

ERIC HERSCHTHAL, PhD

*Assistant Professor
History Department
University of Utah*

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Curriculum Vitae

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2020 - present **Assistant Professor**
Department of History, University of Utah
- 2018 -20 **Postdoctoral Fellow**
Department of African American & African Studies, The Ohio State University
- 2017-18 **Postdoctoral Fellow**
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture / The New York Public Library

EDUCATION

- 2017 **Columbia University, Ph.D., History Department**
Dissertation: “The Science of Antislavery: Scientists, Antislavery, and the Myth of Slavery’s Backwardness” / Finalist for 2018 History Department’s Bancroft Prize for Best Dissertation

Committee: Christopher L. Brown (advisor), Eric Foner (chair), David Waldstreicher, Matthew Jones, James Delbourgo
- 2009 **Columbia University, M.S. in Journalism, Graduate School of Journalism**
- 2006 **Princeton University, B.A. in History, *cum laude***
Thesis: “Jubans: How Jews Became Cubans, 1900-1960”

PUBLICATIONS

Books & Book Chapters

- 2021 *The Science of Abolition: How Slaveholders Became the Enemies of Progress* (Yale University Press, May 25, 2021)
- Carbon Conscripts: Slavery and the Origins of Climate Change* (book in progress)
- “Climate Change & Global Commodities” *Book Chapter* in *The Oxford Handbook of Global Commodities History*, eds. Jonathan Curry-Machado, Jean Stubbs, William Clarence-Smith, and Jelmer Vos. Co-author John Brooke (Oxford University Press; forthcoming)
- 2020 “Frederick Douglass, Science, and Technology” *Book Chapter* in *Frederick Douglass in Context*, ed. Michael Roy (Cambridge University Press; forthcoming)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2021 *Slavery & Abolition*

“What Kind of Abolitionist Was Benjamin Banneker? Reluctant Activism and the Intellectual Lives of Early Black Americans,” *Slavery & Abolition* (Jan. 17, 2021; print date TBD)

Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences

“Slavery, Health, and Healing Now: The State of the Field,” *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* (accepted, print date TBD)

2020

Journal of National Medical Association

“Discovering a Hidden Figure of Service and Leadership: The Reverend Charles Edgar Newsome, MD,” co-authored with: Leon McDougle, Leta Hendricks, Quinn Capers IV, Simone C. Drake. *Journal of National Medical Association* 112, no. 1 (Feb. 2020): 24-27.

2017

Early American Studies

“The Science of Antislavery in the Early Republic: The Case of Dr. Benjamin Rush,” *Early American Studies* 15, no. 2 (Spring 2017): 274-307.

2016

The Journal of the Early Republic

“Slaves, Spaniards and Subversion in Early Louisiana: The Persistent Fears of Black Revolt and Spanish Collusion in Territorial Louisiana, 1803-1812,” *The Journal of the Early Republic* 36, no. 2 (Summer 2016): 283-311.

Book Reviews

2021

Journal of the Civil War Era

Robert E. May, *Yuletide in Dixie: Slavery, Christmas, and Southern Memory* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2019), March 2021

2019

Journal of the Early Republic

Rana Hogarth, *Medicalizing Blackness: Making Racial Difference in the Atlantic World, 1780-1840* (University of North Carolina Press, 2017), Dec. 2019

2018

The Historian

Ikuko Asaka, *Tropical Freedom: Climate, Settler Colonialism, and Black Exclusion in the Age of Emancipation* (Duke University Press, 2017), Dec. 2018

American Literary History

Britt Rusert, *Fugitive Science: Empiricism and Freedom in Early African American Culture* (New York University Press, 2017), Spring 2018

2017

Civil War Book Review

Miles A. Powell, *Vanishing America: Species Extinction, Racial Peril, and the Origins of Conservation* (Harvard University Press, 2016), Summer 2017)

