

JOHN SMOLENSKI
Department of History
University of California, Davis
jsmolenski@ucdavis.edu
(530) 302-5385 (o)

EDUCATION:

University of Pennsylvania
Ph.D., History, 2001
M.S. Anthropology, 1999

Yale University
M.A., History, 1995
B.A., History (*cum laude* and with Distinction in Major), and Teacher Preparation, 1995

EMPLOYMENT:

University of California, Davis
Associate Professor of History, 2010-present
Assistant Professor of History, 2001-2010
Member, Graduate Group for the Study of Religion, 2011-

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS:

Huntington Library Short-Term Fellowship, February 2016
Gilder-Lehrman Short-Term Research Grant, Rockefeller Library, Colonial Williamsburg, 2010
Franklin Research Grant, American Philosophical Society, 2010
Mellon Short-Term Research Fellowship, Virginia Historical Society, 2010
University of California President's Research Fellowship in the Humanities, 2008-9
Barbara Thom Postdoctoral Fellowship, Huntington Library, 2003-4
Davis Humanities Institute Fellowship, University of California, Davis (declined), 2003-4
Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2000-1
Marguerite Bartlett Hamer Dissertation Fellowship, McNeil Center for Early American Studies (declined), 2000-1
Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 1999-2000
Gest Fellowship, Quaker Collection, Haverford College, 1999
Pew Program in Religion and American History Dissertation Research Fellowship, Yale University, 1998
Benjamin Franklin Graduate Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 1995-99

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

Friends and Strangers: The Evolution of a Creole Civic Culture in Colonial Pennsylvania
(University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010)

Edited Books and Journal Issues:

Michael Goode and John Smolenski, eds., *The Specter of Peace: Rethinking Violence and Power in the Colonial Atlantic* (Brill, 2018)

Andrew Murphy and John Smolenski, eds., *The Worlds of William Penn* (Rutgers, 2019)
(With William J. Campbell) *Reimagining Pennsylvania's Colonial Frontier: New Perspectives and Approaches*, special issue of the *Journal of Early American History* 6 (2016)

(With Patrick Spero) *1763: Reconsidering the Paxton Massacre and the War Called Pontiac's*, special issue of *Early American Studies* 14 (2016)

John Smolenski and Thomas J. Humphrey, *New World Orders: Violence, Sanction, and Authority in the Colonial Americas* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005)

Journal Editing:

Continuing

August 2014 to present: Co-Editor, *Journal of Early Modern Cultural Studies*

Articles and Book Chapters:

(With Andrew R. Murphy) "Introduction: William Penn and His Worlds," in *The Worlds of William Penn* (Rutgers Press, 2019)

"Afterword: Peace and the End(s) of American History," in *The Specter of Peace: Rethinking Violence and Power in the Colonial Atlantic*, ed. Michael Goode and John Smolenski (Brill, 2018), 252-71

(With William J. Campbell) "Introduction: Pennsylvania's Frontiers," *Journal of Early American History* 6 (2016): 3-8

"Embodied Politics: The Paxton Uprising and the Gendering of Civic Culture in Colonial Pennsylvania," *Early American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 14 (2016): 377-407

"Murder on the Margins: The Paxton Massacre and the Remaking of Sovereignty in Colonial Pennsylvania," *Journal of Early Modern History* 19 (2015): 513-38

"Violence," in *The Atlantic World*, ed. D'Maris Coffman, Adrian Leonard, and William O'Reilly (Routledge: 2014), 245-63

"Quakers," in *Oxford Bibliographies Online: Atlantic History*, ed. Trevor Burnard (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012)

"Introduction: The Ordering of Authority in the Colonial Americas," in Smolenski and Humphrey, ed. *New World Orders*, 1-16

"From Men of Property to Just Men: Deference, Masculinity, and the Evolution of Political Discourse in Early America," *Early American Studies* 3 (2005): 253-85

"'Incorporated...Into a Body Politic': Clubs, Print, and the Gendering of the Civic Subject in Eighteenth-Century Pennsylvania," in *Periodical Literature in Eighteenth-Century America*, ed. Sharon Harris and Mark Kamrath (University of Tennessee, 2005), 47-73

- “The Death of Sawantaeny and the Problem of Justice on the Frontier,” in *Friends and Enemies in Penn’s Woods: Indians, Colonists, and the Racial Construction of Pennsylvania*, ed. William A. Pencak and Daniel K. Richter (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2004), 104-28
- “Hearing Voices: Dialogicality, Microhistory, and the Recovery of Popular Culture on an Eighteenth-Century Virginia Plantation,” *Slavery & Abolition: A Journal of Slave and Post-Slave Studies* 22 (2003): 1-23
- “‘As The Discharge of My Conscience to God’: Narrative, Personhood, and the Construction of Legal Order in Seventeenth-Century Quaker Culture,” *Prospects: An Annual of American Cultural Studies* 24 (1999): 117-75

