

RICHARD R. JOHN

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EDUCATION

1989 Ph.D.	Harvard University	History of American Civilization
1983 M.A.	Harvard University	History
1981 B.A.	Harvard University	Social Studies (magna cum laude)

PRIMARY RESEARCH INTERESTS

history of communications
history of business, technology, and the state since 1600
political economy of communications

BOOKS

Network Nation: Inventing American Telecommunications. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2010.

Spreading the News: The American Postal System from Franklin to Morse. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1995; paperback, 1998; in print 2010.

DISSERTATION

"Managing the Mails: The Postal System, Public Policy, and American Political Culture, 1823-1836" co-directed by Alfred D. Chandler, Jr., and David Herbert Donald

HONORS

Visiting Professor, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris, spring 2011
Ralph E. Gomory Prize for the best historical monograph on "the consequences of business activity," Business History Conference (for Network Nation), 2011
Best Book Prize in Journalism and Mass Communication History for 2010, History Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) (for Network Nation)
President, Business History Conference (BHC), 2010-2011

- fifty-year-old organization specializing in the study of institutional history
- international membership, with strong representation from Europe and East Asia

Member, American Antiquarian Society, 2008
Faculty Fellow, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2008
Faculty Visitor, American Bar Foundation (ABF), 2006
Faculty Fellow, Great Cities Institute, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2004-2005
Harold F. Williamson Prize for a scholar at mid-career who has made "significant contributions to the field of business history," Business History Conference (co-winner with Angel Kwolek-Folland), 2002
Lloyd Lewis Fellow, Newberry Library, Chicago, 2002-2003
Visiting Professor, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris, spring 2001
University Scholar, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1999-2002 (the highest honor awarded to scholars at UIC)
Rundell Lecturer, 1999, University of Maryland at College Park (invited)
Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 1998-1999
Vermeil Grande Prize, ITALIA '98 (for Spreading the News)
Special award for best presentation in 1998, Chicago Philatelic Society
Newcomen-Harvard Prize for the best essay in the Business History Review, 1997
Finalist, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) Book Prize for 1997 (for Spreading the News)

HONORS (continued)

Diane B. Boehret Award for Excellence in Philatelic Literature, 1996-1997, American Philatelic Congress (for [Spreading the News](#))
Gold Prize (with felicitations), PACIFIC '97 (for [Spreading the News](#))
Cabeen Award for the best philatelic book in 1996, Collector's Club of Chicago (for [Spreading the News](#))
Vermeil Prize (with felicitations), CHICAGOPEX '96 (for [Spreading the News](#))
Vermeil Prize, SESCOAL '96 (for [Spreading the News](#))
Institute of the Humanities Faculty Fellow, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1995-1996
John M. Olin Faculty Fellow in Political Thought and History, 1994
Allan Nevins Prize for the best-written dissertation in American history in 1989, Society of American Historians (later published as [Spreading the News](#))
Herman E. Krooss Prize for the best dissertation in American business history in 1989, Business History Conference
Delancey K. Jay Prize for the best essay relating to the history or development of constitutional government or free institutions in 1989, History Department, Harvard University (for dissertation)
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Commonwealth Center for the Study of American History and Culture, College of William and Mary, 1989-1991
AAS-NEH Postdoctoral Fellowship (alternate), American Antiquarian Society, 1989-1990
Finalist, Ralph Gabriel Prize for the best dissertation in American studies in 1989
Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, 1987
Frances Hiatt Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society, 1986
John E. Rovensky Fellowship in Business and Economic History, Lincoln Educational Foundation, 1984-1985
Phi Beta Kappa

EDITED VOLUMES

[Ruling Passions: Political Economy in Nineteenth Century America](#). University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2006. Originally appeared as a special issue of the [Journal of Policy History](#), 18 no. 1 (2006); in print 2010.

[Computers and Communications Networks](#), special issue of [Business History Review](#), 75 (Spring 2001)

- guest editor

[Managing Big Business: Essays from the Business History Review](#). Co-editor, with Richard S. Tedlow. Boston: Harvard Business School Press, 1986.

BOOK SERIES EDITORSHIPS

"American Business, Politics, and Society," University of Pennsylvania Press (with Pamela Laird, University of Colorado at Denver, and Mark Rose, Florida Atlantic University)

- nine books under contract; three published

"How Things Worked: Institutional Dimensions of the American Past," Johns Hopkins University Press (with Robin Einhorn, University of California at Berkeley)

- four books under contract

ARTICLES, ESSAYS, AND BOOK CHAPTERS

"Business Historians and the Challenge of Innovation." [Business History Review](#) 85 (Spring 2011): 185-202. Review essay on Sally H. Clarke, Naomi R. Lamoreaux, and Steven W. Usselman, eds., [The Challenge of Remaining Innovative: Insights from Twentieth-Century American Business](#).

"The Political Economy of Postal Reform in the Victorian Age," [Smithsonian Contributions to History and Technology](#), 55 (2010): 3-12.

"Putting the United States in North America," [Nuevo Mundo/Mundos Nuevos](#) (March 2010), on-line at <http://nuevomundo.revues.org/59397>

ARTICLES, ESSAYS, AND BOOK CHAPTERS (continued)

"Expanding the Realm of Communications." In An Extensive Republic: Print, Culture, and Society in the New Nation, edited by Robert A. Gross and Mary Kelley, pp. 211-220. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

"Who Were the Gilders? And Other Seldom-Asked Questions about Business, Technology, and Political Economy in the United States, 1877-1900," Journal of the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era, 8 (October 2009): 474-480.

"The Postal Monopoly and Universal Service-A History," School of Public Policy, George Mason University, posted December 2008, on line at <http://www.prc.gov/prc-pages/library/USOAppendices.aspx>

- 88-page report commissioned by the U. S. Postal Regulatory Commission as mandated by the U. S. Congress in the Postal Enhancement and Accountability Act (PAEA)

"Bringing Political Economy Back In," Enterprise and Society, 9 (September 2008): 487-490.

"Telecommunications," Enterprise and Society, 9 (September 2008): 507-520.

"Turner, Beard, Chandler: Progressive Historians," Business History Review, 82 (Summer 2008): 227-240.

"Rethinking the Early American State," Polity, 40 (July 2008): 332-339.

"Post Office." In Encyclopedia of the New American Nation, edited by Paul Finkelman, vol. 2, pp. 575-578. Detroit: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2006.

"Ruling Passions: Political Economy in Nineteenth-Century America," Journal of Policy History, 18, no. 1 (2006): 1-20.

"Patent Politics: Intellectual Property, the Railroad Industry, and the Problem of Monopoly" [with Steven W. Usselman], Journal of Policy History, 18, no. 1 (2006): 96-125.