Reviews in History

Amanda B. Moniz, *From Empire to Humanity: The American Revolution and the Origins of Humanitarianism* (Oxford University Press, 2016), Summer 2017

Digital Scholarship

2017

Black Perspectives Published by the African American Intellectual History Society

“The Missing Link: Conservative Abolitionists, Slavery, and Yale” (Mar. 31, 2017)

2016

The Journal of the History of Ideas Blog

“Renovating the American Revolution” (Jun. 6, 2016)

- 2015 *Uncommon Sense – Blog of the William and Mary Quarterly*
 “New Perspectives on Slavery in the African World” (Mar. 18, 2015)
- 2013-15 *The Junto: A Blog of Early American History*
 “Bernard Bailyn’s Last Act?: An Interview with the Harvard Historian” (Feb. 6, 2015)
 “Old Friends/New Editors: On Early American Publishing” (Sept. 19, 2014)
 “The Details Matter: On Ta-Nehisi Coates and Reparations” (Jun. 10, 2014)
 “Book Review: James MacGregor Burns, *Fire and Light*” (Dec. 19, 2013)

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

- 2020-21 *Seed Grant Fellowship: University of Utah, College of Humanities*
 Book Project: “Carbon Conscripts: Slavery and the Origins of Climate Change”
- 2019-20 *Large Research Grant: Ohio State University, College of Arts & Science*
Digital Humanities Project: “Beyond Data: Centering Black Mother’s Voices on Pregnancy and Childbirth,” with Dr. Simone Drake, African American & African Studies Dept. Chair
- 2018-20 *Postdoctoral Fellowship in Race and Medical Humanities: Ohio State University, African American & African Studies* (2 years)
- 2017-18 *Postdoctoral Fellowship: Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (NYPL) / Lapidus Center for the Study of Transatlantic Slavery* (academic year)
- 2016-17 *Dissertation Completion Fellowship: University of Pennsylvania, McNeil Center for Early American Studies* (academic year)
- Travel Grant: National Science Foundation – History of Science Society*
- 2015-16 *Research Grant: American Philosophical Society* (one month)
- Research Grant: Huntington Library, Dibner Fellow in the History of Science and Technology* (one month)
- Research Grant: Lapidus-OIEAHC Fellowship in Early African-American Print Culture* (one month)
- Research Grant: John Carter Brown Library, Brown University* (two months, declined)
- Travel Grant: Brebner Award, Columbia University*
- 2014-15 *Teacher Training Fellowship: Teaching with Technology, Columbia University* (academic year)
- Travel Grant: Brebner Award, Columbia University*
- 2013-14 *Research Grant: Cuban Heritage Collection, University of Miami* (one month)
- Travel Grant: Brebner Award, Columbia University*
- 2012-17 *Richard Hofstadter Fellowship: Columbia University* (five-year doctoral program funding)

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- 2021 **American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia.** (July 2021) Invited Speaker: “The Science of Abolition: How Slaveholders Became the Enemies of Progress”
University of Utah: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion “Friday Forum: A Call for Racial Healing.”
 Presentation: “Who’s Afraid of 1619? A Conversation about the *New York Times’s* ‘1619 Project’” (Jan. 29, 2021)
- 2020 **Stanford University Medical School: Dept. of Urology, Health & Racial Equity Series** (Nov. 2020)
 Invited Lecturer: “Routine Racism as Routine Medicine: Three Short Episodes in a Very Long History”
- 2019 **Princeton University, Conference: “Law, Difference, and Healthcare: Structural Racism in Medico-Legal History”** (Jun. 2019) Invited Paper: “Slavery, Health, and Healing Now: The State of the Field”
University of Pennsylvania, McNeil Center for Early American Studies: Friday Seminar (Mar. 2019) Invited Presenter: “Benjamin Banneker: Avid Astronomer, Reluctant Abolitionist”
- 2018 **Carnegie Mellon University, Bicentennial of Frederick Douglass** (Nov. 2018) Invited Lecturer: “Frederick Douglass and the Emancipatory Power of Science”
The Johns Hopkins University, History of Science, Technology, and Medicine Faculty Colloquium (Oct. 2018) Invited Presenter: “Banneker’s Almanacs as Technologies of Liberation”
- 2017 **Harvard University - Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Global American Studies Symposium** (Dec. 2017), Invited Presenter: “The Science of Antislavery: Scientists, Antislavery, and the Myth of Slavery’s Backwardness”

Conferences

- 2021 **SHEAR (Society for Historians of the Early American Republic), Annual Conference** (Jul. 2021).
 Panel Organizer/Presenter: “The Diverse Intellectual Worlds of Black and White Abolitionists, 1830-1860”
OAH (Organization of American History), Annual Conference (Apr. 2021)
 Panel Organizer / Paper: “Black Thought in the Age of Slavery: African American Intellectual Histories Before Emancipation”
AAIHS (African American Intellectual History Society), Annual Conference (Mar. 2021) Paper: “The Intellectual Worlds of Benjamin Banneker: Translating African Vernacular Knowledge into ‘Legitimate’ Western Science”
- 2020 **SHEAR (Society for Historians of the Early American Republic), Annual Conference** (Jul. 2020)
 Chair / Panel: “Crosscurrents of Democracy: Political Culture in the Atlantic World”
- 2019 **ASALH (Association for the Study of African American Life and History), Annual Conference** (Oct. 2019) Panel Organizer / Paper: “Rethinking Banneker: Reluctant Abolitionist, Avid Astronomer”
SHEAR (Society for Historians of the Early American Republic), Annual Conference (Jul. 2019)
 Panel Organizer / Paper: “Rethinking Banneker: Reluctant Abolitionist, Avid Astronomer”
The Ohio State University – African American & African Studies Community Extension Center (Feb. 2019). Community Lecture: “Frederick Douglass and Science.”

- 2018 **The Ohio State University – STEAM Factory** (Nov. 2018) Humanities and Science Exchange Faculty Lecture: “Scientists, Antislavery, and the Myth of Slavery’s Backwardness”
- SHA (Southern Historical Association), Annual Conference** (Nov. 2018)
Panel Organizer / Paper: “The Science of Slavery: How Science, Technology, and Finance Made Slavery Modern”
- OAH (Organization of American History), Annual Conference** (Apr. 2018)
Panel Organizer / Paper: “Antislavery Science: Yellow Fever and the Failure of the Abolitionist Movement in the 1790s”
- AHA (American Historical Association), Annual Conference** (Jan. 2018)
Paper: “Slave Revolt, Spanish Subversion, and U.S. Diplomacy in the Southwest Borderlands, 1790-1820”
- 2017 **University of Pennsylvania - McNeil Center Biennial Graduate Student Conference** (Oct. 2017)
Conference Co-organizer
- ICHST (International Congress for the History of Science and Technology), Annual Conference** (Jul. 2017) Panel Organizer / Paper: “Sierra Leone as Science Lab: Bioprospecting and the Early Antislavery Movement, 1787-1830”
- SHEAR (Society for Historians of the Early American Republic), Annual Conference** (Jul. 2017)
Panel Organizer / Paper: “‘An Experiment Worthy of a Trial’: The Scientific Ideas behind Frances Wright’s Nashoba Plantation, 1825-30”
- Yale University – Conference: “Critical Histories and Activist Futures: Science, Medicine, and Racial Violence”** (Feb. 2017) Paper: “Natural History Collecting in a Slaveholding Republic: Benjamin Silliman and the Gibbs Collection at Yale”
- 2016 **HSS (History of Science Society), Annual Conference** (Nov. 2016) Panel Organizer / Paper: “The Antislavery Origins of Big Pharma: William Allen, West Africa and the Birth of GlaxoSmithKlein”
- OIEAHC (Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture), Annual Conference** (Jun. 2014) Panel Organizer / Paper: “Sierra Leone as Science Lab: Making Scientific Knowledge in the Age of Revolution and Abolitionism, 1787-1807”
- 2015 **SHEAR (Society for Historians of the Early American Republic), Annual Conference** (Jul. 2015)
Panel Organizer / Paper: “Entangled Histories: Abolition, Republicanism, & Science, 1770-1807”
- Columbia University: “Re-Working Freedom: Graduate Student Conference on Slavery and Emancipation in the Atlantic World”** (Feb. 2015) Conference Co-organizer / Paper: “A Medical History of American Abolitionism, 1770-1807”
- 2014 **OIEAHC (Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture), Annual Conference** (Jun. 2014) Panel Organizer / Paper: “The 1811 New Orleans Slave Revolt and the Spanish Atlantic World”
- 2013 **University of Miami (FL), Cuban Heritage Collection, Annual Conference** (Mar. 2014) Paper: “Everyday Enlightenment: Science, Capitalism, and Slavery in the Spanish Atlantic World”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Courses Taught*
- 2021 **American Civilization: A 400-Year History of America** (Spr) Univ. of Utah, History Dept.

- Graduate Reading Seminar: 19th Century U.S. Historiography (Spr) Univ. of Utah, History Dept.
- 2020 U.S. History to 1877 (Fall) Univ. of Utah, History Dept.
American Slavery (Fall) Univ. of Utah, History Dept.
Graduate Reading Seminar: Blackness and the Body in Race and Medicine (Spr) Ohio State Univ., AAAS Dept.
- 2019 African American History to 1877 (Fall), Ohio State Univ., AAAS Dept.
Slavery: A History (Spr) Ohio State Univ., AAAS Dept.
Slavery: Fact, Fiction, And Film (Spr) Ohio State Univ., AAAS Dept.
- 2018 Race and Medicine: Past, Present, and Future (Fall) Ohio State University, AAAS Dept.
- 2015 United States Since 1945 (Spr) Columbia University, History Dept. *Teaching Assistant*
- 2014 A History of New York City (Fall) Columbia University, History Dept. *Teaching Assistant*
American Beginnings: A History of Colonial America (Spr) Columbia University, History Dept. *Teaching Assistant*
Introduction to U.S. History, I: Colonial Era to 1877 (Fall) Columbia University, History Dept. *Teaching Assistant*
Slavery and Freedom in the Age of the American Revolution (Spring 2014, Spring 2013) Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History – Saturday Academy for High School Students

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2020 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee – Univ. of Utah College of Humanities
Faculty Awards Committee – Univ. of Utah History Department
Black Matters 101: This Side of the Pandemic – A Webinar Series. Organized a 5-part online series, sponsored by OSU’s African American & African Studies Department, amid the protests around George Floyd’s murder and the racial disparities in Covid-19 cases.
Black LGBTQ+ Health Issues Panel. Organized panel at OSU African American & African Studies Community Extension Center.
- 2019 Diversifying STEM Roundtable. Organized panel at Ohio State on diversifying STEM careers and majors.
Slavery Lecture Series, 2019-2020. Currently serving on planning committee at Ohio State for ‘ lecture series commemorating 1619 arrival of first slaves to North America.
- 2018 *The William & Mary Quarterly*. Invited to peer-review article.
- 2017 *Slavery & Abolition*. Invited to peer-review article.
University of Pennsylvania. *Undergraduate Advisor*. Undergraduate Research Workshop
- 2014-16 *The William and Mary Quarterly*. *Regional Web Editor*
- 2014-15 American Historical Association-Mellon Initiative: History in Action Grant, Columbia University
Graduate Student Representative
- 2013-15 Early American History Seminar, Columbia University – University Seminar Program
Rapporteur (2013-14 and 2014-15 academic years)
Graduate Education Committee, Columbia University, History Department
Graduate Student Co-Chair

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2018-19 The Ohio State University, Drake Institute for Teaching and Learning. *Participated in new faculty teaching mentorship program.*
- 2013-14 Columbia University - Center for Teaching and Learning. *Certificate in Program for Teaching with Technology*
- 2012-13 Institute for Constitutional History, New-York Historical Society. Seminar: “Union, Race, and

- 2011-12 Nation: Creation of the Federal Republic” taught by Annette Gordon-Reed & Peter Onuf
National Park Service (NPS), Underground Railroad: Network to Freedom, Curriculum Designer
Research Assistant. Carol Berkin, CUNY Graduate Center, *Wondrous Beauty: The Life and*
Adventures of Elizabeth Patterson Bonaparte (Knopf, 2014)
Research Assistant. Kathleen Brown, Univ. of Pennsylvania, *Global America* textbook

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

African American Intellectual History Society
 American Historical Association
 Association for the Study of African American Life and History
 History of Science Society
 McNeil Center for Early American Studies
 Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture
 Organization of American Historians
 Society for Historians of the Early American Republic

JOURNALISM (Sample)

- 2020 **The New Republic.** “The Elusive Promise of the Underground Railroad,” Dec. 7, 2020
The New Republic. “Could the United States Break Up?” Sept. 1, 2020
- 2019 **The New Republic.** “An Early Case for Reparations,” Oct. 16, 2019
The Washington Post. “1619: What We Get Wrong About the Roots of Slavery in America,” Feb. 19, 2019
- 2018 **The New Republic.** “When Violence Broke Out in Congress,” Oct. 22, 2018
The New York Review of Books. “Why Trump Could Pardon Jack Johnson When Obama Wouldn’t,” Jun. 13, 2018
The New York Times. “Frederick Douglass’s Fight Against Scientific Racism,” Feb. 22, 2018
The New Republic. “The KKK’s Attempt to Define America,” Jan. 16, 2018
- 2017 **The New Republic.** “The Making of an Antislavery President,” Jun. 23, 2017
- 2016 **Slate.** “America’s First Civil War,” Sept. 6, 2016
The New Republic. “When All Men Were Created Separate, But Equal,” May 4, 2016
- 2015 **The Daily Beast.** “New York’s First Black Millionaire,” Dec. 4, 2015
Slate. “The Unmaking of America,” Nov. 2, 2015
The Daily Beast. “How Slavery Gave Capitalism Its Start,” Apr. 24, 2015
Slate. “The Civil War After the Civil War,” Apr. 9, 2015
- 2014 **Slate.** “The Fabric of Our Lives,” Dec. 2, 2014
The Daily Beast. “Sex Lives of our Founding Fathers,” Feb. 21, 2014
The Daily Beast. “How Blacks Freed Themselves,” Feb. 18, 2014
- 2013 **The New York Times.** “The Passion of Solomon Northup,” Nov. 6, 2013
Slate. “Revolution Blues,” July 3, 2013
The Daily Beast. “The North’s Slavery Problem,” May 7, 2013
- 2012 **The New York Times.** “Dreaming of Haiti,” Dec. 21, 2012
The Atlantic Monthly. “Is Thomas Jefferson to Blame for Today’s Partisan Politics?”
 Nov. 1, 2012

PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2010 - present **Freelance Journalist.** *The New York Times, Slate, The New Republic, The Atlantic Monthly, The New York Review of Books, The Daily Beast, and The Washington Post.*
- 2010-12 **The New York Observer.** *Arts & Culture Contributing Writer.*
- 2006-12 **The Jewish Week.** *Books and Culture Staff Reporter and Editor.*
- 2006 **The Jewish Daily Forward.** *Summer Intern, Writer.*
- 2005 **The Miami Herald.** *Summer Intern, Features Writer.*
- 2004 **The New Republic.** *Summer Intern, Editorial Department.*