Works in Progress:

Books:

Rethinking Creolization: Culture and Power in the Colonial Atlantic World (under contract, University of Pennsylvania Press)

Review Essays:

- “Becoming Americans: Revisiting Identity and Assimilation in the Colonial Period,” *Reviews in American History* 33 (2005): 29-40
- “Legal Boundaries, Disciplinary Boundaries: Colonial Legal History Meets Ethnohistory,” *Oklahoma City University Law Review* 25 (2000): 603-9
- “Culture, History, and the ‘Religion Concept’,” *American Quarterly* 51 (1999): 880-92

Book Reviews:

- Review of Jessica Choppin Roney, *Governed by a Spirit of Opposition: The Origins of American Political Practice in Colonial Philadelphia*,” in *The American Historical Review* 121 (April 2016): 557-558
- Review of Kathleen Donegan. *Seasons of Misery: Catastrophe and Colonial Settlement in Early America* in *American Historical Review* 120 (April 2015): 606-607.
- Review of Mark L. Thompson, *The Contest for the Delaware Valley: Allegiance, Identity, and Empire in the Seventeenth Century*,” in *Journal of American History* 101 (December, 2014): 915-915
- Review of Gunlög Maria Fur. *Colonialism in the Margins: Cultural Encounters in New Sweden and Lapland*, in *Itinerario: International Journal on the History of European Expansion and Global Interaction* 31 (2007): 114-16
- Review of Peter C. Messer, *Stories of Independence: Identity, Ideology, and History in Eighteenth-Century America*, in *New England Quarterly* 80 (2007): 329-332
- Review of Peter C. Hoffer, *Sensory Worlds in Early America*, in *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 129 (2005): 347-48
- Review of Jane T. Merritt, *At the Crossroads: Indians & Europeans on a Mid-Atlantic Frontier, 1700-1763*, in *William and Mary Quarterly* 60 (2003): 869-74
- Review of John W. Pulis, ed., *Moving On: Black Loyalists in the Afro-Atlantic World in New West Indian Guide/Nieuwe West-Indische Gids* 75 (2001): 73-74

Review of Timothy Shannon, *Indians and Colonists at the Crossroads of Empire: The Albany Congress of 1754* in *New England Quarterly* 73 (2000): 675-79

Encyclopedia Articles:

“Cities, Towns, and Settlements,” *American Centuries: The Ideas, Issues, and Values That Shaped U.S. History, Volume 2: The Seventeenth Century*, ed. John Demos (New York: Facts On File, 2011), 35-42

“Philadelphia,” *Dictionary of American History*, ed. Stanley I Kutler (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2003), 3:311-13

“William Bradford,” *Censorship: A World Encyclopedia*, ed. Derek Jones, (Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 2001), 4:2883

“Lewis, Carl (1961-),” *St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture* ed. Tom Pendergast and Sara Pendergast, (Detroit: St. James Press, 2000), 3:151-52

“1968 Mexico City Summer Olympic Games,” *St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture*, ed. Tom Pendergast and Sara Pendergast, (Detroit: St. James Press, 2000), 3:537-38

INVITED LECTURES:

“Becoming Americans: The Making of Creole Cultures in the Colonial Atlantic World.”
2011-12 Guy F. Goodfellow Memorial Lecture, Washington College, October 26, 2011

PAPERS PRESENTED:

“What’s So Funny About Peace, Love, and American Exceptionalism?” Presented at the History Department Colloquium, University of California at Davis, May 2017.

“Peace, Violence, and Historical Writing: On the Persistent Problem of American Exceptionalism.” Presented at the History Departmental Colloquium, University of California at Merced. February 2017.

“Concluding Remarks: The Worlds of William Penn.” Presented at “The Worlds of William Penn,” Rutgers British Studies Center, Rutgers University, November 2015.

“I do not think it means what you think it means’: reexamining ‘exceptionalism.’” Presented at History Department, University of Pennsylvania, November 2015.

“Spiritual Violence and the Quest for Spiritual Order in the Colonial Atlantic.” Presented at “The Specter of Peace in the History of Violence,” Tanner Humanities Center at the University of Utah, August 2015.

“State Violence and the Creation of Atlantic Religious Cultures.” Presented at the Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture Annual Conference, Chicago, June 2015.”

