

Hannah A. Farber

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Dept. of History
Columbia University

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EMPLOYMENT

2024– Associate Professor of History (untenured), Columbia University
2017–2024 Assistant Professor of History, Columbia University
2014–2017 Visiting Assistant Professor and Postdoctoral Fellow, Boston College

EDUCATION

Ph. D. History, University of California, Berkeley
Dissertation: “Underwritten States: Marine Insurance and the Making of Bodies Politic in America, 1622–1815.”
B. A. Yale University, History

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

In progress: *The American Lawsuit: Civil Litigation from the Revolution to Tocqueville*

Underwriters of the United States, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture/University of North Carolina Press, 2021
John Lyman Book Award, US Maritime History, North American Society for Oceanic History, 2021
Hagley Prize for Best Book in Business History, Business History Conference, 2023
Research presentations, reviews, and media appended

Other Research

“Slave Trade Insurance in the Age of Abolition: Archives, Politics, and Legalities,” *Slavery and Abolition*, Vol. 44, No. 2 (Apr. 2023): 350–376.

“Early American Commercial Property Marks: Reading According to Code, and Beyond,” *Early American Literature*, Vol. 57, No. 1 (Feb. 2022): 43–84.

“Something From Nothing? Currency and Finance in the Critical Period,” in *From Independence to the U.S. Constitution: Reconsidering the Critical Period of American History*, eds. Douglas Bradburn and Christopher R. Pearl (University of Virginia Press, 2022), 193–215.

“Insurance For (and Against) the Empire,” *Commonplace: the journal of early American Life*, April 2022, <http://commonplace.online/article/insurance-for-and-against-the-empire/>

“The Political Economy of Marine Insurance and the Making of the United States,” *The William*

William & Mary Quarterly, Vol. 77, No. 4 (Oct. 2020): 581–612.

“Sailing on Paper: The Embellished Bill of Lading in the Material Atlantic, 1720–1864,” *Early American Studies*, Vol. 17, No. 1 (Winter 2019): 37–83.

* *John M. Murrin Prize for best essay published in 2019, Early American Studies*

“State–Building After War’s End: A Government Financier Adjusts his Portfolio for Peace,” Taking Stock of the State in Nineteenth-Century America, *Journal of the Early Republic*, Vol. 38, No. 1 (Spring 2018): 67–76.

“Millions for Credit: Peace with Algiers and the Establishment of America’s Commercial Reputation Overseas, 1795–96,” *Journal of the Early Republic*, Vol. 34, No. 2 (Summer 2014), 187–217.

“The Rise and Fall of the Province of Lygonia, 1643–1658,” *New England Quarterly* 82 (Sept. 2009), 490–513.

Reviews and Essays

“Political Economies 1787–1800,” *The Cambridge History of the American Revolution*, eds. Marjoleine Kars, Michael A. McDonnell, and Andrew M. Schocket, Vol. 3: *Reactions and Reverberations*, Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

“Practical Americans” (review essay), *The William & Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 78, No. 2 (Apr. 2021): 339–357.

“Caught Between Pedagogy and Politics: The Challenges of Teaching Globalization in the Twenty-First Century,” *The History Teacher*, Vol. 53, No. 3 (May 2020): 441-469.

Review of Tyson Reeder, *Smugglers, Pirates, and Patriots: Free Trade in the Age of Revolution* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2019), *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 80 (2): 627-28.

Review of Eric Lomazoff, *Reconstructing the National Bank Controversy: Politics & Law in the Early American Republic* (University of Chicago Press, 2018), *Law and History Review*, 38 (1): 293–95.

Review of Lindsay Schakenbach Regele, *Manufacturing Advantage: War, the State, and the Origins of American Industry, 1776–1848* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019), *New England Quarterly* 92(4), Dec. 2019.

"Hamilton: Who Tells Your Story?" Review of *Historians on Hamilton*, co-author Derek Miller, *Public Books* (www.publicbooks.org), Feb. 13, 2019.