"Private Enterprise, Public Good? Communications Deregulation as a National Political Issue, 1839-1851." In Beyond the Founders: New Approaches to the Political History of the Early American Republic, edited by Jeffrey L. Pasley, Andrew W. Robertson, and David Waldstreicher, pp. 328-354. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004. Translated into Italian.

"Telephony" and "Mail Delivery." In Encyclopedia of Chicago History, edited by James R. Grossman, Ann Durkin Keating, and Janice L. Reiff, pp. 503-504, 812-813. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004.

"Farewell to the 'Party Period': Political Economy in Nineteenth-Century America," Journal of Policy History, 16 no. 2 (2004): 117-25.

"Affairs of Office: The Executive Departments, the Election of 1828, and the Making of the Democratic Party." In The Democratic Experiment: New Directions in American Political History, edited by Meg Jacobs, William Novak, and Julian Zelizer, pp. 50-84. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003.

"Postal Systems." In Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History, edited by Joel Mokyr, vol. 4, pp. 315-318. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.

"Citizens, Clients, and Consumers: Rethinking the Advent of American Telecommunications," Antenna, 15 (April 2002): 6-7.

ARTICLES, ESSAYS, AND BOOK CHAPTERS (continued)

"Rites of Passage: Postal Petitioning as a Tool of Governance in the Age of Federalism" [with Christopher J. Young]. In The House and Senate in the 1790s: Petitioning, Lobbying, and Institutional Development, edited by Kenneth R. Bowling and Donald R. Kennon, pp. 100-138. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2002.

"Cinderella Reigns," Reviews in American History, 29 (June 2001): 271-80. Review essay on Regina Lee Blaszczyk, Imagining Consumers: Design and Innovation from Wedgwood to Corning.

"Rendezvous with Information? Computers and Communications Networks in the United States," Business History Review, 75 (Spring 2001): 1-13. This essay introduced a special issue of the Business History Review that I commissioned, supervised, and edited.

"Postal Systems." In International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences, edited by Neil J. Smelser, vol. 17, pp. 11834-11838. Oxford: Elsevier, 2001.

"Recasting the Information Infrastructure for the Industrial Age." In A Nation Transformed by Information: How Information Has Shaped the United States from Colonial Times to the Present, edited by Alfred D. Chandler, Jr., and James W. Cortada, pp. 55-105. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000. Translated into Spanish.

"John Quincy Adams." In The Reader's Companion to the American Presidency, edited by Alan Brinkley and Davis Dyer, pp. 83-91. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000.

"Theodore N. Vail and the Civic Origins of Universal Service," Business and Economic History, 28 (Winter 1999): 71-81.

"Le Debat sur la Telegraphie Publique aux Etas-Unis," Reseaux, 17 (1999): 391-411. In French.

"Abraham Bradley, Jr.," "William Augustine Davis," "William George Fargo," "Cyrus West Field," "Norvin Green," "James Webster Hale," "James Holbrook," "Hiram Sibley," "Theodore Newton Vail," in American National Biography, edited by John Arthur Garraty and Mark C. Carnes, vol. 3, pp. 369-370; vol. 6, pp. 237-238; vol. 7, pp. 711-712, 876-878; vol. 9, pp. 503-504, 825-826; vol. 11, pp. 25-26; vol. 19, pp. 915-917; vol. 22, pp. 132-134. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

"The Illusion of the Ordinary: John Lewis Krimmel's Village Tavern and the Democratization of Public Life in the Early Republic" [with Thomas C. Leonard], Pennsylvania History, 65 (Winter 1998): 87-96.

"The Politics of Innovation," Daedalus, 127 (Fall 1998): 187-214.

"Eben Norton Horsford, the Northmen, and the Founding of Massachusetts." In Essays in Cambridge History, edited by Luise M. Erdmann, et al., pp. 117-144. Cambridge: Cambridge Historical Society, 1998. Also issued as Cambridge Historical Society Proceedings, 45 (1980-85).

"The Lost World of Bartleby the Ex-Officeholder: Variations on a Venerable Literary Form," New England Quarterly, 70 (December 1997): 631-641.

"Governmental Institutions as Agents of Change: Rethinking American Political Development in the Early Republic, 1787-1835," Studies in American Political Development, 11 (Fall 1997): 347-380.

"Elaborations, Revisions, Dissents: Alfred D. Chandler, Jr.'s., The Visible Hand after Twenty Years," Business History Review, 71 (Summer 1997): 151-200.

- Received the Newcomen-Harvard Prize for the best essay in the Business History Review, 1997
- On-line at <http://www.thebhc.org/publications/rjbr.html>

ARTICLES, ESSAYS, AND BOOK CHAPTERS (continued)

- "Hiland Hall's 'Report on Incendiary Publications': A Forgotten Nineteenth-Century Defense of the Constitutional Guarantee of the Freedom of the Press," American Journal of Legal History, 41 (January 1997): 94-125.
- "Leonard D. White and the Invention of American Administrative History," Reviews in American History, 24 (June 1996): 344-360.
- "Like Father, Like Son: The Not-So-Strange Career of John C. Calhoun," Reviews in American History, 23 (September 1995): 438-443. Review essay on Irving H. Bartlett, John C. Calhoun: A Biography.
- "American Historians and the Concept of the Communications Revolution." In Information Acumen: The Understanding and Use of Knowledge in Modern Business, edited by Lisa Bud-Frierman, pp. 98-110. London: Routledge, 1994.
- "Communications and Information Processing." In Encyclopedia of Social History, edited by Mary Kupiec Cayton, et. al., vol. 3, 2349-2361. New York: Scribner's, 1993.
- "Election of 1824," "Election of 1828," "Albert Gallatin." In Political Parties and Elections in the United States: An Encyclopedia, edited by L. Sandy Maisel, pp. 286-288; 421. New York: Garland, 1991.
- "Remembering McLuhan," Reviews in American History, 18 (September 1990): 419-424. Review essay on George Sanderson and Frank McDonald, Marshall McLuhan: The Man and his Message.
- "Taking Sabbatarianism Seriously: The Postal System, the Sabbath, and the Transformation of American Political Culture," Journal of the Early Republic, 10 (Winter 1990): 517-567.
- "Out of Control," Isis, 79 (December 1988): 675-679. Review essay on James R. Beniger's The Control Revolution: Technological and Economic Origins of the Information Society.
- "Eben Norton Horsford: Enterprising Antiquarian," Harvard Magazine, 91 (September-October 1988): 44-45.
- "Private Mail Delivery in the United States during the Nineteenth Century—A Sketch," Business and Economic History, 2d ser. 15 (1986): 131-143.
- "Hawthorne's Boston Custom House," Nathaniel Hawthorne Newsletter, 9 (Spring 1985): 15-17.

