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Professor. History Department, Ithaca College. United States History. August 2013 - present.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in History. 1999. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Major Field: United States social and cultural history.

Dissertation: “Murder and the Modern Sensibility: Sensationalism and Cultural Change in Richmond, Virginia, from the Victorian Era to the Age of Ragtime” (Prof. John F. Kasson, advisor)

Master of Arts in History. 1993. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Thesis: “Charting Richmond's Fun: The Changing Shape of Commercial Amusements in Richmond, Virginia, 1880-1920.”

Bachelor of Arts in History, with Departmental Honors. 1989. Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond.

BOOKS

The End of Public Execution: Race, Religion, and Punishment in the American South. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2022.

The Body in the Reservoir: Murder and Sensationalism in the South. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008.

ARTICLES – Peer Reviewed

“What Counts: Trends in Racial Violence in the Postbellum South” *Journal of American History* 100 (September 2013): 375-400.

“The Scaffold’s Revival: Race and Public Execution in the South” *Journal of Social History* 45 (Fall 2011): 195-224.

“Jim Crow Justice, the *Richmond Planet*, and the Murder of Lucy Pollard” in Robert Asher, Lawrence Goodheart, and Alan Rogers, eds., *Murder on Trial, 1620 - 2002* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2005), 61-85.

“Murder Made Real: the Visual Revolution of the Half-tone” *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 111 (2003): 379-410. Winner of the William M. E. Rachal award for the best overall essay in the *Magazine* for 2003 and of the Society of Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era’s Biennial Article Prize for 2005.

“Freedmen and Enslaved Soil: A Case Study of Manumission, Migration, and Land” *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 104 (Autumn, 1996): 455-80. Winner of the C. Coleman McGehee award for the best graduate student essay in the *Magazine* for 1996.

AWARDS and FELLOWSHIPS, selected

- **Virginia Historical Society Mellon Research Fellowship**, 2014; also in 1995, 1997, 2000 and 2004.
- Ithaca College’s **Faculty Excellence Award** for 2013, awarded for “overall excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service.”
- Ithaca College’s **Robert Ryan Professorship of the Humanities**, 2007-2010. A three-year honorary professorship.
- **National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend**, 2001.

BRIEF ARTICLES, CONTRIBUTIONS, and PUBLIC-FACING WRITING, recent

“Confounding White Supremacy” UNC Press Blog, 27 June 2023 (uncpressblog.com)

“The Slaughterhouse Accountant: Researching Death,” *Perspectives Daily* (online American Historical Association publication), 11 May 2023 (historians.org/research-and-publications/perspectives-on-history)

“The Racism of American Capital Punishment” *The Edge*, 26 January 2023 (theedgemedial.org)

“The Multiple States and Fields of Lynching Scholarship” *Journal of American History* 101 (December 2014): 852-3. (A response to Michael Pfeifer’s state-of-the-field essay on lynching: ‘At the Hands of Parties Unknown’)

OTHER PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS, CONVERSATIONS, and INTERVIEWS, recent

Speaker, “Historical Contexts for the Gist Manumission,” Gist Descendants Reunion, Mt. Orab, OH, July 2023.

Panelist on “Writing Beyond the Academy,” a Center for Faculty Excellence panel on short form writing, Ithaca College, May 2023.

Public Readings of and Conversations about *The End of Public Execution*:

- Buffalo Street Books, Ithaca, NY, February 2023.
- Book Launch, a part of the Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival, zoom, April 2023.
- Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, VA, June 2023.

Interviewed on the publication of *The End of Public Execution*:

- by Lane Davis for the New Books Network, December 2022; and
- by John Heckman, for the “Tattooed Historian,” April, 2023.