massachusetts, November 2019

Commentator, “Networks; the Creation and Circulation of Knowledge from Franklin to Facebook,” American Philosophical Society (APS), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 2019

Discussant, panel on Will Slauter’s Who Owns the News: A History of Copyright, at the Heyman Center, Columbia University, New York City, March 2019

Participant, Tobin Project conference on “The Antimonopoly Tradition and American Democracy,” University of Michigan Law School, June 2018; Cambridge, Massachusetts, October 2019

Commentator (and session organizer), “Communications and Globalization since 1850: Nations, Empires, Firms,” World Economic History Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, August 2018
*15 scholars from 8 countries

Participant, workshop on “New Perspectives on U. S. Regulatory History: Past and Present of Public Utilities and Antitrust Law,” Harvard Business School, June 2018

Participant, invitational workshop on the history of antimonopoly, University of Glasgow, May 2018

Participant, roundtable on “New Perspectives on the History of Regulation,” Organization of American Historians (OAH), Sacramento, California, April 2018

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CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION (continued)

Plenary presentation, workshop on “The New Infrastructure: The Law and Policy of Platforms, Utilities, and Public Opinion,” Vanderbilt Law School, Nashville, Tennessee, February 2018

Commentator, panel on “Knowledge Production and Economic Life in the Long Gilded Age,” American Historical Association (AHA), Washington, D. C., January 2018

Participant, workshop on the history of multinational business, Swiss Re, Zurich, Switzerland, December 2017

Participant, workshop on the history of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg, October 2017

Commentator, roundtable discussion of the history of capitalism, Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 2017

Commentator (in absentia), panel on “The Post Office Department and the Shaping of American Life,” Organization of American Historians (OAH), New Orleans, Louisiana, April 2017

Participant, plenary session on Making News at the Joint Journalism and Communication History Conference, New York University, New York, New York, March 2017

Participant, plenary session on “Keywords in American Economic and Business History,” Business History Conference (BHC), Denver, Colorado, March 2017

Chair, panel on commodity cartels, Business History Conference (BHC), Denver, Colorado, March 2017

Commentator, Workshop for the History of Environment, Agriculture, Technology, and Science Workshop (WHEATS), Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, September 2016

Commentator, conference on "Taking Stock of the State in Nineteenth-Century America," Yale University, April 2016

Commentator, International Telecommunications Union (ITU)-sponsored conference on the one-hundred and-twenty-fifth anniversary of ITU, Geneva, Switzerland, December 2015

Commentator, roundtable on "What Role Should Technology Play in the History of Capitalism?" Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 2015

Commentator, "state of the field" plenary session, history of communications preconference, International Communications Association (ICA), San Juan, Puerto, Rico, May 2015

Commentator, prize-winning history essays panel, International Communication Association (ICA), Seattle, Washington, May 2014

Commentator, "The Promise and Critique of Capitalism" [for an essay by Jurgen Kocka], Blinken Institute, Columbia University, March 2014

Commentator, panel on "Policy and the Structure of Markets," Business History Conference (BHC), Frankfurt, Germany, March 2014

Commentator, panel on "Public Interest, Private Profit: Business, Government, and the Civic Good," American Historical Association (AHA), Washington, D. C., January 2014

Chair, roundtable panel on "Is the History of Capitalism the New Business History?" American Historical Association (AHA), Washington, D. C., January 2014

Participant, roundtable panel on "Capitalism and Neoliberalism," Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), Portland, Maine, October 2013

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CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION (continued)

Invited faculty expert, Seminar on Telecommunications sponsored by France Telecom, Brittany, France, September 2013

Chair, panel on "The Business of Media History," International Communication Association (ICA), London, England, June 2013

Chair, panel on "'In View of all of the Citizens': The Public Broadcasting Act, 1962-1967," International Communications Association (ICA), London, England, June 2013

Participant, Postal Vision 2020, Washington, D. C., April 2013

- Ten-minute overview of the civic mandate of the United States Postal Service (USPS) at the request of David Williams, inspector general of the USPS

Participant, roundtable panel on Reimagining Business History, by Philip Scranton and Patrick Fridenson, Business History Conference (BHC), Columbus, Ohio, March 2013

Organizer, public forum on "Should Business Schools Have a Future," Heyman Center, Columbia University, March 2013

Participant, roundtable panel on "Spreading the Word: Books, Technology, and Communication," Maison Française, Columbia English Department, Columbia University Libraries, Columbia

University, November 2012

Commentator, panel on "Why the Knickerbockers Stayed and the Yankees Left: Applying the Insights of the New Suburban History to Nineteenth Century Brooklyn Heights," Urban History Association (UHA), New York, New York, October 2012

Commentator, panel on "Information Networks in the Era of the Early Republic: Global and Local Case Studies," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Baltimore, July 2012

Commentator, panel on "The Civil War and Developmental Politics," Policy History Conference (PHC), Richmond, Virginia, June 2012

Participant, roundtable panel on "Technics and Art: Architecture, Cities, and History after Mumford," Buell Conference on the History of Architecture, Columbia University, April 2012

Chair, panel on "Unnatural Abundance," Third History of Capitalism Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, March 2011

Participant, roundtable panel on "Aggregators, Agitators and Actors: Does the Law Have to Be Amended to Save Journalism?" Media and the Law Seminar, Kansas City, Missouri, April 2010

Commentator, panel on "The Political Economy of Communications in Europe and the United States from 1700 to the Present," Business History Conference (BHC), Athens, Georgia, March 2010

Chair, plenary session on "The State of African American and Ethnic Business History," Business History Conference (BHC), Athens, Georgia, March 2010

Commentator, panel on "The Law of Administration in the Early American Republic," American Society for Legal History (ASLH), Dallas, Texas, November 2009

Commentator, panel on "Representations: Identities and the Political Economy of Capitalism in the United States," Second History of Capitalism Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, November 2008

Chair, panel on "Business Failures," Business History Conference (BHC), Sacramento, California, April 2008

Commentator, roundtable panel on "The Political History of North America," American Historical Association (AHA), Washington, D. C., January 2008

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CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION (continued)

Commentator, panel on political economy, conference on "The Panic of 1837: Getting By and Going Under in a Decade of Crisis," Library Company, Philadelphia, October 2007

Commentator, panel on "Beyond Individualism: Capital, Community, and Entrepreneurship," First History of Capitalism Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, October 2006

Commentator, paper on "Mutual Labor Relations in the British and American Railroad Industries," Labor History Seminar, Newberry Library, Chicago, March 2006

Participant, roundtable discussion of "System, Infrastructure, Network: Metaphor as Method in the History of Technology," Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), Minneapolis, November 2005 • Participants included Arne Kaijser (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm) and Thomas P. Hughes (University of Pennsylvania, emeritus)

Commentator, panel on "Indian Removal in the Early Republic," Mid-America History Conference, Lawrence, Kansas, September 2005

Chair, roundtable discussion of Zorina Khan, The Democratization of Invention: Patents and Copyrights in American Economic Development, conference on "Owning Knowledge: The History of Modern U. S. Intellectual Property Law," University of Wisconsin at Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, November 2004

Commentator, panel on "Government: Form and Function in the New Republic, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Providence, Rhode Island, July 2004

Chair, two sessions on "Political Economy in Victorian America," Policy History Conference (PHC), St. Louis, May 2004

Chair, roundtable discussion of John Larson's Internal Improvement, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Columbus, Ohio, July 2002

Commentator, panel on "Disorderly Spaces in Antebellum Urban America," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Berkeley, California, July 2002

Commentator, paper by Robin Einhorn on slavery and taxation in American history, Policy History Conference (PHC), Clayton, Missouri, May 2002

Commentator, roundtable discussion of Daniel Carpenter's Forging of Bureaucratic Autonomy, Policy History Conference (PHC), Clayton, Missouri, May 2002

Invited participant, graduate student conference, Miller Center, University of Virginia, May 2002

Participant, Conference on New Developments in American Political History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), September 2000

Commentator, panel on "Comparative Business History," Business History Conference (BHC), Palo Alto, California, March 2000

Participant, roundtable discussion of new developments in business history, Organization of American Historians (OAH), St. Louis, March 2000

Invited participant, Conference on Michael Schudson's The Good Citizen, Central Tennessee University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, November 1999

Commentator, panel on "The State Gets Down to Business: The Political Economies of Transportation in the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States, 1945-1980," Policy History Conference (PHC), Clayton, Missouri, May 1999

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CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION (continued)

Commentator, panel on "The Power of the Purse: Women's Business in the Postwar Era," Organization of American Historians (OAH), Toronto, Canada, April 1999

Panelist, roundtable discussion on "The Newest Political History," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, July 1998

Commentator, panel on "State Formation and Social Science," Organization of American Historians (OAH), Indianapolis, April 1998; the presenters were the political scientists Richard Franklin Bensel and David Plotke

Commentator, panel on "The Business of State Government," Business History Conference (BHC), College Park, Maryland, March 1998

Chair, panel on "Civil Society and Economic Development in the Early Republic," American Historical Association (AHA), Seattle, Washington, January 1998

Attendee, seminar on “The Origins of the Information Age,” Harvard Business School, Boston, Massachusetts, September 1997; the conference was convened by James Cortada, IBM, and Alfred D. Chandler, Jr., Harvard Business School

Commentator, conference on “The Future of Business History,” Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Delaware, April 1997

Commentator, “Conversation: The Public Sphere in the American Republic, from the Colonial to the Progressive Period,” Organization of American Historians (OAH), San Francisco, California, April 1997

Participant, seminar on “State Constitutionalism,” Liberty Fund, San Antonio, Texas, November 19

Discussant, conference on “Stability and Change in Vital American Institutions,” American Academy of Arts and Science, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, October 1996

- Featuring a paper on infrastructural innovation by Nobel-prize-winning physicist Kenneth G. Wilson

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PUBLIC LECTURES

“Anti-Monopoly and the Constitution: The Apostasy of George Mason,” George Mason University, Washington D. C., September 2025

- Sponsored by the Society of the Cincinnati

“Free Expression from Ben Franklin to Facebook,” Center for Life Enrichment, Highlands, North Carolina, August 2025

“Exclusive! How Journalists Skewered Big Business in U. S. History – and Why It Mattered,” Center for Life Enrichment, Highlands, North Carolina, August 2025

“Getting Right with Thorstein Veblen,” Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, April 2023

“Tocqueville’s Democracy in America: Before, During, and After the American Century,” Morningside Institute, New York, New York, February 2023

“Adam Smith as a Post-Colonial Theorist: Commerce, Politics, and Warfare,” Morningside Institute, New York, New York, October 2022

“Wresting with Relativism: Pluralism and Liberalism in the Essays of Isaiah Berlin,” Morningside Institute, New York, New York, October 2021

“John Dewey, Hu Shih, and the Promise of Contemporary Civilization,” Intellectual Forum on Humanities and Social Sciences, Xiamen University, Xiamen, China [virtual], April 2021

“Henry George, the Monopoly Problem, and the Tech Platforms,” Council of Georgist Organizations [virtual], February 2021

“The 2020 Presidential Election—a Historian Weighs In,” University of Sao Paulo [virtual], Sao Paulo, Brazil, November 2020

“Locke, Natural Rights, and the Vexed Question of Land,” Morningside Institute [virtual], New York, New York, November 2020

“The U. S. Postal Service: Can It Deliver?” Minnesota League of Women Voters [virtual], Dakota County, Minnesota, October 2020

“The Post Office: Past, Present, Future?” Oregon Historical Society [virtual], Portland, Oregon, September 2020

“Historical Reflections on Public Options, Public Utilities, Public Spheres,” Knight Foundation Conference on “Tech Giants, Monopoly Power, and Public Discourse,” New York, New York, November 2019

“Is Civilization a Good Idea?” Morningside Institute, New York, New York, October 2019

“Free Expression,” Symposium on “Technology, New Media and Virtue,” King’s College, New York, New York, September 2019

“Antimonopoly in the Past and Present,” Bob Graham Center, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, January 2019

“Antimonopoly as Countersubversion,” Kinder Institute, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, August 2018

“Antimonopoly and the News – A Short History,” Open Markets Forum on “Breaking the News: Free Speech and Democracy in the Age of Platform Monopoly,” Washington, D. C., June 2018
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PUBLIC LECTURES (continued)

“Rediscovering the Value of Freedom of Expression: Lessons from History,” Plenary address at the 11th Professional Seminar for the Catholic Church’s Communications Offices, Pontifical University of Santa Croce, Rome [the Vatican], Italy, April 2018

