



RESEARCH/TEACHING FIELDS

- Atlantic World
- Science & Technology Studies
- Environmental History
- History of the British Empire

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor of History, Grinnell College, 2018-Present

Chair of the Science, Medicine & Society Program, 2019-2027

Chair of the History Department, 2020-2024

Chair of the Technology Studies Program, 2015-2022

Assistant Professor of History, Grinnell College, 2011-2018

Lecturer, Department of History, Grinnell College, 2007-2011

EDUCATION

Ph. D in History, Northwestern University, 2008.

Dissertation: *Enlightened Pursuits: Science and Civic Culture in Anglo-America, 1730-1760*.
Directed by T.H. Breen (Chair), Ken Alder, and Joseph Barton.

Area Fields: Atlantic World, Early Modern Europe.

M.A. in History, Northwestern University, 1999.

B.A. in History and Government, University of Virginia, 1998.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

FIRST YEAR TUTORIALS

- TUT 100 The Dust Bowl
- TUT 100 Environmentalism in the Radical 30s
- TUT 100 Measuring the World

INTRODUCTORY COURSES

- HIS 100 The Conservation Movement
- TEC 154 The Evolution of Technology
- SMS 150 Introduction to Science, Medicine, Technology & Society

TEAM-TAUGHT INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSES

- ENV 195 Environmental Challenges & Responses
- ANT 202 Sustainability (cross-listed: SST 202)
- HUM 200 Learning from Alumni (cross-listed: SST 200)
- HIS 395 Environmental History of the Midwest & Great Plains (cross-listed: ENV 395)

SURVEY COURSES

- HIS 111 American History I
- HIS 220 U.S. Environmental History
- HIS 235 Britain in the Age of Enlightenment
- HIS 281 Science & Society: From the Age of Newton to the Age of Darwin

DIRECTED READINGS

- HIS 297 Disposability, Modern Society & the Environment
- HIS 297 Medieval Norse Disability History
- SMS 297 Actor-Network Theory
- TEC 299 The History of Renewable Energy
- SMS 397 Ethnographies of Emergency Medicine

LIBERAL ARTS IN PRISON PROGRAM (*full semester courses bearing Grinnell College credit*)

- HIS 111 American History I
- HIS 220 U.S. Environmental History
- HIS 281 Science & Society
- HIS 295 America's Age of Reform, 1870-1920
- HIS 295 Iowa's Progressive Reform Era

SEMINARS

- HIS 310 Enlightenment & Revolution in Early America
- HIS 320 Nature & the New Deal
- HIS 338 Revolutions in Early Modern Europe
- HIS 381 The Enlightenment
- HIS 395 Environmental History of the Midwest & Great Plains (cross-listed: ENV 395)

DIRECTED RESEARCH

- ANT 397 Food & Farming in Central Iowa
- TEC 299 The History of Renewable Energy
- SMS 397 Technology in Modern Conservation
- SMS 399 Cultures of Typewriter Repair
- TEC 397 Disabilities & Technology
- HIS 397 The Technology of Food across Cultures
- HIS 397 Jacobean Theatre History
- HIS 397 Witchcraft in the Maritime Atlantic
- HIS 499 Group Mentored Advanced Project: Mapping Prohibition
- HIS 499 Group Mentored Advanced Project: Digital History & Distant Text Reading
- HIS 499 Mentored Advanced Project: 18th-Century British Identity
- HIS 499 Mentored Advanced Project: Templars: Controversy and Conspiracies
- HIS 499 Mentored Advanced Project: Virtual Mathematical Models
- TEC 499 Mentored Advanced Project: History of Psychology & Technology Interfaces
- THS 499 Independent Major Thesis: Simulations in Emergency Medicine
- THS 499 Independent Major Thesis: Food & Farming in Central Iowa

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

PUBLICATIONS

“A Tale of Two Jacobin Missions: Scientific Networks and Revolutionary Politics in the 1790s,” *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society* (Forthcoming).

“John Almon’s Web: Networks of Print, Politics, & Place in Revolutionary London, 1760-1780,” in *Experiencing Empire: Power, People, & Revolution in Early America*, ed. Patrick Griffin (Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 2017), 147-67.