BIBLIOGRAPHY/FINDING AIDS

- "Archival Sources for American Postal History." In Postal History Seminar Book, edited by Douglas A. Kelsey, pp. 91-147. Tucson, Az.: Postal History Foundation, 1991.
- "Pre-1850 U.S. Postal Pamphlets and Printed Speeches." In Postal History Seminar Handbook, edited by Douglas A. Kelsey, pp. 73-79. Tucson, Az.: Western Postal History Museum, 1989.

BOOK REVIEWS

- Review of Erik van Der Vleuten and Arne Kaijser, eds., Networking Europe: Transnational Infrastructures and the Shaping of Europe, 1850-1900, in Business History, 50 (March 2008): 229-230.
- Review of Cathy Matson, ed., The Economy of Early America: Historical Perspectives and New Directions, in William and Mary Quarterly, 54 (July 2007): 643-646.
- "Where in the World is the United States?" review of Thomas Bender, A Nation among Nations: America's Place in World History, in Common-Place, 7 (July 2007): <http://www.common-place.org/>

BOOK REVIEWS (continued)

“Elongating the Progressive Era,” review of Rebecca Edwards, [New Spirits: Americans in the Gilded Age, 1865-1905](#), in [Journal of the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era](#), 6 (January 2007): 110-112.

Review of Paul Starr, [Creation of the Media: Political Origins of Modern Communication](#) and Kenneth Silverman, [Lightning Man: The Accursed Life of Samuel F. B. Morse](#), in [Journal of the Early Republic](#), 27 (Spring 2007): 192-196.

“Shop Talk: Liberalism, Consumerism, and the American Revolution,” review of T. H. Breen, [The Marketplace of Revolution: How Consumer Politics Shaped American Independence](#), in [Enterprise and Society](#), 7 (September 2006): 592-595.

Review of David Paull Nickles, [Under the Wire: How the Telegraph Changed Diplomacy](#), in [American Historical Review](#), 110 (June 2005): 765-766.

Review of Daniel R. Headrick, [When Information Came of Age: Technologies of Knowledge in the Age of Reason and Revolution, 1700-1850](#), in [William and Mary Quarterly](#), 60 (April 2003): 442-445.

“Follow the Yellow Brick Road: Rethinking American Industrialization,” review essay on Richard Franklin Bense, [The Political Economy of Industrialization](#)

- Electronic essay commissioned by the Miller Center at the University of Virginia
- On-line at http://216.239.53.100/search?q=cache:d7yZWRiAR_kC:www.americanpoliticaldevelopment.org/townsquare/print_res/reviews/Richard%2520John%2520Review1.pdf+Follow+the+Yellow+Brick+Road+Richard+John&hl=en&ie=UTF-8

“The Postal System and the Making of German Literary Culture,” [Electronic Book Review](#), 11 (2000), at <http://www.altx.com/ebr/reviews/rev11/r11john.htm> [Review of Bernard Siegert, [Relays: Literature as an Epoch of the Postal System](#)]

Review of Brian Winston, [Media Technology and Society—A History: From the Telegraph to the Internet](#), in [Journal of Interdisciplinary History](#), 31 (Autumn 2000): 296-298.

Review of Peter J. Hugill, [Global Communications since 1844: Geopolitics and Technology](#), in [Technology and Culture](#), 41 (July 2000): 568-570.

“Contextualizing the Corporation,” [Journal of Policy History](#), 12, no. 2 (2000): 287-292. [Review of Thomas K. McCraw, [Creating Modern Capitalism](#), Neil J. Mitchell, [The Conspicuous Corporation](#), and William G. Roy, [Socializing Capital](#)]

- On-line at http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_policy_history/v012/12.2john.html

Review of Jos C. N. Raadschelders, [Handbook of Administrative History](#), in [Journal of Interdisciplinary History](#), 30 (Winter 1999): 490-491.

Review of Charles R. Geisst, [Wall Street: A History](#), in [Journal of American History](#), 85 (December 1998): 1107-1108.

Review of Philip Scranton, [Endless Novelty: Specialty Production and American Industrialization, 1865-1925](#), in [Business History Review](#), 72 (Autumn 1998): 483-485 [lead review].

Review of William G. Shade, [Democratizing the Old Dominion: Virginia and the Second Party System, 1824-1861](#), in [Journal of Southern History](#), 64 (May 1998): 353-355.

Review of Herbert E. Sloan, [Principle and Interest: Thomas Jefferson and the Problem of Debt](#), in [Journal of Economic History](#), 57 (June 1997): 561-562.

BOOK REVIEWS (continued)

- Review of Rosalind Remer, Printers and Men of Capital: Philadelphia Book Publishers in the New Republic, (Fall 1996) in H-BUSINESS (H-NET electronic list). On-line at <http://eh.net/bookreviews/library/0015>
- Review of Robert J. Stets, Postmasters and Postoffices of the United States, 1782-1811, in William and Mary Quarterly, 53 (January 1996): 236-237.
- Review of David Hackett Fischer, Paul Revere's Ride, in New England Quarterly, 48 (March 1995): 166-168.
- Review of Robert A. Gross, ed., In Debt to Shays: The Bicentennial of an Agrarian Rebellion, in Canadian Review of American Studies, 25 (Spring 1995): 139-141.
- Review of John A. Andrew, III, From Revivals to Removal: Jeremiah Evarts, the Cherokee Nation, and the Search for the Soul of America, in Journal of Southern History, 60 (November 1994): 786-787.
- Review of Ronald J. Zboray, A Fictive People: Antebellum Economic Development and the American Reading Public, in Journal of American History, 80 (March 1994): 1466.
- Review of Paul Israel, From Machine Shop to Industrial Laboratory: Telegraphy and the Changing Context of American Invention, 1830-1920, in Business History Review, 68 (Spring 1994): 158-159.
- Review of William J. Gilmore, Reading Becomes a Necessity of Life: Material and Cultural Life in New England, in Business History Review, 67 (Autumn 1993): 465-467.
- Review of Charles Sellers, The Market Revolution: Jacksonian America, 1815-1846, in New England Quarterly, 66 (June 1993): 302-305 [lead review].
- Review of James W. Carey, Communication as Culture: Essays on Media and Society, in Technology and Culture, 33 (January 1992): 200-202.
- Review of Richard B. Kielbowicz, News in the Mail: The Press, Post Office, and Public Information, 1700-1860s, in William and Mary Quarterly, 3d ser., 48 (October 1991): 633-635.
- Review of Thomas D. Clark, Footloose in Jacksonian America: Robert W. Scott and His Agrarian World, in Journal of American History, 78 (September 1991): 659.
- Review of John K. Alexander, The Selling of the Constitutional Convention: A History of News Coverage, in Journal of the Early Republic, 11 (Fall 1991): 404-406.
- Review of Richard D. Brown, Knowledge is Power: The Diffusion of Information in Early America, 1700-1865, in Technology and Culture, 32 (June 1991): 617-619.
- Review of Donald R. Hoke, Ingenious Yankees: The Rise of the American System of Manufactures in the Private Sector, in Journal of American History, 78 (June 1991): 312-313.
- Review of Christine MacLeod, Inventing the Industrial Revolution: The English Patent System, 1660-1800, in Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 509 (May 1990): 180.
- Review of David Cressy, Coming Over: Migration and Communication between England and New England in the Seventeenth Century, and Ian K. Steele, English Atlantic, 1675-1740: An Exploration of Communication and Community, in Technology and Culture, 30 (July 1989): 682-685.