“Global Communications Networks from the Optical Telegraph to Digital Media: The United States and the World,” Thomas S. Berry Lecture, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia, March 2018

“Populism and New Media in Presidential Politics,” Contemporary History Institute, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, March 2018

“Free Expression in the Digital Age,” Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong, China, March 2018

“Le Signal Corps et l’engagement américain en France” [with Léonard Laborie], Sorbonne University, Paris, France, November 2017

“Social Media and Contemporary Civilization from Aristotle to Zuckerberg,” parent’s weekend lecture, Columbia University, October 2017, and reunion weekend, June 2018

“Communications Networks—Past and Present,” plenary address at the annual meeting of the Chinese Association for the History of Journalism and Communications, Zhengzhou, China, August 2017

“Antimonopoly, Antitrust, and Proprietary Capitalism: Thinking about Economic Concentration in Late Nineteenth Century America,” conference on “Is There a Concentration Problem in America?” University of Chicago Booth Business School, Chicago, Illinois, March 2017

“Monopoly and Antimonopoly in American Telecommunications from Chappe to Comcast,” Information Society Project, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, September 2016

“The Zenger Trial and the Freedom of the Press,” Saint Paul’s Church National Historic Site, Eastchester, New York, November 2015

“Telegraphs for the 1 Percent, Telephones for the People: How America Became a Network Nation,” Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Delaware, April 2014

“Network Nation: Inventing American Telecommunications,” Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 2010; St. Catherine’s College, Oxford University,

May 2010; London School of Economics, May 2010; New America Foundation, December 2010; Clare College, Cambridge University, June 2011; Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, May 2012; Xiamen University, Xiamen, China, May 2012; McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada, March 2013

"From Franklin to Facebook," Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, December 2012

"Development as a Parameter of Global History," ENGLOBE Summer School, Universite de Versailles Saint Quentin-en Yvelines and the Deutches Historiches Institut Paris, Versailles, Paris, June 2012

"Network Effects?" conference on network archaeology, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, April 2012

"Communications, Modernization, and the 'New Diplomacy' in Cold War America," Columbia-West Point conference on Government, Military, and Culture in the Shaping of the New American Diplomacy, Columbia University, April 2012

"Mumford and the History of Technology," conference on "Mumford after Mumford," Columbia University Architecture School, April 2012

"The Future of the Post Office," Communications Forum, MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts, March 2012

"The Commercial Origins of Antimonopoly: An American Obsession," Butler Library, Columbia University, April 2011

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PUBLIC LECTURES (continued)

"The Communications Revolution in the Age of James Monroe," Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, Virginia, December 2010

"The Political Economy of Postal Reform in the Victorian Age," **keynote address** at the fourth Blount Seminar, American Philatelic Society and National Postal Museum, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, October 2009

"The 'Greatest Business in the World': The Post Office Department in the Progressive Era," Landmark Center, St. Paul, Minnesota, March 2009

"Alexander Hamilton and the Creation of the Fiscal-Military State," Gail Borden Library, Elgin, Illinois, January 2009

"Network Nation: How Politics Shaped American Telecommunications from the War of 1812 to Bell Labs," Second Annual Dale E. Benson Lecture, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington, March 2007

"What is Postal History? Academic Perspectives," **keynote address** at the first Blount Seminar, National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., November 2006

"Networks: Rethinking the Advent of American Telecommunications," Institute of Communications Research, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, October 2005

"Agent of Change: The Postal System and the Making of Modern America," National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., May 2005

"Unnatural Monopoly: The Political Economy of Telegraphy in Civil War America," Program on Science, Technology, and Society, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, Massachusetts, November 2004; History Department, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, March 2006

"The Imperial Presidency and the War-Making Power," Institute for Law and the Humanities, Kent School of Law, Chicago, October 2004. Shared the platform with Garry Wills

"Nickel-in-the-Slot: The 'Consumption Junction' in Urban Telephony," Digital Media Center, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, March 2004

“Rich Man’s Mail: Western Union’s Gilded Age,” University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, September 2003; Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, October 2003; American Bar Foundation (ABF), Chicago, October 2003

“The Victorian Internet? The Rise and Fall of Electric Telegraphy,” Filson Historical Society, Louisville, Kentucky, May 2002

“The Circulation of Information in the Early Republic,” conference on “Informing the Congress and the Nation,” Library of Congress, Washington, D. C., March 2000

- Conference celebrated the bicentennial of the Library of Congress

“Information Technology and American Political Culture in the Progressive Era,” Rundell Lecture at the University of Maryland, College Park, May 1999

“The Populist Impulse in American Christianity,” Lakeshore Unitarian Society, Winnetka, Illinois, February 1998

“Communications and Democracy in the American Past,” National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., May 1997; repeated at the Chicago Collector’s Club, August 1997

“Church and State in a Multicultural Age,” Lakeshore Unitarian Society, Winnetka, Illinois, March 1997
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SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

Interviewee, “IA,” “The Plight of the Postal Service in 2026,” National Public Radio (NPR), March

2026 Interviewee, “Planet Money,” National Public Radio (NPR) [on postal finance], July 2023

Interviewee, “Marketplace,” National Public Radio (NPR) [on the history of anti-monopoly thought], January 2022

Interviewee, “The Titans that Built America,” History Channel, 2021

Interviewee, “Connections with Evan Dawson,” Rochester, New York, NPR affiliate [on the post office and the election], August 2020

Interviewee, MSNBC, “Up,” with David Gura [on the post office and the election], August 2020

Interviewee, “The Kicker,” [Columbia Journalism Review](#) [on the post office and the election], August

2020 Interviewee, KPCC, Los Angeles NPR affiliate [on the post office and the election], August 2020

Interviewee, “The Confluence,” Pittsburgh NPR affiliate [on the post office and the election] August

2002 Interviewee, “In Lieu of Fun’ with Kate Klonick [on the post office and the election], August 2020

Interviewee, “Flashpoints,” KPFA [on mail-in voting], August 2020

Interviewee, “The United States: An Exceptional Case?” podcast, University of Chicago Business School [on antimonopoly], May 2020

Interviewee, German public radio, with Katja Ridderbusch [on the history of CNN], May 2020