"Courage and Cowardice?" in roundtable on Francis Spufford, *Golden Hill*, in *The Junto: A Group Blog on Early American History*, July 4, 2018.

“Unrevolutionary Bastardy,” review of Bruce Norris, *The Low Road*, in *The Junto: A Group Blog on Early American History*, May 16, 2018.

“Insurance,” *Oxford Bibliographies in Atlantic History*, ed. Trevor Burnard, Sept. 2016.

Review of Brian Murphy, *Building the Empire State* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015) *William and Mary Quarterly* 73 (3) July 2016: 596–601.

“Nobody Panic: The Emerging Worlds of Economics and History in America,” book review of Jessica Lepler, *The Many Panics of 1837: People, Politics, and the Creation of a Transatlantic Financial Crisis* (Cambridge, 2013), and Jonathan Levy, *Freaks of Fortune: The Emerging World of Capitalism and Risk in America* (Harvard, 2012), *Enterprise and Society*, Fall 2015.

“Insurance in Philadelphia,” *Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*, ed. Charlene Mires, Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities, Rutgers University-Camden.
<http://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/insurance/>.

“Geography, Sovereignty and Space: The 2012–2013 Year at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies.” *Early American Studies*, online, June, 2013.

“Enlightenment in the Margins,” review of Caroline Winterer’s “The American Enlightenment: Treasures from the Stanford University Library,” *Common-Place.org*, Sept. 2011.

HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

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| 2022 | Colonial Society of Massachusetts, elected member |
| 2020–2021 | National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship
New-York Historical Society |
| 2019–2020 | Heyman Center Junior Faculty Fellowship, Columbia University
Hettleman Summer Research Fellowship, Columbia University |
| 2018 | Lenfest Junior Faculty Development Award, Columbia University
Junior Faculty Career Development Award, Columbia University History Department |
| 2015 | Finalist, Dissertation Prize, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic |
| 2013–2014 | Mabelle McLeod Lewis Memorial Fund Fellowship (Stanford, CA) |
| 2012–2013 | Barra Dissertation Fellowship, McNeil Center for Early American Studies
Long Term Fellowship, Program in Early American Economy and Society,
Library Company of Philadelphia |
| 2011–2012 | George H. Guttridge Graduate Prize, History Department, UC-Berkeley |

Short-Term Academic Research Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society
 Short-Term Fellowship, Program in Early American Economy and Society,
 Library Company of Philadelphia
 Samuel Flagg Bemis Dissertation Research Grant, Society for Historians of
 American Foreign Relations
 Albert J. Beveridge Grant for Research in the History of the Western
 Hemisphere, American Historical Association
 Marty and Bruce Coffey Fellowship, Huntington Library
 Fellowship, New England Regional Fellowship Consortium
 Exploratory Travel Grant, Economic History Association

- 2010 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC-Berkeley
- 2005 John Addison Porter prize for best undergraduate thesis in American history
 Yale University

LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks and Workshops

- 2024 NYU Atlantic History Workshop
 “After 1776: Opportunities, Shocks, and Dangers,” Monticello
- 2023 Early Modern Economic History Workshop, Yale University
- 2022 American Political Cultures Forum, *New England Quarterly*/Massachusetts
 Historical Society
 Age of Revolution E-Seminar, University of Southern California and École des
 Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales
- 2021 Business History Seminar, Harvard Business School
- 2019 St. John's University, brownbag presentation
 Hamilton Dinner keynote speaker, Columbia Alumni Association of DC
 Atlantic History Seminar, University of Michigan
- 2018 Yale Early American History Seminar
 CUNY Early American Republic Seminar
 History of Sovereign Debt Workshop, NYU
 USC-EMSI Martens Economic Forum, Huntington Library
- 2017 Modern British History Workshop, Columbia University
 NYU Atlantic History Workshop
- 2016 Boston College Legal History Workshop
 Symposium on the Teaching of Global History, UC-Berkeley
- 2015 Nineteenth-Century Workshop, Brown University
- 2014 SUNY-Binghamton Early American History seminar
 Yale Early American History Seminar
- 2013 McNeil Center for Early American Studies/Library Company of Philadelphia
 Rocky Mountain Seminar in Early American History
 Material Texts Workshop at the University of Pennsylvania
- 2011 Connecticut Historical Society
 Massachusetts Historical Society

Rhode Island Historical Society

Conferences

- 2024 “Modern Local Justice: The County Magistrate in the Early Republic, Reconsidered,” at SHEAR, panel entitled “Sheriffs, Magistrates, and Citizens: Local Law Enforcement & the Day-to-Day Work of American Justice”
- 2023 Roundtable Participant, “The American Revolution and Histories of Capitalism,” SHEAR (July)
- 2022 Chair, “Claiming the State[s],” “Crafting Narratives of Empire: Contested Roots of Revolution in the Long Eighteenth Century” Institute for Thomas Paine Studies, Iona College (Sept)
- 2021 “The Legality of Insuring Slave Voyages After 1807,” American Society for Legal History (November)
- “Critical History Today: Insurance, Slavery, and the Question of Valuation” (chair/commentator), The New School (October)
- "Money Made American: New Approaches to Writing Money Into Early American Histories," chair and commentator, SHEAR, online (July)
- 2020 "Is Six Percent Good? Toward a Cultural History of Return on Investment," Conference on the politics of money in the post-Revolutionary United States William R. Rhodes Center for International Economics and Finance Brown University, Providence, RI (Oct.)
- Canceled due to COVID:*
- “Seals, Marks, and Emblems: Art as the Basis for Property Claims” Art and the Actuarial Imagination, Huntington Library, CA (Apr).
- “Six Percent: Toward a Cultural, Political, and Institutional History of Early American Interest Rates,” Early Modern Commerce and Finance across the Public/Private Divide, AHA 2020 (Jan).
- 2019 Panel Co-Organizer (with Christopher Kingston, Amherst College) and presenter, “Marine Insurance: Origins and Institutions,” International Conference on Risk and the Insurance Business in History, Universidad Internacional de Andalucia, Seville (Jun)
- “Patriot Investors? Merchants, Insurers, and the Heroics of Money Making in the Age of the American Founding” on panel, “The Economics of Loyalty in North America, 18th–20th Century,” American Historical Association Annual Conference (Jan)
- 2018 “The Marks of War,” for Coming to Terms? Confronting War and Peace through the Visual and Material in the Atlantic World, 1651–1865, University of Pennsylvania and

- University of Delaware (Nov)
- Chair and Commenter, "Paper Money and its Discontents," Business History Conference, Baltimore, MD (Apr)
- 2017 "Commercial Law, Imported and Re-Exported," Panel: The Law of Nations and the Making of the American Republic, American Historical Association (Jan)
- 2016 "“Heavy Operations””: New York Financiers Make War, Make Money, and Make the Rules, 1812–1827." Taking Stock of the State in Nineteenth-Century America, Yale University (Apr)
- "Capitalism and the Sea," Global Maritime History Conference, Huntington Library (Mar)
- 2015 Panelist, "Capital, Space, and Culture," on new directions in early American political economy. Society of Historians of the Early American Republic (Jul)
- "The Marked: Classifying People and Goods for Ocean Voyages During the Long Eighteenth Century," Omohundro-SEA Conference, Chicago (Jun)
- 2014 "National Goods: Establishing the American Identity of Commercial Property" European Early American Studies Conference, Lublin (Dec)
- "Who Acts? Government, Society, and the Elusive American Institution." Program in Early American Economy and Society (Oct)
- "Something from Nothing? American Finance in the Critical Period" Leadership, Crisis, and Conflict in the United States 1783–1789 Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington, Mt. Vernon, VA (Sep)
- "Warranted American:" Nationalizing Commercial Property through Marks and Images Society of Historians of the Early American Republic (Jul)
- "A Boisterous Season on the Atlantic": Marine Insurers in the Age of Revolution Omohundro Annual Institute Conference (Jun)
- Comments on Hilary Chart, "Becoming Business People: Emergent and Contested Forms of Entrepreneurship in Urban Botswana," Harvard-Stanford Capitalism Graduate Student Workshop (May)
- 2013 "The 'Minor Republics:' Insurance Companies in Early American Political Life." "Ligaments of Colonial Economies," Program in Early American Economy and Society, Library Company of Philadelphia (Oct)
- "American Insurance Companies Mitigate Risk Through the Performance of

Security and Civic Virtue, 1792–1815,” Society of Historians of the Early American Republic (Jul). Panel organizer.