“Atlantic Creolization as Concept and Process: Past Career and Future Prospects.” Presented to the Lehigh History Department, February 2015.

“Embodied Politics: The ‘Paxton Uprising’ and the Gendering of Civic Culture in Colonial Pennsylvania.” Presented at “The Paxton Boys and the Conestoga Massacre 250 Years Later.” University of Pennsylvania, December 2013.

- “Creolizations in the Old and New Worlds: Figuring Pennsylvania in an Atlantic Context.” Presented at “Envisioning the ‘Old World’: Henrich Melchior Mühlenberg and Imperial Projects in Pennsylvania,” University of Pennsylvania, December 2012.
- “The Paxton Uprising and the Problematic Status of ‘Friendly’ Indians in Colonial Pennsylvania.” Presented at “Bloody Days: Massacres in Comparative Perspective,” University of Pennsylvania Law School, June 2011.
- “Founding Moments and Turning Points: Creolization and the Development of Early Pennsylvania,” Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture Annual Meeting, 2008.
- “Turning Points: Time and Place in Early American History,” British Group in Early American History Annual Meeting, East Anglia, UK, September 2004.
- “Local Communities, American Communities: A K-16/Museum Collaboration,” Organization of American Historians Annual Conference, April 2005.
- “From Men of Property to Just Men: Deference, Masculinity, and the Evolution of Political Discourse in Early America.” Presented at “Class and Class Struggles in North America and the Atlantic World, 1500-1820,” Montana State, Bozeman, MT, September 2003 and “Deference in Early America: The Life *and/or* Death of an Historiographical Concept,” McNeil Center for Early American Studies Seminar, December 2004.
- “A Pennsylvania Story? Creolization as a Paradigm for Understanding Early American Culture,” Bay Area Seminar in Early American History and Culture. January 2003.
- “‘Bastard Quakers’ in America: The Keithian Schism and the Evolution of Creole Society in Early Pennsylvania,” International Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World, 1500-1825, “The Structure of Colonial Societies, 1500-1825.” August 2002.
- “‘Honorable’ Iroquois and ‘Rum-Debauched’ Conestoga: The Paxton Uprising and the Problematic Status of ‘Friendly’ Indians in Colonial Pennsylvania.” Presented at “Strangers in the Land of Strangers: Defining ‘American’ in Times of Conflict,” The First Annual Balch Symposium of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania. April 2002.
- “Introductory Remarks: The Ordering of Culture in the Colonial Americas, 1500-1825.” Presented at “New World Orders: Violence, Sanction, and Authority in the Early Modern Americas, 1500-1825.” October 2001.
- “Embodied Politics: Masculinity and the Transformation of Public Citizenship in Colonial Pennsylvania,” American Origins Seminar, USC-Huntington Library Early Modern Studies Institute, February 2004.
- “Hearing Voices: Dialogicality, Microhistory, and the Recovery of Popular Culture on an Eighteenth-Century Virginia Plantation,” Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture Conference, “Microhistory: Advantages and Limitations for the Study of Early American History,” October 1999.
- “Legal Boundaries and Morality Tales: The Sawantaeny Case and European-Indian Relations in Colonial Pennsylvania, 1680-1750.” Organization of American Historians Conference, April 1998.
- “Manufacturing Nationalism: Rereading Alexander Hamilton’s ‘Report on Manufactures,’” Society for the History of the Early American Republic Conference, July, 1998.

- “Speaking in Court: Verbal Performance and the Construction of Self in the Legal Culture of Early Pennsylvania,” McNeil Center for Early American Studies Seminar Series, December 1998.
- “‘Unsavage Savages’: Quaker Ethnology in Seventeenth-Century Pennsylvania and the Question of Misrecognition,” American Anthropological Association Conference, December, 1998.
- “Empires of Print: Clubs, Publicity, and the Creation of Ethnic and Communal Identities in Colonial Pennsylvania,” American Historical Association Conference, January, 1999.
- “Piety, Power, and Progress: Changing Historical Narratives in Eighteenth-Century Pennsylvania Quakerism,” Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture Annual Conference, June 1998.
- “The Prospects and Perils of Historical Ethnography: A Look at an Eighteenth-Century Virginia Plantation,” Anthropology Graduate Student Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, December, 1997.
- “After the Fall: Politics and Piety in Eighteenth-Century Pennsylvania,” Pennsylvania Historical Association Conference, November 1997.
- “‘Perhaps it is Not in the Power of Nature to Assign a Cause for Such Pervertion’: Race in the Diary of Landon Cartet.” Presented at “Mapping Race,” Graduate Student Conference at Yale University, May 1997.
- Southern Historical Association Annual Conference, November 1997.
- “Performance and Piety: Gender, Conflict, and the Problem of Public in Early Quaker Pennsylvania, 1685-1750.” Presented at Pew Fellows Conference, May 1999 and American Studies Association Conference, October, 1997.
- “The Problem of Order: The Evolution of Quaker Culture in Pennsylvania, 1681-1765.” Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies Works in Progress Series, May 1997.
- “The Uneasy Truce: Quaker Negotiations with Outsiders in Eighteenth-century Philadelphia,” American Religious History Workshop, Yale University, February, 1995.