Interviewee, “The Jefferson Exchange,” Jefferson Public Radio, NPR, Southern Oregon [on the post office and the election], May 2020

Interviewee, KDKA, Pittsburgh [on the post office and the election], May 2020

Interviewee, “All Sides with Amy Fisher,” WOSU, Columbus, Ohio [on the post office and the election],

May 2020

Interviewee, "Talk Nation Radio" with David Swanson [on the post office and the election], May 2020

Interviewee, "A Public Affair" with Patty Peltekos, WORT [on the post office and the election], May 2020

Interviewee, "Background Briefing" with Ian Masters, Pacifica Radio [on the post office and the election], May 2020, October 2020

Interviewee, "The Fiscal Future of the U.S. Postal Service," "Politics and Polls" podcast, with Julian Zelizer and Sam Wang, May 2020
<https://spia.princeton.edu/news/politics-polls-188-fiscal-future-us-postal-system-featuring-historian-richard-john>

Interviewee, "The Post Office and American Democracy," "This is Democracy" podcast, with Jeremi Suri, May 2020
https://podcasts.la.utexas.edu/this-is-democracy/podcast/episode-100-the-post-office-and-american-democracy/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=episode-100-the-post-office-and-american-democracy

Interviewee, "Death Cab for the Postal Service" on "Today Explained," *Vox*, April 2020
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/3l2sgEXCXV1MI7cU2aTqy>

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SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES (continued)

Interviewee, "Business Insider" [on the history of AT&T], March 2018,
<https://www.businessinsider.com/att-breakup-1982-directv-bell-system-2018-02/>

Interviewee, "The Gilded Age," PBS American Experience TV documentary, February 2018, <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/gilded-age/>

Interviewee, "America, Laboratory of Democracy: Drowning Government in a Bathtub," BBC World Service, October 2017, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3cswbm1/>

Conference Call on Historical Perspectives on Antitrust and Big Business, *Capital Forum*, 5, no. 138 (May 2017)

Interview with Asher Schechter, "When Did Americans Stop Being Antimonopoly?" *Pro-Market*, November 2016, <https://promarket.org/americans-stop-antimonopoly-q-richard-r-john/>

Interviewee, "Mysteries at the Monument" (episode 306), Optomen, Travel Channel, January 2016

Interviewee, Marty Moss-Coane, "Radio Times," WHYY [on the history and future of the U.S. Postal Service], February 2013

Interviewee, Ali Budner, "Your Call," KALW [on the future of the U.S. Postal Service], February 2013

Interviewee, Leonard Lopate, "Please Explain," NPR [on the workings of the U.S. Postal Service], January 2013

Interviewee, "Word of Mouth," New Hampshire Public Radio [on Mitt Romney's 47 percent gaffe], September 2012

Interviewee, "Big Media: Pro and Con," debate on communications history with Timothy Wu, Columbia Journalism School, November 2010. Recorded C-SPAN <https://www.c-span.org/video/?297409-1/big-media>

Discussant, roundtable discussion of Pauline Maier, et al., Inventing America (a U. S. history textbook), "Extension 720," radio program hosted by Milt Rosenberg, WGN, November 2002

Participant, roundtable discussion on slavery and the U. S. constitution, "Odyssey" radio program hosted by Gretchen Helfrich (with Jan Lewis and Illinois State Senator Barak Obama), WBEZ, Chicago National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate, September 2001

Interviewee, exhibit on "The Once and Future Web: World Woven by the Telegraph and Internet," National Institute of Health, March 2001

Participant, roundtable discussion on the history of the information age, "Odyssey" radio program hosted by Gretchen Helfrich, WBEZ, Chicago National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate, August 2000

Participant, roundtable discussion on Winston Churchill's Great Republic, "Extension 720," radio program hosted by Milt Rosenberg, WGN, October 1999

Interviewee, with Dan Charles, National Public Radio, "Morning Edition," broadcast 3 August 1999. Discussed the prehistory of the internet

Participant, roundtable discussion on the Fourth of July, "Odyssey" radio program hosted by Gretchen Helfrich, WBEZ, Chicago National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate, July 1998

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TEACHING

2009-present Professor of History and Communications, Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University; core faculty member, Columbia University history department

courses taught at Columbia: "Communications Proseminar"; "Contemporary Civilization" (both semesters); "Networks"; "Communications, Knowledge, and Power from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment"; "Communications, Knowledge, and Power from the Enlightenment to the Cold War"; "Communications, Knowledge, and Power since the Enlightenment: The United States and the World"; "History of Journalism"; "Communications, Capitalism, and the State: Economic Journalism since 1600"; "History of American Capitalism"; "Communications and Empire"; "Inequality and Democracy"

2004-2009 Professor of History and Adjunct Professor of Communication, University of Illinois at Chicago

1996-2004 Associate Professor of History, University of Illinois at Chicago

1992-1996 Assistant Professor of History, University of Illinois at Chicago

1991-1992 Visiting Assistant Professor of History, University of Illinois at Chicago

courses taught at UIC: "The Early American Republic"; "The Gilded Age and the Progressive Era"; "U. S. Business History"; "The Communications Revolution in Great Britain and the United States"; "Technology and Culture in U. S. History"; "Technology and Culture in the Making of the Modern World [1500-present]" (for the honors college); "Media and Modernity from Morse to McLuhan" (cross-listed with the communications department); "History of American Civilization [U. S. Survey], 1607-1890"; "Historiography of Colonial America and the United States, 1607-1877" (graduate level); "Historiography of the United States, 1877-present" (graduate level); "Business, Technology, and the State" (graduate level); "Graduate Research Seminar"

1989-1991 Visiting Assistant Professor and Postdoctoral Fellow, Commonwealth Center for the Study of American History and Culture, College of William and Mary

courses taught at William and Mary: “Culture, Capitalism, and the State”; “The Transformation of Anglo-American Culture, 1760-1850”

1988-1989 Instructor in History and Literature, Harvard University

1985-1988 Teaching Fellow in History, History and Literature, and Social Studies, Harvard University

VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS

2014 School of Journalism and Communication, Renmin University, Beijing, China 2012,

2013 School of Journalism and Communication, Xiamen University, Xiamen, China 2012

School of Journalism and Communication, Minzu University, Beijing, China 2001, 2011 École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris

EDITING

1983-1987 Managing and Consulting Editor, Business History Review

- Supervised production, edited copy, refereed manuscripts, selected book reviewers (125 per year), commissioned review essays, redesigned journal layout, wrote style manual

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PUBLIC HISTORY

2023 Consultant and endorser, amici curiae brief in Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, et al., v. Communications Financial Services Association of America, Limited, et al.

2005 Consultant, Public Broadcasting Corporation, for abortive television documentary on the post office inspection service

2004 Consultant, Landmark Center, St. Paul, Minnesota

- * Provided research assistance for exhibit, “Uncle Sam Worked Here”

2003-2012 Advisory council, National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution

- Helped to redesign the museum’s galleries

1998 Consultant and Interviewee, Actuality Productions, for “Modern Marvels” TV special on mail delivery for the History Channel. Broadcast December 1998.

1996-2020 Consultant for Berlitz and Cartus (formerly Cendant Mobility)

1981-1986 Resident Fellow, Cambridge Historical Society

- Supervised the maintenance of the Society’s Hooper-Lee-Nichols House (built c. 1685), and helped coordinate a major structural renovation

1979-1983 Director, Lexington, Massachusetts, Historical Society

- Oversaw budgeting and programming, designed advertising brochure

1974-1978 Head Guide, Lexington, Massachusetts, Common Guide Service

- Supervised student-run guide service during the Bicentennial of the American Revolution that interpreted the first day of the War of Independence (the “Battle of Lexington”)

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SERVICE

2025-2026 Core Curriculum AI Committee, Columbia University

2025-2026 Anti-Trust Working Group, Center for Political Economy, Columbia University

2024-2025 Chair, Bancroft Prize Committee, Columbia University Library

2020-2024 Member and chair, Eugenia M. Palmegiano Prize, American Historical Association 2019

Discussion leader, seven-week on-line virtual class on Tocqueville’s Democracy in America,

Columbia Alumni Association

2019 Member, Accreditation Committee, School of Media and Public Affairs, George

Washington University
 2017-2018 Chair, Bancroft Prize Committee, Columbia University Library
 2017-2021 Editorial board, Journal of the Early Republic
 2017-present Advisory board, Chinese Association for the History of Journalism and Communication
 2016-2019 Advisory committee, Columbia University Press
 2016-2017 Member, recruitment committee for the Gardiner-Jackson Chair in U. S. History,
 Columbia University
 2017-2018 Chair, Richard W. Leopold Prize Committee, Organization of American Historians (OAH)
 2014-2017 Member, Columbia University Library Committee
 2013-2017 Advisory committee, Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Delaware
 2012-2016 Editorial board, American Journalism
 2011-present Advisory board, Information and Culture
 2010-2011 President, Business History Conference (BHC)
 2011-2015 Editorial board, Journal of the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era
 2006-2008 President's advisory committee, Business History Conference (BHC)
 2006-present Prize committee, National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution
 2006-2010 Advisory board, Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History, 7 vols. (Washington, D.C.: CQ
 Press, 2010).
 2005-2010 Advisory board, Papers of Andrew Jackson, 6 vols. to date (Knoxville:
 University of Tennessee Press, 1980-)
 2005-2006 Graduate advisory committee, UIC
 2005-2008 Prize committee, Business History Conference (BHC)
 2003-present Editorial board, Journal of Policy History
 2003-2006 Chair, Ellis Hawley Prize Committee, Journal of Policy History
 2003-2004 Chair, program committee, Business History Conference (BHC) annual meeting in Le
 Creusot, France, June 2004.
 • Conference theme: "Networks"
 • Featured over 200 presenters from four continents
 • Most ambitious conference in the thirty-year history of the BHC
 2002-2004 Advisory council, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) (elected) •
 Member, Transition Committee for the Journal of the Early Republic (2002-2003)
 • Member, Mission Committee for SHEAR
 2001-2008 Work, Race, and Gender in the Urban World (WRGUW) steering committee, UIC
 2001-2003 Nominating committee, Business History Conference (BHC) (elected) 2001-2002
 Chair, Newberry Library seminar committee, UIC
 2000-2001 Steering committee, Newberry Library Undergraduate Seminar
 1999-present Editorial board, Business History Review
 1999-2002 Advisory board, Conference on Illinois History
 1999-2002 Executive committee, Office of Social Science Research, UIC
 1999-2002 Undergraduate curriculum revision committee, UIC
 1999-2000 Selection committee, Newcomen Predoctoral Fellowship in Business and American
 Culture, Newcomen Society of the United States

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SERVICE (continued)

1998-2007 Founder and coordinator, Newberry Library Seminar on Technology, Politics, and Culture • Established
 an inter-institutional venture funded by Chicago-area universities and supported by faculty
 members at UIC, Northwestern University, the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), and Roosevelt
 University
 • Seminar averaged seven sessions per year, with an average attendance of 10
 • Features participants from universities throughout the United States (including Harvard, Yale,
 Princeton, Columbia, Stanford, and MIT)
 • Participants covered their own travel expenses
 1997-present Editorial board, Enterprise and Society
 1997-2002 Graduate advisory committee, UIC
 1997-2000 Trustee, Business History Conference (BHC) (elected)
 • Co-chair, by-laws subcommittee, 1999
 • Drafted by-laws currently in use
 1997-1998 Committee on salary and grievances, UIC

1996-2000 Editorial board, H-SHEAR
1996-1999 Editorial board, H-BUSINESS
• Member, ad-hoc committee on editorial policy, 1998-1999
1996-1997 U. S. colonial search committee, UIC
1996-1997 Director of Graduate Study, University of Illinois at Chicago
• Worked closely with graduate students to improve their professional visibility; reorganized admissions procedures; prepared new handbook
1995-1996 History of science search committee, UIC
1995-1996 Chair, program committee, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) • conference featured 142 scholars in 36 panels; over 200 attendees
1994-1997 Faculty sponsor, Tocqueville Society (graduate student reading group)
1994-1995 Program committee, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR)

REFEREEING

Article referee for American Historical Review, American Quarterly, Annals of Iowa, Business History, Business History Review, Congress and the Presidency, Enterprise and Society, Historical Methods, Information and Culture, Isis, Journal of American History, Journal of the Early Republic, Journal of Global History, Journal of Policy History, Journal of Southern History, Journalism, Law and History Review, Ohio Valley History, Pacific Northwest Quarterly, Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, Perspectives in Biology and Medicine, Social Science History, Southern Cultures, Studies in American Political Development, Technology and Culture, Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, William and Mary Quarterly, and Yale Law Review.

Manuscript and project reviewer for Addison, Wesley, Longman; Cambridge University Press; Cornell University Press; Greenwood Press; Harvard Business School Press; Harvard University Press; Johns Hopkins University Press; Louisiana State University Press; MIT Press; National Archives; National Endowment for the Humanities; New York University Press; Northern Illinois University Press; Norton; Oxford University Press; Princeton University Press; Smithsonian Institution; University of Chicago Press; University of Illinois Press; University of North Carolina Press; University of Pennsylvania Press; University of South Carolina Press; University of Virginia Press; University Press of Kansas; Yale University Press.

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Ph. D. STUDENTS: GRADUATED

(48) Evan DePrete Brown, Columbia University, Ph. D. 2026 (history). Dissertation

committee. (47) Whitney McIntosh, Columbia University, Ph. D. 2025 (history). Dissertation

committee. (46) Tessa Bangs, Columbia University, Ph. D. 2025 (communications).

Dissertation adviser. (45) Ella Coon, Columbia University, Ph. D. 2025 (history).

Dissertation committee.

(44) Susannah Glickman, Columbia University. Ph. D. 2024 (history). Dissertation committee. "Histories, Tech, and a New Central Planning." Current position: associate professor of history (tenure track), University of New York at Stony Brook.

(43) Sally Chengji Xing, Columbia University, Ph. D. 2023 (history). Dissertation committee. "Pacific Crossings: The China Foundation and a Negotiated Translation of American Science to China, 1913-1949." Current position: associate professor of history (tenured), Nankai University, Tianjin, China

(42) Angela Woodall, Columbia University, Ph. D. 2023 (communications). Dissertation committee. "Regulating Data in the European Union and United States: Privacy, Access, Portability, and APIs." Current position: Professor, CELSA-Sorbonne University, Paris, France

(41) Bernat Ivancsics, Columbia University, Ph. D., 2023 (communications). Dissertation committee. "When Machines Read the News: Data and Journalism in the United States, 1920-2020." Current position:

Assistant Professor of Communication (tenure track), Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

(40) Danielle Lee Tomson, Columbia University, Ph. D. 2023 (communications). **Dissertation adviser.** "Trolls and True Believers: Conservative Media Influencers in the Trump Years." Current position: Self-employed consultant

(39) Rebecca Lossin, Columbia University, Ph. D. 2020 (communications). **Dissertation adviser.** "The Point of Destruction: Sabotage, Speech, and Progressive-Era Politics." Current position: postdoctoral fellow, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University

* dissertation nominated for the Bancroft Prize (the first Columbia communications Ph. D. dissertation to receive this honor); nominated for the Allan Nevins Prize (the first Columbia communications Ph. D. dissertation to receive this honor)

(38) Rosalind Donald, Columbia University, Ph. D. 2020 (communications). **Dissertation adviser.** "Greenlining: Segregation and Environmental Policies in Miami from the New Deal to the Climate Crisis." Current position: Assistant Professor of Communications (tenure track), American University, Washington, D. C.

(37) David Noell, Columbia University, Ph. D. 2020 (communications). **Dissertation adviser.** "Broadcasting Faith: Regulating Radio from the New Era to the American Century." Current position: Teacher, Christian Heritage Academy, Northfield, Illinois

(36) Micah McElroy, Columbia University, Ph. D. 2021 (history). Dissertation committee. "The Disruption of Philanthropy in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1945-2010." Current position: Associate Director of Research, Effective Philanthropy Learning Initiative, Stanford University

(35) Peter Roady, Columbia University, Ph. D. 2021 (history). Dissertation committee. "The National Security State that Wasn't: Liberals, Conservatives, and the Fight to Define the Government's Responsibilities in the 1930s and 1940s." Current position: Assistant Professor of History (tenure-track), University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah

(34) Kyle Edward Williams, Rutgers University, Ph. D. 2019 (history). Dissertation committee. "Between Public Good and Private Profit: A History of Corporate Social Responsibility in the Twentieth Century." Current position: Senior Editor, [Hedgehog Review](#)

John/Vitae p. 36

Ph. D. STUDENTS: GRADUATED (continued)

(33) Tom Glaisyer, Columbia University, Ph. D. 2019 (communications). **Dissertation adviser.** "The Digital Public Square: Understanding the Dynamics of Data, Platforms, and News." Current position: Managing Director at Democracy Fund, Washington, D. C.

(32) Diani Citra, Columbia University, Ph. D. 2019 (communications). **Dissertation adviser.** "How Digital Television is Colonizing Indonesia." Current position: Senior Program Manager, Journalism and Disinformation, PEN America

(31) Burcu Baykurt, Columbia University, Ph. D. 2019 (communications). Dissertation committee. "The City as Data Machine: Local Governance in the Age of Big Data." Current position: Assistant Professor of Communications (tenure track), University of Massachusetts at Amherst

(30) David Reinecke, Princeton University, Ph. D. 2018 (sociology). Dissertation committee. "Network Struggles: Re-Wiring U.S. Network Industries for Competition, 1970-2015." Current position: Associate Research Scholar, Princeton University

(29) A. J. Murphy, Columbia University, Ph. D. 2018 (history). Dissertation committee. "Corporatizing Defense: Management Expertise and the Transformation of the Cold War U.S. Military." Current position: Assistant Professor of History (tenure track), Brandeis

University

(28) Jing Zhang, Columbia University, Ph. D. 2018 (history and East Asian languages and cultures). Dissertation committee. "Small Words, Weighty Matters: Gossip, Knowledge and Libel in Early Republican China, 1916-1928." Current position: Postdoctoral Researcher, CNRS, Paris, France

(27) Michael Kideckel, Columbia University, Ph. D. 2018 (history). Dissertation committee. "Fresh from the Factory: Breakfast Cereal, Natural Food, and the Marketing of Reform, 1890-1920." Current position: History Teacher, Hewitt School, New York, New York

(26) Charles Halvorson, Columbia University Ph. D. 2017 (history). Dissertation committee. "Valuing the Air: The Politics of Environmental Regulation from the Clean Air Act to Carbon Trading." Current position: Consultant, Gemic, New York, New York