“Domesticating the Financial Corporation: The Material Culture and Civic Practices of Marine Insurance Companies.” Business History Conference (Mar). Served as panel organizer.

“Capitalizing on Finance: New Directions in the History of Capitalism,” Huntington Library

2012 “A Debt to North Africa,” Foreign Confidence: International Investment in North America, 1700 to 1860, PEAES/Library Company of Philadelphia, and Rothschild Archive (Oct)

“Computing and the Practice of History: Creating an Institutional Framework for the Digital Humanities at UC Berkeley,” talk co-authored with Christopher Church and Scott McGinnis [unable to attend conference]. Digital Humanities Summer Institute at the University of Victoria (Jun)

2011 “Mapping Two Libraries of the American Enlightenment,” Georgio Cini Foundation, Venice, Italy (Mar) Conference and research supported by the Stanford Humanities Center.

2009 “The House of Representatives Considers Fortune Telling: A Historical Case Study on the Strategic Definition of Belief.” “Belief Matters” conference, Columbia University Religion Department, Graduate Students Association (Apr)

TEACHING

2017–2024 **Columbia University**

Contemporary Civilization I and II

Readings in Early American History (graduate seminar)

The Early American Republic: How the Rebels Became the Empire (lecture)

Early American Autobiography as History: Testimony, Adventure, Confession (undergraduate seminar)

Early American Law and Society (graduate/undergraduate seminar)

The Bible in Early America (graduate/undergraduate seminar)

Undergraduate senior thesis seminar

2022-2024 Warrior Scholars Program at Columbia University, guest lecturer

2014–2017 **Boston College**

Globalization I (1450–1815 CE)

Globalization II (1815–2015 CE)

2013 McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania
Undergraduate Research Workshop Mentor

- 2011 Grader, “Antebellum America: The Advent of Mass Society”
UC-Berkeley. Guest Lecture: “The Rise of Wall Street”
- 2010 Head Graduate Student Instructor, UC-Berkeley
UC-Berkeley, History 7A, early United States history survey (1607 to 1865)
- 2010–2012 Presenter, Teaching American History Grant Program
Walnut Creek (CA) public schools and Oakland (CA) History Collaborative
- 2009–2010 Graduate Student Instructor, UC-Berkeley
History 7A, early United States history survey (1607 to 1865)
History 7B, modern United States history survey (1865 to present)

STUDENT SUPERVISION

Dissertation advisor: Richard Monastra (2023–)
Orals committee: Aaron Freedman (2024), Richard Monastra (2025), Sohum Pal (2024),
Veronica Hylton (2024)
Orals committee, dissertation prospectus and defense committees: Grant Kleiser (2019–)
Dissertation prospectus committee: Bailey Yellen (2022)
Dissertation defense committee: Kathryn Lasdow (2018), Seth Kamil (2024)
Laidlaw Scholars Program 2022, supervision of Charlotte Hoskins
Undergraduate thesis second (subject) reader: Peter Richards (2018), Johanne Karizamimba
(2020), Edgar Esparza (2020), Eva Blake (2020), Sofia Garcia-George (2022), Eli Horgan (2022),
Anna Maher (2023), Janus Yuen (2025)