OTHER CONFERENCE APPEARANCES:

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- Comment on “Cities and Empires,” Omohundro Institute of Early American History Conference, June 2014.
- Participant, Roundtable Discussion on “Writing Early American Lives” (discussing research on Nassau, Landon Carter’s “Body Man”), Front Range Early American Consortium. September, 2010.
- Comment on Julie Mostov’s “Borders and Spaces: Democracy and the Politics of National Identity in Southeastern Europe,” Ethnohistory Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, March 1999.
- Comment on Michael Hanchard’s “‘Jody’: Gender, Blackness, and Popular Culture in the United States,” Ethnohistory Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, March 1998.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Undergraduate:

History 17A: United States History, 1607-1877
History 170A: Colonial America
History 170B: American Revolution
History 181: Religion in American History to 1890
History 110: The Atlantic World, 1400-1800

Graduate:

History 201J: Early American History
History 202H: The Americas in Atlantic Context
History 202H: Creole Identities in the Atlantic World

Advising:

Served on graduate comprehensive exam committees and as second reader on a dozen dissertations.
Major professor for two students: Nicholas Garcia (ABD) and Devin Leigh (ABD)

UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

UC Davis:

General Education Committee
 Chair, 2013-16
 Member, 2010-16
Steering Committee, WASC Reaccreditation Review
 Member, 2013-14
University Instructional and Program Review Committee
 Member, 2012-2014
Undergraduate Council
 2013-2016

Academic Senate:

Executive Council, Graduate Group for the Study of Religion
 Member, 2013-15
Steering Committee, Mellon Research Initiative for Early Modern Studies, 2013-14
Letters & Science Program Review Committee
 Chair, 2012-14
 Member, 2009-2012

Departmental:

Two merit committees, 2013-15
Honors Committee 2013-16
Colloquium coordinator, 2012-14

K-12 Outreach:

Guest Speaker, History Project Teaching American History Workshop, 2013

Guest Speaker, History Project Teaching American History Grant for Shasta County Teachers, 2012
Guest Speaker, History Project Teaching American History Workshop, 2010
Guest Speaker, History Project Workshop for the California History Standards, 2005
Guest Speaker, History Project Summer Institute for Fourth and Fifth Grade Teachers, August 2005
Co-Faculty Advisor, “Local Communities, American Communities,” History Project Summer Seminar, 2004-6
Guest Speaker, History Project Workshop on the California History Standards, 2004
Guest Speaker, History Project Summer Institute for Fifth Grade Teachers, 2003
Guest Speaker, “E Pluribus Unum,” History Project Summer Institute 2003
Guest Speaker, History Project Workshop on the California History Standards, 2003
Guest Speaker, “Power and Rebellion,” History Project Summer Institute, 2002

Professional Service:

Conference Organizer (with Michael Goode) for “The Specter of Peace in Histories of Violence,” held at the Tanner Humanities Center, August 2015

Editorial Board Member:

History-Compass.com, 2004-present

Pennsylvania History, 2011-2015

Journal of Early American History, 2013-14

Program Committee, Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture Annual Meeting, 2012

Grant Reviewer for Social Science and Humanities Research Council (Canada), 2011

Manuscript peer reviewer for *William & Mary Quarterly*, *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, *Journal of American History*, *Early American Studies*, *Journal of Early American History*, *Journal of Early Modern History*, *Pennsylvania History*, *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, University of Pennsylvania Press, Oxford University Press, Yale University Press, Wadsworth-Cengage Publishing

External Reviewer for promotion and tenure at Texas Tech University, University of California, Santa Cruz, and University of California, Merced

Grant Reviewer for National Science Foundation, December 2005

Co-Signatory, *AMICUS CURIAE BRIEF OF RELIGIOUS SCHOLARS AND*

THEOLOGIANS in *Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow* (case dealing with the constitutionality of Pledge of Allegiance, heard before United States Supreme Court, 2004)

Coordinator, McNeil Center for Early American Studies Works-in-Progress Series, 1999-2000