BOOK REVIEWS (continued)

Review of Edwin Gabler, The American Telegrapher: A Social History, 1860-1900, in Business History Review, 63 (Summer 1989): 424-425.

Review of Cindy Sondik Aron, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Civil Service: Middle-Class Workers in Victorian America, in Business History Review, 63 (Spring 1989): 196-198.

Review of M. J. Daunton, Royal Mail: The Post Office since 1840, in Business History Review, 62 (Spring 1988): 352-353.

Review of Richard E. Beringer, et al., Why the South Lost the Civil War, in Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 494 (November 1987): 190-191.

Review of Wayne R. Austerman, Sharps Rifles and Spanish Mules: The San Antonio-El Paso Mail, 1851-1881, in Technology and Culture, 28 (July 1987): 715-716.

Review of Johanna Nichol Shields, The Line of Duty: Maverick Congressmen and the Development of American Political Culture, 1836-1860, in Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 491 (May 1987): 204-205.

Review of John M. Findlay, People of Chance: Gambling in American Society from Jamestown to Las Vegas, in Harvard Review, 1 (Fall 1986): 176-179.

Review of David O. Whitten, The Emergence of Giant Enterprise, 1860-1914: American Commercial Enterprise and Extractive Industries, in Business History Review, 58 (Winter 1984): 607-608.

SELECTED PAPERS

"Communication Networks in Crisis," Harry S. Truman Institute, Conference on "Civil Wars and the Civil War," Hebrew University, Jerusalem, June 2011

"Robber Barons Redux: Antimonopoly Reconsidered," Business History Conference (BHC), St. Louis, March 2011

- presidential address

"Nickel-in-the-Slot: The Public Telephone and the Political Economy of Telephony in the United States, 1894-1907," Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), Lisbon, Portugal, October 2008; Policy History Conference, Clayton, Missouri, May 2004; Historical Society, Boothbay Harbor, Maine, May 2004; American Society for Legal History (ASLH), Austin, Texas, October 2004; Urban History Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 2004; Chicago Urban History Seminar, January 2005 (invited); Hagley Museum and Library, February 2005 (invited)

"Samuel F. B. Morse and the Political Economy of the Telegraph," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Philadelphia, July 2008

"The Nineteenth-Century American State as a Conceptual Variable: Governmental Institutions, Civic Ideals, and Political Economy," American Political Science Association (APSA), Chicago, September 2007

"Professor Morse's Lightning: The Political Origins of the Telegraph Industry in the United States," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Worcester, Massachusetts, July 2007; Newberry Library Seminar on Technology, Politics, and Culture, Chicago, June 2007

"The New York Telegraph Act of 1848 and the Culture of Entrepreneurship in the Nineteenth-Century U. S. Telegraph Industry," Business History Conference (BHC), Cleveland, Ohio, June 2007

SELECTED PAPERS (continued)

“Should We Abolish the Gilded Age? Perspectives from the History of Business, Technology, and Law,”
Organization of American Historians (OAH), Minneapolis, March-April 2007

“Ruling Passions: Political Economy in Nineteenth-Century America,” CEHIS-CEMCA-CRALMI-IFFA
Conference, “The Nation-State during the Nineteenth-Century in America: State, Territory,
Parties,” Externado University, Bogota, Columbia, November 2006

“Postal Networks and American Telecommunications,” International Economic History Conference,
Helsinki, Finland, August 2006. This paper was part of a roundtable on “postal networks since
1600” that I organized. The roundtable featured 11 papers by 13 scholars from 7 different
countries (Canada, United States, France, Germany, Italy, Denmark, and Taiwan)

“One Great Medium? The Balkanization of American Telecommunications, 1907-20,” Business History
Conference (BHC), Toronto, Canada, June 2006; Policy History Conference, Charlottesville,
Virginia, June 2006; American Bar Foundation (ABF) Legal History Workshop, Chicago,
January 2007

“The Political Economy of Technological Innovation during the Second Industrial Revolution,” American Historical
Association (AHA), Philadelphia, January 2006

“The Advent of American Telecommunications,” Business History Workshop, Harvard Business School, Boston,
November 2005

Telephomania: The Contested Origins of the Urban Telephone Exchange in the United States, 1879-1894,” Business
History Conference (BHC), Minneapolis, May 2005; Newberry Library Seminar on Technology, Politics, and
Culture, Chicago, March 2005

“When Corporations were Voluntary Associations: Arthur W. Page and the Mystification of Corporate Identity at
AT&T,” Willamette University, Salem, Oregon, March 2005 (invited); American Bar Foundation (ABF),
Chicago, January 2006; University of Chicago Political History Workshop, January 2006

“Networks,” American Political Development Workshop, University of Chicago, October 2004 (invited)

“Communications and Union: The Politics of Electrical Telegraphy, 1845-1861,” Society for Historians of the Early
American Republic (SHEAR), Providence, Rhode Island, July 2004

“Political Economy,” Organization of American Historians, Memphis, Tenn., April 2003

- Specially convened roundtable on the state-of-the-field in American political history

“Private Enterprise, Public Good? Communications Deregulation as a National Public Issue, 1839-1851,” Conference
on “Sul Filo della Comunicazione: La Telegrafia nell’Occocento fra economia, politica e tecnologia,” Istituto
di Studi Storici Postali, Prato, Italy, September 2002 (invited); Economic History Association (EHA), St.
Louis, October 2002

“The Creation of the Nationwide Telephone Grid in the United States, 1885-1919,” Conference on “Constructing
Markets, Shaping Production: The Historical Construction of Product Markets in Europe and America,”
Stockholm School of Economics, Idöborg, Sweden, July 2002 (invited)

“Affairs of Office: The Jacksonian Ascendancy and the Dismantling of the Early American State,” Politics Workshop,
Political Science Department, University of Chicago, April 2002; Policy History Conference, Clayton,
Missouri, May 2002

SELECTED PAPERS (continued)

“How Enterprise Became Private: Communications and Public Life in the 1840s,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Baltimore, July 2001

