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Academic Positions

Professor of History, State University of New York at Potsdam, 2009-Present
Visiting Professor, Akademia Pomorska, Słupsk, Poland, May-June 2018
Associate Professor of History, SUNY Potsdam, 2000-2009.
Assistant Professor of History, Emory University, 1993-2000.
Lecturer, Department of History, Princeton University, 1992-93.

Education

Doctor of Philosophy in History, 28 January 1993. Princeton University.
Master of Arts in History, 24 January 1987. Princeton University.
Bachelor of Arts, 31 May 1981. Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT. Double Major in
History and Economics. University Honors and High Honors in History.

Books

The Appeal of Insurance, edited with Gregory Anderson, Christian Thomann, and Matthias Graf von der Schulenburg (University of Toronto Press, 2010).
Betting on Lives: The Culture of Life Insurance in England, 1695-1775 (Manchester University Press, 1999).

Articles, Review Articles, Essays, and Other Media

“The Cultural Context of Insurance in the West,” in Niels Viggo Haueter and Geoffrey Jones, eds., *Managing Risk in Reinsurance: From City Fires to Global Warming* (Oxford University Press), 2017.
Test Bank for *Western Civilizations: Their History & Their Culture*. Co-authored (with Donna Trembinski), Eighteenth Edition, Norton (2014).
“Insuring Slaves in Early Modern Europe,” in Christoph Kampmann and Ulrich Niggemann, eds., *Sicherheit in der Frühen Neuzeit* (Böhlau Verlag GmbH & Cie, 2013).
“The Historiographical Context of *Regulated Lives*.” *University of Connecticut Insurance Law Journal*, 16, 2 (2009-2010).
“Capturing Uncertainty: The role of insurance in the construction of modern life” (with Greg Anderson). *Zeitschrift für die Gesamte Versicherungswissenschaft* 2, 2007.
“Commerce, Culture, and the Rise of English Power.” Review Essay of *Barclays: The Business of Banking, 1690-1996* by Margaret Ackrill and Leslie Hanna, *The Worlds of the East India Company* by H.V. Bowen, Margarete Lincoln, and Nigel Rigby, eds., *Kingship and Crown Finance Under James VI and I, 1603-1625* by John Cramsie, *Mammon’s Music: Literature and Economics in the Age of Milton* by Blair Hoxby, *Usury, Interest, and the Reformation* by Eric Kerridge, *The Rise of Commercial Empires: England and the Netherlands in the Age of Mercantilism, 1650-1770* by David Ormrod, *The Rhetoric*

- of Credit: Merchants in Early Modern Writing* by Ceri Sullivan, *The Historical Journal*, 49, 4 (2006), 1-13.
- “Waging War with Insurance in Eighteenth-Century Britain,” in Christian Thomann and J.-Matthias Graf von der Schulenburg, eds., *War, Terrorism and Insurance in Europe after September 11, 2001* (Karlsruhe: Verlag Versicherungswirtschaft GmbH, 2004).
- “Insurance as an Instrument of War in the Eighteenth Century,” *Geneva Papers on Risk and Insurance* (April 2004).
- “Insurance,” in Jonathan Dewald, ed., *The Dictionary of Early Modern Europe: 1450-1789*, 6 vols. (Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2003).
- “Embracing Fatality Through Life Insurance in Eighteenth-Century England,” in Tom Baker and Jonathan Simon, eds., *Embracing Risk* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002).
- “Anne of Denmark,” “Anne Askew,” “Bridget,” “Mary Tudor,” in Anne Commire and Deborah Klezmer, eds., *Women in World History*, 16 vols. (Waterford, CT: Yorkin Publications, 1999-2001).
- “Money and the State,” *Journal of British Studies* 37, 3 (July 1998). Review of *The Nerves of State: Taxation and the Financing of the English State, 1558-1714* by Michael J. Braddick, *City of Capital: Politics and Markets in the English Financial Revolution* by Bruce G. Carruthers, and *Fictions of State: Culture and Credit in Britain, 1694-1994* by Patrick Brantlinger.
- “Life Insurance in the Society and Culture of London, 1700-1775,” *Urban History*, vol. 24, pt. 1 (May 1997).

Reviews

- Risk and the Insurance Business in History*, edited by Jerònia Pons Pons and Robin Pearson (forthcoming).
- The Power of your Life: The Sanlam Century of Insurance Empowerment, 1918-2018*, by Grietjie Verhoef, *Business History Review*, vol. 94, no. 1 (Spring 2020), 279-81.
- Casualties of Credit: The English Financial Revolution, 1620-1720*, by Carl Wennerlind, *Journal of Modern History*, 85, 4 (Dec. 2013).
- World Insurance: The Evolution of a Global Risk Network*, edited by Peter Borscheid and Niels Viggo Haueter, *EH-NET* (posted August 2, 2013).
- The Development of International Insurance*, edited by Robin Pearson, *Economic History Review*, 64, 4 (2011).
- Regulated Lives: Life Insurance and British Society*, by Timothy Alborn, *Victorian Studies*, 52, 4 (2010).
- Internationalisation and Globalisation of the Insurance Industry in the 19th and 20th Centuries* edited by Peter Borscheid and Robin Pearson, *Economic History Review*, 61, 3 (2008).
- Mutually Beneficial: The Guardian and Life Insurance in America* by Robert E. Wright and George David Smith, *Business History Review*, 79, 1 (Spring 2005).
- Heads or Tails: The Poetics of Money* by Jochen Hörisch, *Yearbook of German-American Studies*, 38 (2003).
- From Reformation to Improvement: Public Welfare in Early Modern England* by Paul Slack, *Journal of Modern History*, 73 (2001).
- Power and the Professions in Britain* by Penelope Corfield, *Imagining the Middle Class* by Dror Wahrman, and *The Writing of Urban Histories in Eighteenth-Century England* by Rosemary Sweet, *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, 33, 2 (Winter 2000).