(25) Jeffrey Wayno, Columbia University Ph. D. 2016 (history). Dissertation committee. "Communications and the Limits of Papal Authority in the Medieval West, 1050-1250." Current position: Collection Services Librarian, Burke Library, Columbia University

(24) Kathryn Ann Montalbano, Columbia University Ph. D. 2016 (communications). **Dissertation adviser.** "Under the Eye of Providence: Surveilling Religious Expression in the United States." Current position: Assistant Professor of Media Law and Ethics (tenure-track), School of Journalism and Media University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky

(23) Emily E. Lundberg, Columbia University Ph. D. 2016 (communications). **Dissertation adviser.** "Power Switch: The Electric Power Research Institute and the Pendular Political Economy of American Power." Current position: Consultant, GreenMax Capital Advisors, San Francisco, California

(22) Lynn Berger, Columbia University Ph. D. 2016 (communications). Dissertation committee. "Photography Distinguishes Itself: Law and the Emerging Profession of Photography in the Nineteenth-Century United States." Current position: Contributing Editor at De Correspondent, Amsterdam, Netherlands

(21) Keith Orejel, Columbia University Ph. D. 2015 (history). Dissertation committee. "Factories in the Fallows: The Political Economy of America's Rural Heartland, 1945-1980." Current position: Assistant Professor of History, Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio

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Ph. D. STUDENTS: GRADUATED (continued)

(20) Cory A. Davis, UIC Ph. D. 2014 (history). Dissertation committee. "A Merchant's Republic: The National Board of Trade and Commercial Capitalism in the United States, 1840-1912." Current position: Lecturer, University of Illinois at Chicago

(19) Colin Agur, Columbia University Ph.D. 2014 (communications). **Dissertation adviser.** "Second-Order Network Development in India: Mobile Phone Users and the Indian Premier League." Current position: Associate Professor of Communication Studies (tenured), University of Minnesota

(18) Annie Rudd, Columbia University Ph. D. 2014 (communications). Dissertation committee. "The Posted and the Candid: Realism and the Photographic Portrait, 1839-1945." Current position: Assistant Professor of Communication, Media, and Film (tenure-track), Calgary University

(17) Nicholas Osborne, Columbia University Ph. D. 2014 (history). Dissertation committee. "Little Capitalists: Savings Institutions in U.S. History, 1816-1941." Current position: Assistant Professor of History, Ohio University

(16) Hawley Johnson, Columbia University Ph. D. 2012 (communications). Dissertation committee. "Model Interventions: The Evolution of Media Development Strategies in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Macedonia from 2000 to 2007." Current position: project manager for Global Freedom of Expression and

(15) Allison Malcom, UIC Ph. D. 2011 (history). **Dissertation co-chair.** "Anti-Catholicism and the Rise of Protestant Nationhood in North America, 1830-1871." Current position: Adjunct Instructor, Carroll University, Waukesha, Wisconsin

(14) Benjamin Peters, Columbia Ph. D. 2010 (communications). Dissertation committee. "From Cybernetics to Cyber Networks: Norbert Wiener, the Soviet Internet, and the Cold War Dawn of Information Universalism." Current position: Professor of Communication (tenured), University of Tulsa, Tulsa, Oklahoma

(13) John Reda, UIC Ph. D. 2009 (history). **Dissertation chair.** "Joining The Union: Land, Race and Sovereignty in the Illinois Country, 1763-1825." Current position: Associate Professor of History (tenured), Illinois State University, Bloomington, Illinois (retired)

(12) Samuel Mitrani, UIC Ph. D. 2009 (history). **Dissertation chair.** "Order in the Metropolis: The Origins of the Chicago Police Department, 1850-1890." Current position: Associate Professor of History (tenured), College of Du Page, Glen Ellyn, Illinois

(11) Joshua Salzman, UIC Ph. D. 2008 (history). **Dissertation chair.** "Safe Harbor: Chicago's Waterfront and the Political Economy of the Built Environment, 1847-1918." Current position: Associate Professor of History (tenured), Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, Illinois

(10) Roberta Gray Katz, UIC Ph. D. 2008 (art history). Dissertation committee. "The Literary Paintings of Thomas Cole: Image and Text."

(9) Gautham Rao, University of Chicago, Ph. D. 2008 (history). Dissertation committee. "The Creation of the American State: Customhouses, Law and Commerce in the Age of Revolution." Current position: Associate Professor of History (tenured), American University, Washington, D. C.

(8) Sarah Rose, UIC Ph. D. 2008 (history). Dissertation committee. "No Right to be Idle: The Invention of Disability, 1850-1930." Current position: Associate Professor of History (tenured), University of Texas at Arlington

(7) Benjamin Schwantes, University of Delaware, Ph. D. 2008 (history). Dissertation committee. "Fallible Guardian: The Ambiguous Utility of Telegraphy for Railroad Operations in Nineteenth-Century America." Current position: Managing Editor-Energetics Research Group, Johns Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering

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Ph. D. STUDENTS: GRADUATED (continued)

(6) Cheryl R. Ganz, UIC Ph. D. 2005 (history). Dissertation committee. "A New Deal for Progress: The 1933 Chicago World's Fair." Former position (retired): Curator of Philately, National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

(5) Thomas Coens, Harvard University, Ph. D. 2004 (history). Dissertation committee. "The Formation of the Jackson Party, 1822-1825." Current position: Research Associate Professor, Papers of Andrew Jackson, University of Tennessee

(4) Christopher J. Young, UIC Ph. D. 2002 (history). **Dissertation chair.** "Contests of Opinion: The Public Sphere in Postrevolutionary America." Current position: Professor of History (tenured), Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana

(3) David Hochfelder, Case Western University, Ph. D. 1999 (history). Dissertation committee. "Taming the Lightning: American Telegraphy as a Revolutionary Technology, 1832-1860." Current position: Associate Professor of History (tenured), SUNY, Albany

(2) Jacqueline H. Wolf, UIC Ph. D. 1999 (history). Dissertation committee. "Falling Away from Nature in a Scientific Age: Changing Infant Feeding Practices in Chicago, 1880-1940." Current position: Professor of

the History of Medicine (tenured), Ohio University, Athens, Ohio

(1) George Pabis, UIC Ph. D. 1996 (history). **Dissertation chair.** "Restraining the Muddy Waters: Engineers and Mississippi Flood Control, 1846-81." Current position: Professor of History (tenured), Georgia Perimeter College, Atlanta, Georgia