“Whence the Information Age? Writing the History of Communications in a Postmodern World,” Historical Society, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, February 2001

“The Significance of Postal Telegraphy: Toward an Alternative Genealogy of the Information Age,” Seminar on Business, Technology, and Society, Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Delaware, December 2000

“Riding the Leviathan: Western Union in the Gilded Age,” American Historical Association (AHA), Chicago, January 2000

- Organized panel, which included one of the first papers given at the AHA on the history of the Internet

“How Governmental Institutions Shaped Communications Policy in the United States during the Early Republic,” Policy History Conference, Clayton, Missouri, May 1999

- Part of a “featured” panel on state-building in the early republic organized by Joel H. Silbey
- Also delivered at the American Sociological Association (ASA), Chicago, August 1999

“Theodore N. Vail and the Civic Origins of Universal Service,” Business History Conference (BHC), Chapel Hill, N. C., March 1999

“Recasting the Information Infrastructure for the Industrial Age,” Economic History Workshop, UCLA, Los Angeles, March 1999

“The Politics of Private Enterprise: Government Prosecution of Independent Mail Delivery Firms in the Nineteenth Century United States,” Social Science History Association (SSHA), Chicago, November 1998, and University of California at Santa Barbara, March 1999

“Expanding the Realm of Communication: The Postal System, Public Opinion, and the Creation of a Disembodied Public Sphere, 1792-1835,” Social Science History Association (SSHA), Chicago, November 1998

“The Challenge of Private Enterprise: Communications Policy in the United States, 1837-1851,” Conference on State and Society in Antebellum America, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the University of Chicago, May 1998

“Voice of the People? Postal Petitioning in the 1790s,” Capitol Historical Society, Washington, D. C., April 1998; broadcast live on C-SPAN

“The Rationale for Government Telegraphy in the United States,” Business History Conference (BHC), Glasgow, Scotland, July 1997

“The Electric Telegraph and the Origins of the Modern Communications Infrastructure in the United States,” Institute of the Humanities, University of Illinois at Chicago, March 1996

“State and Society in the Early American Republic,” Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, D. C., December 1995

- conference convened by the Center to discuss this paper
- participants included Gordon Wood, Daniel Walker Howe, and Hendrik Hartog
- paper also delivered at the Workshop in Comparative Legal History, University of Chicago, October 1995; Seminar in Social History, Newberry Library, Chicago, December 1995

SELECTED PAPERS (continued)

- "The Lost World of Bartleby the Scrivener," American Studies Association (ASA), Pittsburgh, November 1995; Newberry Library, Chicago, December 1995
- "The Communications Revolution and the Democratization of American Public Life, 1792-1835," Conference on Communications and Democracy, Case Western University, Cleveland, April 1995
- "American Business History after The Visible Hand," Business History Conference (BHC), Fort Lauderdale, Florida, March 1995
- "The Reactionary Origins of Jacksonian Democracy," American Historical Association (AHA), Chicago, January 1995
- "James W. Hale, the Non-Governmental Mail Delivery Business, and the Meaning of Private Enterprise in Victorian America," Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), Lowell, Massachusetts, October 1994
- "The Postal System and the Creation of a National Market in the United States, 1792-1837," International Economic History Conference, Milan, Italy, September 1994
- "The Postal System, the 'Public Sphere,' and the Social Construction of Time and Space in the Early Republic," Organization of American Historians (OAH), Atlanta, April 1994
- "John McLean and the Making of the Post-Constitutional Communications Infrastructure," Business History Conference (BHC), Williamsburg, Virginia, March 1994; University of Illinois at Chicago Sociology Department Organizational Behavior Seminar, April 1994
- "Beyond the State of Courts and Parties: Patronage and Bureaucracy in Nineteenth-Century American Political Development," American Political Science Association (APSA), Chicago, September 1992
- "Rhetoric and Reality in the Information Age," Conference on Global Perspectives on Business Information, University of Reading, England, April 1992
- "Was the Suppression of the Abolitionist Tracts Illegal? The Charleston Post Office Break-In, the Communications Revolution, and the Freedom of the Press," Southern Historical Association (SHA), Fort Worth, Texas, November 1991
- "A Shopkeeper's Millennium? A State-Centered Perspective on Antebellum Moral Reform," Conference on American Studies Connecting with Religion, UCLA, Los Angeles, May 1991
- "The Postal System and the Creation of American Society," American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts, June 1989; Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, October 1989; Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies (PCEAS), University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, May 1990; Organization of American Historians (OAH), March 1991
- "Did Big Business Precede Big Government in the United States?" Business History Seminar [at invitation of Alfred D. Chandler, Jr.], Harvard Business School, Boston, March 1989
- "The Lost World of Bartleby the Scrivener: Toward a Cultural History of Officeholding in the Early Republic," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Sturbridge, Massachusetts, July 1988
- "The Campaign for Cheap Postage: A Neglected Antebellum Reform Movement," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Philadelphia, July 1987
- "Enterprise Denied: Henry Leavitt Goodwin, the Penny Post Company of California, and the San Francisco Post Office, 1855-1859," Economic and Business History Society (EBHS), San Francisco, March 1987

SELECTED CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

“The Government and the Telegraph in the United States,” Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), Pittsburgh, October 1986; Economic History Workshop, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, October 1987

Participant, roundtable panel on “Aggregators, Agitators and Actors: Does the Law Have to Be Amended to Save Journalism?” Media and the Law Seminar, Kansas City, Missouri, April 2010

Commentator, panel on “The Political Economy of Communications in Europe and the United States from 1700 to the Present,” Business History Conference (BHC), March 2010, Athens, Georgia

Chair, plenary session on “The State of African American and Ethnic Business History,” Business History Conference (BHC), March 2010, Athens, Georgia

Commentator, panel on “The Law of Administration in the Early American Republic,” American Society for Legal History (ASLH), Dallas, Texas, November 2009

Commentator, panel on “Representations: Identities and the Political Economy of Capitalism in the United States,” History of Capitalism in the United States Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, November 2008

Chair, panel on “Business Failures,” Business History Conference (BHC), Sacramento, California, April 2008

Commentator, roundtable panel on “The Political History of North America,” American Historical Association (AHA), Washington, D. C., January 2008

Commentator, panel on political economy, in conference on “The Panic of 1837: Getting By and Going Under in a Decade of Crisis,” Library Company, Philadelphia, October 2007

Commentator, panel on “Beyond Individualism: Capital, Community, and Entrepreneurship,” History of Capitalism in North America Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, October 2006

Commentator, paper on “Mutual Labor Relations in the British and American Railroad Industries,” Labor History Seminar, Newberry Library, Chicago, March 2006