English Merchants in Seventeenth-Century Italy by Gigliola Pagano de Divitiis, *Canadian Journal of History*, XXXV, (April 2000).

Conference Papers, Comments, and Media Presentations

Invited presenter, “The Lactation of St. Bernard in Medieval and Renaissance Art,” the University of California at Riverside, October 24, 2019.

Invited presenter, “English Widows: Inheritance, Charity, and Insurance, 1500-1800,” at the *Fourth Conference on a Comparative History of Insurance Law in Europe: “Provision for Widows,”* University of Augsburg, Augsburg, Germany, July 4-6, 2019. Publication by Duncker & Humblot in a multi-volume series on the comparative history of insurance law in Europe expected in 2020.

“Probability and Insurance in the Creation of a Modern Future.” Paper delivered at the International Conference on Risk and the Insurance Business in History, June 11-14, 2019, Universidad Internacional de Andalucía, Seville, Spain, June 11-14, 2019.

Keynote Presenter, “The Iconography of Spiritual Resilience: The Lactation of St. Bernard and the Humanists,” *On Resilience: International Interdisciplinary Conference*, Gdynia and Sopot, Poland, May 28-30, 2018.

Invited Panelist, “Insuring Slaves in Early Modern Europe,” University of Marburg, Marburg, Germany, September 2011.

Invited Speaker, “Johannes Vermeer in Historical Context,” Massena Public Library, Massena, NY, March 24, 2011.

Invited Panelist, “*Regulated Lives* in Historical Context,” University of Connecticut Insurance Law Center, Hartford, Connecticut, February 11, 2010.

Invited Commentator, “The Development of Insurance Law: English Common & Statutory Law and Continental Influences,” American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, Tempe, Arizona, October 26, 2007.

“The Slave’s Appeal: Insurance and the Rise of Commercial Property.” Paper delivered to the Insurance and Society Workshop, Harvard Business School, Cambridge, MA, May 17, 2007.

“Insurance, Slavery, and the Commodification of Economic Agents.” Paper delivered to the conference, “The Appeal of Insurance,” University of Hanover, Germany, November 16, 2006.

Consultant and Interviewee, “Risking Everything,” a three-part series about insurance produced by Paul Kobrak and Julia Adamson. Broadcast by BBC Radio 4 on 3, 10, 17 January 2004.

“An Historical Viewpoint on Insurability.” Invited paper delivered to the conference “Challenging Insurability: Flood Management and Insurance Regulation,” ESRC Centre for Analysis of Risk and Regulation, London School of Economics, 5 December 2003.

“Insurance as an Instrument of War.” Invited paper delivered to the conference on War/Terrorism and Insurance in Europe, Kompetenzzentrum Versicherungswissenschaften GmbH, University of Hanover, 20 November 2003.

“18th-Century Insurers and the British State in Wartime.” Invited paper delivered at the Tenth Joint Seminar of the Geneva Association and the European Association of Law and

Economics, Dutch Research School on Public Safety (Onderzoekschool Maatschappelijke Veiligheid), Erasmus University of Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands, 15 April 2003.

- “Life Insurance as a Window onto Cultural History.” American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario, 23 October 1999.
- “Reckoning with Death: Virtue, Gambling and Life Insurance in Eighteenth-Century England.” Invited paper delivered to the “Embracing Risk” Mini-Conference, Insurance Law Center, University of Connecticut, Hartford, Connecticut, 11 April 1999.
- “Abolitionism and the Growth of Commercial Property in 18th-Century England.” Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies Annual Meeting, Mackinaw City, Michigan, 8 October 1998.
- “Investment and Play in Eighteenth-Century Life Insurance Societies.” North American Conference on British Studies Annual Meeting, Pacific Grove, California, 1 November 1997.
- “Reckoning With Death: Calculation, Gambling, and Life Insurance in Eighteenth-Century England.” Invited paper delivered at California State University/Long Beach, 29 October 1997.
- “Gambling on Human Lives.” Western Society for Eighteenth- Century Studies Annual Convention, 14 February 1997.
- “Gambling, Morality, and Life Insurance: Early Eighteenth-Century Life Insurers' Use of the New Demography.” “Calculation, Chance and the Enlightenment,” a workshop sponsored by the UCLA Department of History and the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, 24 February 1996.
- “The Diffusion of Commercial Intelligence in the ‘Age of Projects’: The Case of Life Insurance in England, 1706-1720.” The Vann Seminar in Pre-Modern History, Emory University, 16 October 1994.
- “The Mathematics of Mortality, Life Insurance, and the Practice of Risk in the Eighteenth Century.” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Convention, 25 April 1993.
- “The Social Networks of Life Insurance Policyholders in Augustan London.” American Historical Association Annual Convention, 30 December 1992.
- “The Social Composition of the Life Insurance Market in England, 1706-1770.” The Eighteenth-Century Seminar at the Institute of Historical Research, University of London, 6 June 1990.

Workshops, Conferences and Seminars

- Member of the Scientific Committee of the International Conference on Risk and the Insurance Business in History, June 11-14, 2019, Universidad Internacional de Andalucía, Seville, Spain, June 11-14, 2019. Organized the panel “Negotiating Futures through Insurance.”
- Invited Consultant, as a National Center for Academic Transformation Redesign Scholar, to aid the History Department at Shepherd University (WV) design hybrid courses, May 2-3, 2016.
- Attendee, Moodlepaloosa, a conference on computer-based pedagogy, SUNY Delhi, January 13, 2015.

Organized “The Appeal of Insurance,” a conference held at the Institute for Insurance Studies, University of Hanover, Germany, November 16-17, 2006.

Invited participant, Third International Laboratory of the History and Philosophy of Science, sponsored by Tel Aviv University in association with the Dibner Institute at MIT, the Max Planck Institute in Berlin, and the University of Florence. Tel Aviv, June 2000.

Seminar Member, “Gender in the Renaissance,” Folger Shakespeare Library, Spring Semester 1996.

Courses Taught

The Renaissance and Reformation

The Enlightenment

Medieval and Renaissance England

England in Revolution

History of Money

Imagining Life Beyond Earth

History of Crime

Europe and the Atlantic World

Senior Research Seminar

Europe 1500-1815 (and as honors section)

Europe Since 1815 (and as honors section)

Europe Since 1500 (in both hybrid and on-line formats)

European History & Geography (hybrid course)

Explorers Around the World (on-line and distance learning formats)

Economics and Culture in Early Modern England (graduate)

Awards, Fellowships and Grants

Thomas L. and Jane D. Russell Distance Education Faculty Excellence Award, August 2014.

UUP/SUNY Individual Development Grant, Spring 2014 (declined).

President’s Award for Excellence in Research and Creative Endeavors, SUNY Potsdam, April 2011.

Subvention grants for *The Appeal of Insurance* from the Institute für Versicherungsbetriebslehre [Institute for Insurance Studies], Leibniz University, Hanover (€4,500) and from the Insurance Law Center, University of Connecticut (\$2,000), January 2009.

SUNY/NCAT Course Redesign Grant (\$40,000), May 2008.

Faculty-Undergraduate Summer Research Program Grant, Summer 2007.

UUP/SUNY Individual Development Grant, December 2006.

Professional Development Committee Research Grant, Fall 2006

Professional Development Committee Research Grant, Fall 2005.

Professional Development Committee Research Grant, Spring 2003.

University Research Committee Summer Grant, Emory University, 1996.

University Research Committee Teaching Relief Grant, Emory University, Fall Semester 1996.

Mellon Post-Enrollment Fellow, Princeton University, Fall Semester 1991.

Dutcher Prize for Excellence in History, Wesleyan University, May 1981.

Professional Service

Reviewer and Referee of numerous textbook manuscripts and proposals for Oxford University Press, Norton, and Pearson, ongoing.

Faculty Online Fellow, SUNY Potsdam, January-December 2020.

Reviewer and Test Bank Reviser of the 18th edition of Joshua Cole and Carol Symes, *Western Civilizations* (Norton, 2014).

External History Program Reviewer, SUNY Old Westbury, Fall 2009.

Director, National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Development Program, Sept. 2002-Present.

Member, College 2010 Festival Committee, Sept. 2008-2010.

Member, Provost's Faculty-Student Task Force on Research, Fall 2007-Spring 2008.

Chair, Provost/Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee to Revise the College's Mission Statement, Sept. 2005-May 2006.

Member, American Democracy Project, 2004-2006.

Member, Academic Awards Committee, 2003-Present.

Member, Curriculum Development Grant Program Committee, 2003-Present.

Chair, History Department Personnel Committee, 2002-2005, 2007- Present (Member, 2002-Present).

Member, General Education Chair Evaluation Committee, Spring 2004.

Member of the Strategic Action and Planning Committee, 2001-03.

General Education Committee, August 2001-May 2005 (WC Subcommittee Chair, 2002-2005).

Member, College Search Committee for Director of the Women's Studies Program, Spring 2001.

Member, Arts and Sciences Council, Fall 2000-Fall 2005; Fall 2007-Present.

Faculty Advisor, Phi Alpha Theta (the History Honor Society), Sept. 2000-Sept. 2001.

Professional Societies

American Historical Association