Ph. D. STUDENTS: CURRENT

Stuart Anderson-Davis, Columbia University (communications), **adviser** (ABD)
Benjamin Kodres-O'Brien, Columbia University (communications), **adviser** (ABD)
Ali Raj, Columbia University (communications), **adviser** (ABD)
Samuel Earle, Columbia University (communications), **adviser** (ABD)
Neda Jahanbani, Columbia University (communications), **adviser**
Allie Wong, Columbia University (communications), **adviser**
Samuel Freedman, Columbia University (history), dissertation committee (ABD)
Seokju Oh, Columbia University (history), dissertation committee (ABD)
Kaarish Shah Maniar, Columbia University (political science), dissertation committee (ABD)
Seokju Oh, Columbia University (history), dissertation committee (ABD)
Joanna Arcieri, Columbia University (communications), dissertation committee (ABD)
Ashlyn Barclay, Columbia University (communications), **adviser**
Sarah Dinovalli, Columbia University (communications), **adviser**
Jason Seter, Columbia University (communications), **adviser**

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ACTIVITIES

Broadway United Church of Christ, New York, New York
* 175th Anniversary Committee, 2013-14
* Adult education instructor, 2011-2019

All Souls' Church, Madison Avenue, New York
* Adult education instructor, 2018

First Congregational Church, Naperville, Illinois
* Board of Christian Education, 2002-2006

First Congregational Church, Evanston, Illinois
* Board of Christian Education, 1997-2001
* Chancel Choir, 1997-1998
* Head, adult education program, 1998-2001

Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago
* Christian Education Committee, 1996-1997

First Church, Congregational, Cambridge, Massachusetts
* Christian Education Committee, 1987-1989

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BOOK REVIEWS AND ESSAYS: POPULAR

"Must Read 26.01: Richard John on Academics, Chroniclers, and the Writing of Political History," H-NET, 26 January 2026,
<https://networks.h-net.org/group/blog/20139392/must-read-2601-richard-john-academics-chroniclers-and-writing-political-history>

"How Media Concentration in the Age of Radio Prefigured Today's Big Tech Debate," *Promarket* (June 2025) <https://www.promarket.org/2025/06/17/how-media-concentration-in-the-age-of-radio-prefigured-todays-big-tech-debate/>

"The Other Sherman's March," *History News Network* (22 October 2024)
<https://www.hnn.us/article/the-other-shermans-march>

- "How Tech Giants Make History," ProMarket (13 September 2024)
<https://www.promarket.org/2024/10/10/how-tech-giants-make-history/>
- "The Tech Giants' Anti-Regulation Fantasy," Atlantic (27 November 2023)
- "Five Myths about the U. S. Postal Service: It's Not Obsolete, and It's Not a Business," Washington Post, 21 August 2020
- "Cutting Back the U.S. Postal Service Would Hurt the Lifeblood of Democracy" [with Joseph Turow], Washington Post, 18 August 2020
- "Why We're Still Fighting the South," Washington Monthly, 10 July 2020 [review of Heather Richardson, How the South Won the Civil War]
<https://prospect.org/civil-rights/why-we-are-still-fighting-the-south/>
- "The Founders Never Intended the U.S. Postal Service to be Managed like a Business," Washington Post, 27 April 2020
- "Book Award Interview." Historiography in Mass Communication, 5 (2019): 63-74:
[file:///Users/rrj2115/Downloads/20191106140727466-1%20\(2\).pdf](file:///Users/rrj2115/Downloads/20191106140727466-1%20(2).pdf) On Network Nation
- Brandeis, Hoover, and the Problem of Free Trade in Interwar America," JOTWELL, 18 March 2020, pp. 1-3 (on-line only) [review of Laura Phillips Sawyer, Fair Trade]
- "Reckoning with White Supremacy," American Prospect, December 2019, Review of Charles Postel, Inequality: An American Dilemma, 1866-1896 and Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow
<https://prospect.org/culture/books/reckoning-with-white-supremacy/>
- "Why the Left is Losing the Information Age," Washington Monthly, July/August 2019, Review of Jen Schradie, The Revolution That Wasn't: How Digital Activism Favors Conservatives
<https://washingtonmonthly.com/magazine/july-august-2019/why-the-left-is-losing-the-information-age/>
- "How Southern Plutocrats Betrayed America," Washington Monthly, April 2018, Review of Forrest Nabors, From Oligarchy to Republicanism: The Great Task of Reconstruction
<https://washingtonmonthly.com/magazine/april-may-june-2018/how-southern-plutocrats-betrayed-america/>
- "The Illusions of Network Neutrality," Al Jazeera America, 16 January 2014
- "How the Post Office Made America" [op-ed], New York Times, 8 February 2013, p. A19
- "When a Plutocratic Dinner Doomed a Presidential Campaign," Bloomberg Echoes (on-line), 12 September 2012
- "Samuel Morse and the Birth of the Modern Patent Office," American Heritage's Invention & Technology, 25 (Spring 2010): 38-47. Adapted from Network Nation

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BOOK REVIEWS AND ESSAYS: POPULAR (continued)

- "L'édition du Télégraphe." In *Protocoles Éditoriaux: Qu'est-ce que Publier?* edited by Olivier Bomsel, pp. 163-173. Paris: Armand Colin, 2013. French translation of "Samuel Morse and the Birth of the Modern Patent Office" [see above].
- "Mail Matters," Nation, 288 (23 February 2009): 23-24
- "Why Institutions Matter: Rewriting the History of the Early Republic," Common-Place, 9 (October 2008):

<http://www.common-place.org/vol-09/no-01/john/>

Review of Larry Bartels, Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age," Forum, 6 (July 2008) <https://cambridgeforecast.wordpress.com/2009/03/09/>

"Exploring the Complex Life of Steelmaker Andrew Carnegie," review of Andrew Carnegie, by David Nasaw, in Chicago Tribune, 4 March 2007, section 14, p. 8.

"A New Look at an Old-Time Chicago Wheeler-Dealer," review of Robber Baron: The Life of Charles Tyson Yerkes, by John Franch, in Chicago Tribune, 3 December 2006, section 14, p. 3.