Participant, roundtable discussion of “System, Infrastructure, Network: Metaphor as Method in the History of Technology,” Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), Minneapolis, November 2005

- Participants included Arne Kaijser (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm) and Thomas P. Hughes (University of Pennsylvania, emeritus)

Commentator, panel on “Indian Removal in the Early Republic,” Mid-America History Conference, Lawrence, Kansas, September 2005

Chair, roundtable discussion of Zorina Khan, [The Democratization of Invention: Patents and Copyrights in American Economic Development](#), conference on “Owning Knowledge: The History of Modern U. S. Intellectual Property Law,” University of Wisconsin at Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, November 2004

Commentator, panel on “Government: Form and Function in the New Republic, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Providence, Rhode Island, July 2004

Chair, two sessions on “Political Economy in Victorian America,” Policy History Conference, May 2004, St. Louis

SELECTED CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION (continued)

- Chair, roundtable discussion of John Larson's Internal Improvement, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Columbus, Ohio, July 2002
- Commentator, panel on "Disorderly Spaces in Antebellum Urban America," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Berkeley, California, July 2002
- Commentator, paper by Robin Einhorn on slavery and taxation in American history, Policy History Conference, Clayton, Missouri, May 2002
- Commentator, roundtable discussion of Daniel Carpenter's Forging of Bureaucratic Autonomy, Policy History Conference, Clayton, Missouri, May 2002
- Invited participant, graduate student conference, Miller Center, University of Virginia, May 2002
- Participant, Conference on New Developments in American Political History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), September 2000
- Commentator, panel on "Comparative Business History," Business History Conference (BHC), Palo Alto, California, March 2000
- Participant, roundtable discussion of new developments in business history, Organization of American Historians (OAH), St. Louis, March 2000
- Invited participant, Conference on Michael Schudson's The Good Citizen, Central Tennessee University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, November 1999
- Commentator, panel on "The State Gets Down to Business: The Political Economies of Transportation in the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States, 1945-1980," Policy History Conference, Clayton, Missouri, May 1999
- Commentator, panel on "The Power of the Purse: Women's Business in the Postwar Era," Organization of American Historians (OAH), Toronto, Canada, April 1999
- Panelist, roundtable discussion on "The Newest Political History," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, July 1998
- Commentator, panel on "State Formation and Social Science," Organization of American Historians (OAH), Indianapolis, April 1998; the presenters were the political scientists Richard Franklin Bense and David Plotke
- Commentator, panel on "The Business of State Government," Business History Conference (BHC), College Park, Maryland, March 1998
- Chair, panel on "Civil Society and Economic Development in the Early Republic," American Historical Association (AHA), Seattle, Washington, January 1998
- Attendee, seminar on "The Origins of the Information Age," Harvard Business School, Boston, September 1997; the conference was convened by James Cortada, IBM, and Alfred D. Chandler, Jr., Harvard Business School, Boston
- Commentator, Conference on "The Future of Business History," Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Delaware, April 1997

SELECTED CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION (continued)

Commentator, "Conversation: The Public Sphere in the American Republic, from the Colonial to the Progressive Period," Organization of American Historians (OAH), San Francisco, California, April 1997

Participant, seminar on "State Constitutionalism," Liberty Fund, San Antonio, Texas, November 1996

Discussant, conference on "Stability and Change in Vital American Institutions," American Academy of Arts and Science, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, October 1996

SELECTED PUBLIC LECTURES

"Network Nation: Inventing American Telecommunications," Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 2010; St. Catherine's College, Oxford University, May 2010; London School of Economics, May 2010; New America Foundation, December 2010; Clare College, Cambridge University, June 2011

"The Political Economy of Postal Reform in the Victorian Age," Keynote address at the fourth Blount Seminar, American Philatelic Society and National Postal Museum, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, October 2009

"The 'Greatest Business in the World': The Post Office Department in the Progressive Era," Landmark Center, St. Paul, Minn., March 2009

"Alexander Hamilton and the Creation of the Fiscal-Military State," Gail Borden Library, Elgin, Illinois, January 2009

"Network Nation: How Politics Shaped American Telecommunications from the War of 1812 to Bell Labs," Second Annual Dale E. Benson Lecture, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington, March 2007

"What is Postal History? Academic Perspectives," Keynote address at the first Blount Seminar, National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., November 2006

"Networks: Rethinking the Advent of American Telecommunications," Institute of Communications Research, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, October 2005

"Agent of Change: The Postal System and the Making of Modern America," National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., May 2005

"Unnatural Monopoly: The Political Economy of Telegraphy in Civil War America," public lecture for the Program on Science, Technology, and Society, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, Massachusetts, November 2004; and the History Department, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, March 2006

"The Imperial Presidency and the War-Making Power," Institute for Law and the Humanities, Kent School of Law, Chicago, October 2004. Shared the platform with Garry Wills

"Nickel-in-the-Slot: The 'Consumption Junction' in Urban Telephony," Digital Media Center, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, March 2004

"Rich Man's Mail: Western Union's Gilded Age," University of Kentucky, Lexington, September 2003; Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, October 2003; American Bar Foundation (ABF), Chicago, October 2003

SELECTED PUBLIC LECTURES (continued)

“The Victorian Internet? The Rise and Fall of Electric Telegraphy,” Filson Historical Society, Louisville, Kentucky, May 2002

“The Circulation of Information in the Early Republic,” conference on “Informing the Congress and the Nation,” Library of Congress, Washington, D. C., March 2000

- Conference celebrated the bicentennial of the Library of Congress

“Information Technology and American Political Culture in the Progressive Era,” Annual Rundell Lecture at the University of Maryland, College Park, May 1999

“The Populist Impulse in American Christianity,” Lakeshore Unitarian Society, Winnetka, Illinois, February 1998

“Communications and Democracy in the American Past,” National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., May 1997; repeated at the Chicago Collector’s Club, August 1997

“Church and State in a Multicultural Age,” Lakeshore Unitarian Society, Winnetka, Illinois, March 1997

SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

“Big Media: Pro and Con,” Public debate with Timothy Wu, Columbia Journalism School, November 2010

Discussant, roundtable discussion of Pauline Maier, et al., Inventing America (a U. S. history textbook), “Extension 720,” radio program hosted by Milt Rosenberg, WGN, November 2002

Participant, roundtable discussion on slavery and the U. S. constitution, “Odyssey” radio program hosted by Gretchen Helfrich, WBEZ, Chicago National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate, September 2001 (with Jan Lewis and Illinois State Senator Barak Obama)

Interviewee, Exhibit on “The Once and Future Web: World Woven by the Telegraph and Internet,” National Institute of Health, March 2001

Participant, roundtable discussion on the history of the information age, “Odyssey” radio program hosted by Gretchen Helfrich, WBEZ, Chicago National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate, August 2000

Participant, roundtable discussion on Winston Churchill’s Great Republic, “Extension 720,” radio program hosted by Milt Rosenberg, WGN, October 1999

Interviewee, with Dan Charles, National Public Radio, “Morning Edition,” broadcast 3 August 1999. Discussed the prehistory of the internet

Participant, roundtable discussion on the Fourth of July, “Odyssey” radio program hosted by Gretchen Helfrich, WBEZ, Chicago National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate, July 1998

TEACHING

2009-present Professor, Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University

courses taught at Columbia: “Communications Proseminar”; “Networks”; “Communications, Knowledge, and Power from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment” (forthcoming); “History of Journalism” (forthcoming); “Communications, Knowledge, and Power from the Enlightenment to the Present” (forthcoming)

2004-2009 Professor of History and Adjunct Professor of Communication, University of Illinois at Chicago

TEACHING (continued)

- 1996-2004 Associate Professor of History, University of Illinois at Chicago
- 1992-1996 Assistant Professor of History, University of Illinois at Chicago
- 1991-1992 Visiting Assistant Professor of History, University of Illinois at Chicago

courses taught at UIC: “The Early American Republic”; “The Gilded Age and the Progressive Era”; “U. S. Business History”; “The Communications Revolution in Great Britain and the United States”; “Technology and Culture in U. S. History”; “Technology and Culture in the Making of the Modern World [1500-present]” (for the honors college); “Media and Modernity from Morse to McLuhan” (cross-listed with the communications department); “History of American Civilization [U. S. Survey], 1607-1890”; “Historiography of Colonial America and the United States, 1607-1877” (graduate level); “Historiography of the United States, 1877-present” (graduate level); “Business, Technology, and the State” (graduate level); “Graduate Research Seminar”

- 1989-1991 Visiting Assistant Professor and Postdoctoral Fellow, Commonwealth Center for the Study of American History and Culture, College of William and Mary

courses taught at William and Mary: “Culture, Capitalism, and the State”; “The Transformation of Anglo-American Culture, 1760-1850”

- 1988-1989 Instructor in History and Literature, Harvard University
- 1985-1988 Teaching Fellow in History, History and Literature, and Social Studies, Harvard University

HISTORICAL EDITING

- 1983-1987 Managing and Consulting Editor, Business History Review
- Supervised production, edited copy, refereed manuscripts, selected book reviewers (125 per year), commissioned review essays, redesigned journal layout, wrote style manual

PUBLIC HISTORY

- 2005 Consultant, Public Broadcasting Corporation, for abortive television documentary on the post office inspection service
- 2004 Consultant, Landmark Center, St. Paul, Minnesota
- * Provided research assistance for exhibit, “Uncle Sam Worked Here”
- 2003-present Advisory council, National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution
- Helping to redesign the museum’s galleries
- 1998 Consultant and Interviewee, Actuality Productions, for “Modern Marvels” TV special on mail delivery for the History Channel. Broadcast December 1998.
- 1996-present Consultant for Cartus (formerly Cendant Mobility), a firm specializing in relocating foreign nationals in the United States
- 1981-1986 Resident Fellow, Cambridge Historical Society
- Supervised the maintenance of the Society’s Hooper-Lee-Nichols House (built c. 1685), and helped coordinate a major structural renovation

PUBLIC HISTORY (continued)

- 1979-1983 Director, Lexington, Massachusetts, Historical Society
- Oversaw budgeting and programming, designed advertising brochure
- 1974-1978 Head Guide, Lexington, Massachusetts, Common Guide Service
- Supervised student-run guide service during the Bicentennial of the American Revolution that interpreted the first day of the War of Independence (the “Battle of Lexington”)

SERVICE

- 2011-2012 Advisory board, Information and the Cultural Record
- 2010-2111 President, Business History Conference (BHC)
- 2006-2008 President’s advisory committee, Business History Conference (BHC)
- 2006-present Moroney prize committee, National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution
- 2006-2010 Advisory board, Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History. 7 vols. (Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, forthcoming, 2010).
- 2005-present Advisory board, Papers of Andrew Jackson, 6 vols. to date (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1980-)
- 2005-2006 Graduate advisory committee, UIC
- 2005-2008 Prize committee, Business History Conference (BHC)
- 2003-present Editorial board, Journal of Policy History
- 2003-2006 Chair, Ellis Hawley Prize Committee, Journal of Policy History
- 2003-2004 Chair, program committee, Business History Conference (BHC) annual meeting in Le Creusot, France, June 2004.
- Conference theme: “Networks”
 - Featured over 200 presenters from four continents
 - Most ambitious conference in the thirty-year history of the BHC
- 2002-2004 Advisory council, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) (elected)
- Member, Transition Committee for the Journal of the Early Republic (2002-2003)
 - Member, Mission Committee for SHEAR
- 2001-2008 Work, Race, and Gender in the Urban World (WRGUW) steering committee, UIC
- 2001-2003 Nominating committee, Business History Conference (BHC) (elected)
- 2001-2002 Chair, Newberry Library seminar committee, UIC
- 2000-2001 Steering committee, Newberry Library Undergraduate Seminar
- 1999-present Editorial board, Business History Review
- 1999-2002 Advisory board, Conference on Illinois History
- 1999-2002 Executive committee, Office of Social Science Research, UIC
- 1999-2002 Undergraduate curriculum revision committee, UIC
- 1999-2000 Selection committee, Newcomen Predoctoral Fellowship in Business and American Culture, Newcomen Society of the United States
- 1998-2007 Founder and coordinator, Newberry Library Seminar on Technology, Politics, and Culture
- Established an inter-institutional venture funded by Chicago-area universities and supported by faculty members at UIC, Northwestern University, the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), and Roosevelt University
 - Seminar averaged seven sessions per year, with an average attendance of 10
 - Features participants from universities throughout the United States (including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Stanford, and MIT)
 - Participants covered their own travel expenses
- 1997-present Editorial board, Enterprise and Society
- 1997-2002 Graduate advisory committee, UIC
- 1997-2000 Trustee, Business History Conference (elected)
- Co-chair, by-laws subcommittee, 1999
 - Drafted by-laws currently in use
- 1997-1998 Committee on salary and grievances, UIC
- 1996-2000 Editorial board, H-SHEAR

SERVICE (continued)

- 1996-1999 Editorial board, H-BUSINESS
- Member, ad-hoc committee on editorial policy, 1998-1999
- 1996-1997 U. S. colonial search committee, UIC
- 1996-1997 Program committee, Southern Historical Association (SHA)
- 1996-1997 Director of Graduate Study, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Worked closely with graduate students to improve their professional visibility; reorganized admissions procedures; prepared new handbook
- 1995-1996 History of science search committee, UIC
- 1995-1996 Chair, program committee, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR)
- Organized major scholarly conference that featured 142 scholars in 36 panels and
 - Attended by over 200 scholars from all fields
- 1994-1997 Faculty sponsor, Tocqueville Society
- Established extracurricular graduate student discussion society that met bi-weekly for one-and-one-half hours
 - Topics included historical methods, historiography, graduate student works-in-progress, and classic texts (e. g. Democracy in America, Wealth of Nations)
- 1994-1995 Program committee, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR)

REFEREEING

Article referee for American Historical Review, American Quarterly, Annals of Iowa, Business History Review, Congress and the Presidency, Historical Methods, Isis, Journal of American History, Journal of the Early Republic, Journal of Southern History, Law and History Review, Ohio Valley History, Pacific Northwest Quarterly, Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, Perspectives in Biology and Medicine, Social Science History, Southern Cultures, Studies in American Political Development, Technology and Culture, Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, William and Mary Quarterly, and Yale Law Review.

Manuscript and project reviewer for Addison, Wesley, Longman; Cambridge University Press; Cornell University Press; Greenwood Press; Harvard Business School Press; Harvard University Press; Johns Hopkins University Press; Louisiana State University Press; MIT Press; National Archives; National Endowment for the Humanities; Northern Illinois University Press; Norton; Oxford University Press; Smithsonian Institution; University of Chicago Press; University of Illinois Press; University of North Carolina Press; University of Pennsylvania Press; University of South Carolina Press; University of Virginia Press; University Press of Kansas

Ph. D. STUDENTS: GRADUATED

John Reda, UIC Ph. D. 2009. **Dissertation chair**. "Joining The Union: Land, Race and Sovereignty in the Illinois Country, 1763-1825." Current position: Assistant Professor of History (tenure-track), Illinois State University, Bloomington, Illinois

Samuel Mitrani, UIC Ph. D. 2009. **Dissertation chair**. "Order in the Metropolis: The Origins of the Chicago Police Department, 1850-1890." Current position: Lecturer in History, Saint Xavier University, Chicago

Joshua Salzman. UIC Ph. D. 2008. **Dissertation chair**. Dissertation title: "Safe Harbor: Chicago's Waterfront and the Political Economy of the Built Environment, 1847-1918." Current position: Lecturer in History, University of Illinois at Chicago

Roberta Gray Katz. UIC Ph. D. 2008. Dissertation committee. Dissertation title: "The Literary Paintings of Thomas Cole: Image and Text."

Gautham Rao. University of Chicago, Ph. D. 2008. Dissertation committee. Dissertation title: "The Creation of the American State: Customhouses, Law and Commerce in the Age of Revolution." Current position: Assistant Professor of History (tenure-track), New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Ph. D. STUDENTS: GRADUATED (continued)

Sarah Rose, UIC Ph. D. 2008. Dissertation committee. Dissertation title: "No Right to be Idle: The Invention of Disability, 1850-1930." Current position: Assistant Professor of History (tenure-track), University of Texas at Arlington.

Benjamin Schwantes. University of Delaware, Ph. D. 2008. Dissertation committee. Dissertation title: "Fallible Guardian: The Ambiguous Utility of Telegraphy for Railroad Operations in Nineteenth-Century America."

Cheryl R. Ganz, UIC Ph. D. 2005. Dissertation committee. Dissertation title: "A New Deal for Progress: The 1933 Chicago World's Fair." Current position: Curator of Philately, National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

Tom Coens, Harvard University, Ph. D. 2004. Dissertation committee. Dissertation title: "The Formation of the Jackson Party, 1822-1825." Current position: Assistant Editor, Papers of Andrew Jackson, University of Tennessee.

Christopher J. Young, UIC Ph. D. 2002. **Dissertation chair**. Dissertation title: "Contests of Opinion: The Public Sphere in Postrevolutionary America." Current position: Assistant Professor of History (tenure-track), Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

David Hochfelder, Case Western University, Ph. D. 1999. Dissertation committee. Dissertation title: "Taming the Lightning: American Telegraphy as a Revolutionary Technology, 1832-1860." Current position: Assistant Professor of History (tenure-track), SUNY, Albany

Jacqueline H. Wolf, UIC Ph. D. 1999. Dissertation committee. Dissertation title: "Falling Away from Nature in a Scientific Age: Changing Infant Feeding Practices in Chicago, 1880-1940." Current position: Professor of the History of Medicine (tenured), Ohio University, Athens, Ohio.

George Pabis, UIC Ph. D. 1996. **Dissertation chair**. Dissertation title: "Restraining the Muddy Waters: Engineers and Mississippi Flood Control, 1846-81." Current position: Professor of History (tenured), Georgia Perimeter College, Atlanta, Georgia.

Ph. D. STUDENTS: CURRENT

Colin Agar, Columbia University, dissertation chair (ABD)
Thomas Glaisyer, Columbia University, dissertation chair (ABD)
Jonathan Hall, Columbia University, dissertation chair (ABD)
Emily Lundberg, Columbia University, dissertation chair (ABD)
Philip Stephenson, Columbia University, dissertation chair (ABD)

Lynn Berger, Columbia University, dissertation committee (ABD)
Annie Rudd, Columbia University, dissertation committee (ABD)
Cory Davis, UIC, dissertation committee (former chair) (ABD)

ACTIVITIES

First Congregational Church, Naperville, Illinois

- Board of Christian Education, 2002-2006

First Congregational Church, Evanston, Illinois

- Board of Christian Education, 1997-2001
- Chancel Choir, 1997-1998
- Head, adult education program, 1998-2001

ACTIVITIES (continued)

Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago

- Christian Education Committee, 1996-1997

First Church, Congregational, Cambridge, Massachusetts

- Christian Education Committee, 1987-1989

BOOK REVIEWS AND ESSAYS: POPULAR

"Samuel Morse and the Birth of the Modern Patent Office," American Heritage's Invention & Technology, 25 (Spring 2010): 38-47. Adapted from Network Nation

"Mail Matters," Nation 288 (23 February 2009): 23-24.

"Why Institutions Matter: Rewriting the History of the Early Republic," Common-Place, 9 · (October 2008): <http://www.common-place.org/vol-09/no-01/john/>

"Review of Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age," Forum, 6 (July 2008): <http://www.bepress.com/forum/vol6/iss3/art9>

"Exploring the Complex Life of Steelmaker Andrew Carnegie," review of Andrew Carnegie, by David Nasaw, in Chicago Tribune, 4 March 2007, section 14, p. 8.

"A New Look at an Old-Time Chicago Wheeler-Dealer," review of Robber Baron: The Life of Charles Tyson Yerkes, by John Franch, in Chicago Tribune, 3 December 2006, section 14, p. 3.