SERVICE AND COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

- Ongoing: Series Editor, *American Beginnings 1500–1900*, University of Chicago Press (2021–).
- Lead series editor for:
Andrew J.B. Fagal, *Jefferson's Quiet Campaign Against the Slave Trade* (under contract)
Scott Miller, *Developing Economy, Emerging Republic: Crisis, Opportunity, and the Struggle
for American Economic Power, 1765–1812* (under contract)
- Co-chair, Columbia Seminar in Early American History and Culture (2017–2020,
2021–2022, 2023–2024, 2024–2025)
- Referee, *William and Mary Quarterly*, *Enterprise & Society*, *Journal of the Early Republic*,
New England Quarterly, *Connecticut History Review*, *Law & History Review*
- 2023–2024 Consultant, economic topics, Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia
- Manuscript workshop participant, Kevin Arlyck (Georgetown Law School), *The
Nation at Sea: The Federal Courts and American Sovereignty, 1789–1825* (Cambridge
University Press)

- 2022-2023 History Department Board of Visitors co-organizer
- 2021 Manuscript workshop participant, Trevor Jackson (George Washington University), *Impunity and Capitalism: The Afterlives of European Financial Crisis, 1690–1830* (Cambridge University Press, 2022)
- 2020–2022 Junior Faculty Advisory Board, Columbia University
- 2018– 2020 Professional Development Officer, history department (also Fall 2021)
Member, Graduate Education Committee
- 2019–2020 History Department Field Representative, Atlantic History
- 2018–2019 Faculty participant, graduate student grant proposal workshop
- 2017–18 Search committee member, early American history
Graduate admissions, Americanist subcommittee
- 2010–11 Mapping and analysis of the libraries of John Adams and the Mather family, and of the business correspondence of John Hull, seventeenth-century merchant of Boston. In collaboration with the Stanford Humanities Center’s “Mapping the Republic of Letters” project. This project uses digital technology and visualizations to explore the larger patterns of intellectual exchange in the early-modern world and raise new questions about the importance of places, nations, and cities in the circulation of knowledge. See <http://republicofletters.stanford.edu>
- 2010 UC Berkeley History Without Borders lecture series. Graduate student coordinator, 2010. Lecture series supported by the Mellon Foundation.

MEDIA

- 2023 Boston Tea Party documentary, Stephen David entertainment
- 2019 Vox Media, "Consider It" episode on Declaration of Independence, July 4, 2019
Shanghai Review of Books, featured interview, March 17, 2019

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association
Society of Historians of the Early American Republic
Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture
The Colonial Society (Boston, MA)

Underwriters of the United States

Published Nov. 2021, audiobook release June 2024

Awards

- John Lyman Book Award, US Maritime History, North American Society for Oceanic History, 2021
- Hagley Prize for Best Book in Business History, Business History Conference, 2023

Reviews

- *The William and Mary Quarterly*
- *Journal of the Early Republic*
- *H-Net*
- *Journal of American History*
- *Sea History*
- *American Affairs* (longform review essay)
- *American Historical Review*
- *EH.net*

Research Presentations, Interviews, and Media

Interviews and Media

- *Insurance Covered* (podcast)
- *Who Makes Cents? A History of Capitalism* (podcast)
- *Slip Street News* (podcast)
- *Worlds Turned Upside Down*, George Mason University (podcast)
- *Hagley History Hangout* (podcast)
- Alain Guillot (podcast)
- *This is Hell* (Chicago Public Radio)
- *InsureTech* (Tony Canas)
- Goncalo Fonseca, Institute for New Economic Thinking
- James Lynch, "The Wackiest Insurance Policy You've Ever Seen, and Why it Actually Made Sense," *Actuarial Review*
- *Marketplace* (NPR) "Million Billion" series, episode on insurance
- *Revolution 250* (podcast)
- *Democracy Nerd* (podcast)

Research Presentations

- Insurance Library of Boston
- New York Genealogical and Historical Society
- St. John's University
- Mark Twain House, Hartford, CT
- American Revolution Institute of the Society of Cincinnati
- New Ideas in Insurance Webinar, UConn
- American Institute of Marine Underwriters
- British Insurance Law Association
- Heyman Center New Books Series
- New York State Library Association

- DC Chapter of Columbia Alumni
- Association of Marine Underwriters, San Francisco