“Northern Designs: British Science, Imperialism and Improvement at the Dawn of the Anthropocene,” *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*, vol. 46 (2017), 123-145.

“Tapping nature’s bounty: science and sugar maples in the age of improvement,” in *Invaluable Trees: Cultures of Nature, 1660-1830*, ed. Laura Auricchio, Elizabeth Heckendorn Cook, and Giulia Pacini (Oxford: Voltaire Foundation & Oxford University Press, 2012), 135-149.

“A Peculiar silence: the Scottish Enlightenment, political economy, and the early American debates over slavery,” *Atlantic Studies*, vol. 8, no. 4 (2011), 447-483.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Science and the Civic Awakening: The Politics of Knowledge in the Age of Improvement, 1720-1800 (book project, writing phase).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“A Tale of Two Jacobins: Scientific Networks and Revolutionary Politics in the 1790s,” delivered at “Science and Society in the Age of Revolutions,” a symposium held by the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, September 24-25, 2025.

“Imperial Designs: Technical Drawing and the Graphic Tools of Improvement in the Eighteenth Century,” Annual Meeting of the North American Conference of British Studies, online (originally scheduled for Chicago, Illinois), November 12-15, 2020.

“Visions of Regional Planning in the Heartland: The Mississippi Valley Committee and the Graphic Tools of New Deal Conservation,” Symposium on the History of Midwest Science and Technology, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, March 29-31, 2019.

“An Economy of Chance: The ‘mathematical machine’ that unleashed private raffles and crowdfunding in 18th-Century London,” Poster Presentation, Annual Meeting of the North American Conference of British Studies, Providence, Rhode Island, October 25-28, 2018.

“Seeing like a Planner: The Graphic Turn in New Deal Conservation” Poster Presentation, Annual Conference of the American Society for Environmental History, Chicago, Illinois, March 29-April 2, 2017.

Panel Chair, "Imperial Administration in the 18th-Century British Atlantic," Annual Meeting of the North American Conference of British Studies, Washington, D.C., November 11-13, 2016.

"The Printer's Web: Social Networks & Political Intelligence in Eighteenth-Century London," 63rd Annual Meeting of the Midwest Conference of British Studies, Ames, Iowa, September 16-18, 2016.

Chair/Commentator, "Communication Networks in the British Atlantic," 63rd Annual Meeting of the Midwest Conference of British Studies, Ames, Iowa, September 16-18, 2016.

"Developing the 'Northern Indies': Science, Improvement, and Imperial Expansion in the North Atlantic, 1740-1770." Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Conference of British Studies, Ottawa, Ontario, October 16-17, 2015.

"Developing the 'Northern Indies': The Political Ecology of Improvement in the British North Atlantic, 1740-1780." 46th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Los Angeles, CA, March 19-22, 2015.

"George Logan's Odyssey: Science and Radical Politics in the Revolutionary Atlantic." Presented at the Conference, "Peoples and Ideas in Motion: The British Atlantic World," Nicholson Center for British Studies (University of Chicago), Chicago, IL, May 4, 2006.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of The Alchemy of Empire: Abject Materials and the Technologies of Colonialism by Rajani Sudan. *Journal of Early Modern History* (2017).

Review of Soundings in Atlantic History: Latent Structures and Intellectual Currents, 1500-1830 edited by Bernard Bailyn and Patricia Denault. *Journal of Early Modern History*, issue no. 3, 2014.

Review of Wet Prairie: People, Land, and Water in Agricultural Manitoba by Shannon Stunden Bower. *Environmental History*, April 2013.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- CSFS Research Grant (Grinnell College), 2015, 2017.
- François André Michaux Fellowship, American Philosophical Society, 2009.
- Thomas G. and Mary Ayers Dissertation Fellowship, 2004-2005.
- Lacey Baldwin Smith Prize for Teaching Excellence, Northwestern University, 2002.
- Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Summer Research Grant, 1999.
- Northwestern University Fellowship, 1998-1999.
- Thomas Ball Award, Society of Cincinnati, 1998.
- Phi Beta Kappa, 1998.
- Anne Hope Van Schaack Prize, University of Virginia, 1998.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- North American Conference on British Studies
- History of Science Society
- American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies
- American Society of Environmental Historians
- Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture