

JORDAN BUCHANAN SMITH

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Fall 2018- **Assistant Professor of History**, Widener University, Chester, Pennsylvania

EDUCATION

- 2018 **Ph.D., History, Georgetown University**
Dissertation: “The Invention of Rum.”
Passed with Distinction (February 2018)
Dissertation Committee: Alison Games (advisor), John McNeill, Adam Rothman
Exam Fields: Commodities in the Atlantic World (Games); Atlantic History (Rothman); Early Modern Global Environmental History (McNeill); Work in Early America (Chandra Manning)
- 2013 **M.A. in passing, History, Georgetown University**
- 2010 **B.A. in History, with Honors, Carleton College**
Concentration in African-American Studies; Graduated *magna cum laude*

PUBLICATIONS

- In Preparation *The Invention of Rum*. Book manuscript under contract with the Early American Studies Series at University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Forthcoming ‘For How Could We Do Without Sugar and Rum?’ Anti-Consumption, Commodity Substitution, and the Global Expansion of Plantation Production in *Moralizing Commerce*, eds. Felix Brahm and Eve Rosenhaft, (Oxford University Press, 2022).
- 2021 “Short Teaching Module: A Human History of Commodities,” *World History Commons*, <https://worldhistorycommons.org/short-teaching-module-human-history-commodities>
- Book reviews:
- 2021 Review: *The Fabric of Empire: Material and Literary Cultures of the Global Atlantic, 1650-1850*, by Danielle Skeechn, *H-Net*
- 2019 Review: *Contested Bodies: Pregnancy, Childbearing, and Slavery in Jamaica*, by Sasha Turner, *Labor: Studies In Working Class History*
- 2019 Review: *Race and Nation in the Age of Emancipations*, Edited by Whitney Stewart and John Marks, *Slavery and Abolition*
- 2018 Review: *Indentured Migration and the Servant Trade from London to America, 1618-1718* by John Warering, *North Carolina Historical Review*

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

External

2020-2021 **National Endowment for the Humanities Post-Doctoral Fellowship**, Library Company of Philadelphia
Mellon Periclean Faculty Leader, Project Pericles
Folger Institute Research Fellowship, Folger Shakespeare Library, *subsequently honored as American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Selection*
Short Term Fellowship, New-York Historical Society [*cancelled due to Covid-19*]

2020 **Dissertation Prize Finalist**, World Historical Association

2019 **SHEAR Dissertation Prize**, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic and the University of Pennsylvania Press
Omohundro Institute Scholars Workshop, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture

2017-2018 **Barra Dissertation Fellow in Art and Material Culture**, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, The University of Pennsylvania

2018 **AHA Council Annual Meeting Travel Grant**, American Historical Association

2016 **Stern Grant**, North American Conference on British Studies

2015 **Fellowship for Graduate Research in Slavery and Print Culture**, Lapidus-Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture
Library Associates Fellowship, John Carter Brown Library
Cosmos Scholars Grant, Cosmos Club Foundation
Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, Massachusetts Historical Society
Program in Early American Economy and Society One-Month Fellowship, Library Company of Philadelphia
New England Regional Fellowship Consortium Grant
Phillips Library Fellowship, Peabody Essex Museum

2014 **IHR Mellon Pre-Dissertation Fellowship**, Institute of Historical Research
William Keck Foundation Fellow, Huntington Library
Graduate Student Travel Research Award, Mid-Atlantic Conference on British Studies

2013 **Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship**, Social Science Research Council

2010 **Dennis Reinhartz Transatlantic History Award for Best M.A. or B.A. Student Essay**, University of Texas-Arlington

2009 **Gilder-Lehrman History Scholar One-Week Finalist**, Gilder-Lehrman Foundation

Internal

2021-2022 **Faculty Development Grant**, Widener University

2020-2021 **Faculty Development Grant**, Widener University
Provost's Research Grant, Widener University [*cancelled due to Covid-19*]

2019-2020 **Trainer Faculty Fellow**, Oskin Leadership Institute, Widener University

2016-2017 **Royden B. Davis Teaching Fellowship**, Georgetown University

- 2011-2016 **Graduate Fellowship in the History of the Early Modern World** (enhanced),
Georgetown University
- 2014 **Piepho Research Travel Grant**, Georgetown University
- 2013 **International Conference Travel Grant**, Georgetown University
- 2010 **Margaret Dalton Curran Prize for Most Accomplished Academic Essay**,
Carleton College

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 **“Constructing the ‘Most Uncertain Estate in Nature,’”** Yale Early American
Historians Seminar, New Haven, CT
“The Caribbean Origins of European Craftsmanship: A Case Study in Rum,”
Rienzi Symposium, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Houston, TX,
<https://vimeo.com/647847563>
“The Native Produce of this Island,” Dr. Tessa Murphy’s class at Syracuse
University
“The Invention of Rum,” Fellows Colloquium, Library Company of Philadelphia
“Civil Rights and School Segregation in 1960s Chester,” Delaware County
Historical Society, Chester, PA
“Rum and the History of Drink,” Dr. Lindsay O’Neill’s class at the University of
Southern California
- 2020 **“Slavery and the Work of Making Rum,”** McNeil Center for Early American
Studies Friday Seminar Series, Philadelphia, PA
- 2019 **“The Philadelphia ‘Spirit’: The Early Production of Rum in Philadelphia,”**
The American Philosophical Society Museum, Philadelphia, PA
“Just by My Own Ideas’: Slavery and the Invention of Rum,” Widener
University Humanities Colloquium, Chester, PA
“Illuminate Chester: Penn’s Landing,” Roundtable Discussion at MJ Freed
Theater, Chester, PA
- 2018 **“Chester: Whose History is it Anyway?”** Roundtable Discussion with Steven
Hahn, Delaware County Historical Society, Chester, PA
**“The Best Plan of Those in the West Indies:’ British Anti-Consumption and
East Indian Responses,”** Johns Hopkins Atlantic Seminar, Baltimore, MD
“Rum May Always be Had:’ From Cane to Cup at Mount Vernon,” For
George Washington’s Mount Vernon, Washington, DC
- 2017 **“A Whetstone to Sharpen the Ingenuity of Other Men:’ Expertise, Mobility,
and Cooperation,”** Georgetown University Early Modern Global History Seminar,
Washington, DC
- 2016 **“A Treasure more Useful to this Kingdom than the Mines of Peru:’ British
distilleries and the production of rum in the eighteenth century,”** McNeil
Center for Early American Studies Wednesday Brown Bag Series, Philadelphia, PA

- 2015 **“The Invention of Rum: A View from Rhode Island,”** John Carter Brown Library Fellows Talk, Providence, RI
“The Invention of Rum,” Massachusetts Historical Society Brown Bag Series, Boston, MA

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 **Roundtable Participant, “Connecting Classrooms to Communities: Empowering Students to Address Grand Challenges,”** Association of American Colleges & Universities Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
- 2021 **“Pennsylvania’s Plymouth Rock: Claiming and Forgetting Space at William Penn’s Landing(s),”** Pennsylvania Historical Association Annual Meeting
“‘The Native Produce of this Island’: Processes of Invention in Early Barbados,” Workshop on the 50th Anniversary of Richard S. Dunn’s *Sugar and Slaves*, McNeil Center for Early American Studies and the Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation at the University of Hull
- 2020 **“Tasting Revolution: Teaching the Politics of Non-Consumption with Labrador Tea,”** Roundtable on “Teaching Protest” at “Foundations of Independence” Conference, Institute for Thomas Paine Studies, New Rochelle, NY
“From Dissertation to Manuscript,” Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture Annual Meeting, Williamsburg, VA (organized roundtable and associated programming on strategies to begin converting a dissertation into a first book); *canceled due to Covid-19*
- 2019 **“Scotland’s Rum Distilleries and Caribbean Entanglements in the Seventeenth Century,”** Ports and People in Commodity History Workshop, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland
“Making Rum ‘Atlantic’ in the Seventeenth Century,” Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA (organized panel on Commodities and Colonies in the Seventeenth-Century Atlantic World)
“The Invention of Rum,” The Future of Early America: Lightning Round on Emerging Research at the Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
- 2018 **“‘The Invention of this Noble Liquor’: Free and Coerced Migrants and the Invention of Rum,”** Bucerius Young Scholar Forum: “Histories of Migration: Transatlantic and Global Perspectives,” Berkeley, CA
“The Mobility of Enslaved Expertise: Quacqo’s Story,” “Trans-American Crossings: Enslaved Migrations within the Americas and Their Impacts on Slave Cultures and Societies,” The Omohundro Institute and John Carter Brown Library, Providence, RI
- 2017 **“For How Could We Do Without Sugar and Rum?: Anti-Consumption and the Morality of Production in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World,”**

- “Moralising Commerce in a Globalising World” Conference, German Historical Institute, London, England
- 2016 **“Rum on Gin Lane: The Gin Craze as an Imperial Event,”** North American Conference on British Studies Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (*organized panel on “Alcohol and Empire”*)
- “Essential in the Still House: Valuing Enslaved Expertise in the Caribbean Rum Complex,”** Association of Caribbean Historians Annual Meeting, Havana, Cuba
- 2015 **“Rum, the Black Atlantic, and a Productive History of the Atlantic World,”** New Scholarship on the Black Atlantic Workshop, Salt Lake City, UT
- 2014 **“An Atlantic Recipe for Virginia Rum,”** Virginia Forum, Fairfax, VA
- 2013 **“Liquor and Knowledge Transfer in Europe, Africa, and the Americas,”** Third Summer Academy of Atlantic History, Hamburg, Germany
- “Why Couldn’t the Caribbean-North American Molasses Trade Recover from the American Revolution?”** Annual Meeting of the Society of Historians of the Early American Republic, St. Louis, MO

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2020 **“Enslaved Americans and the History of Distilling,”** *Drinking with Historians*, <https://youtu.be/op2tKf1H1aE>.
- “History and Memory in Chester,”** *The Friday Edition with Stefan Roots*, <https://youtu.be/IRYh7UaN5wo>.
- 2019 **“Invention of Rum,”** Interview with American History TV on CSPAN3, <https://tinyurl.com/y4r7k85z>.
- 2018 **“Penn Landed Here, and There...,”** *Illuminate Chester* Documentary Series, <https://tinyurl.com/y4ej5hbv>.

RELATED EMPLOYMENT

- 2020-Present **Project Historian, “Rum: America’s Spirit for Liberty,”** Third Wave Films
- 2009-2018 **Historic Trades Interpreter, Mount Vernon Estate, Museum, and Gardens**
 Demonstrated and interpreted eighteenth-century trades including distilling, milling, farming, and blacksmithing. Regularly served as lead on-site interpreter and supervised college interns (2011-2012).

COURSES TAUGHT

Widener University

- Survey:** American Civilization 1 (12x)
- Seminars:** Sugar, Alcohol, Slaves: A Commodity History of the Atlantic World (2x)
 Women in Early America (Spring 2019)
 The Atlantic World (Fall 2019)
 Caribbean Revolutions (Honors Colloquium; Fall 2019)

Revolutionary America (Spring 2020)
Practices in Public History: History and Memory in Chester (Fall 2020)
Senior Research Seminar (Fall 2020)
Slavery and the Environment in Early America (Fall 2021)

Georgetown University

Survey: Atlantic World (2x)
Seminar: Sugar, Alcohol, Slaves: A Commodity History of the Atlantic World (Fall 2016)

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

2021-Present **Committee Member**, America250Delco semiquincentennial committee
2021-Present **Advisory Committee**, Archaeology Education Planning Project, Newlin Grist Mill
2019 **Faculty Commentator**, McNeil Center New Dissertation Fellows Workshop
2019 **Manuscript Workshop Participant**, McNeil Center for Early American Studies
2018-Present **Advisory Council**, McNeil Center for Early American Studies
2014-Present **Fellowships Editor**, *Uncommon Sense*, Omohundro Institute of Early American
History and Culture
2011- 2015 **Judge**, National History Day National Contest

SERVICE TO INSTITUTION

Widener University

2020-Present **Public History Liaison for the College of Arts and Sciences**
University Library Committee (secretary, 21-22)
Widener University Bicentennial Committee (co-chair, “Looking Back” sub-
committee)
Latin American Studies Working Group
2019-Present **Academic Advisor to History Majors**
African and African American Studies Advisory Council
University Faculty Council Representative
College of Arts and Sciences Promotion, Tenure, and Academic Freedom
Committee
Humanities Division Promotion, Tenure, and Academic Freedom Committee
2020 **Faculty Collaborator for online course “Decoding Pandemics: How Covid-19**
is Changing Science and Society”
Art Collection Committee
2019-2020 **Search Committee Member, Assistant Professor of Creative Writing**

Georgetown University

2016-2018 **Volunteer Researcher**, Georgetown Slavery Archive
2012-2013 **Participant**, Georgetown History Department General Education Redesign
Workshop Series

Student Representative, Georgetown History Department Graduate Studies
Committee

PROFICIENCIES

Intermediate proficiency in Spanish and French
Working knowledge of ArcGIS and SPSS

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association, Association of Caribbean Historians, Barbados
Museum and Historical Society, Delaware County Historical Society, Forum on
European Expansion and Global Interaction, Friends of the McNeil Center, North
American Conference on British Studies, Omohundro Institute of Early American
History and Culture, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic