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Education

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Ph.D., 1997
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, M.A., 1992
Duke University, Durham, N.C., B.A., 1986

Full-time academic employment

Professor, 2018-
Texas Christian University

Associate Professor of History, 2005-2018
Texas Christian University, Fort Worth

Assistant Professor of History, 2000-2005
Texas Christian University, Fort Worth

Assistant Professor of History, 1999-2000
University of Nebraska at Kearney

Instructor, 1997-1999
Texas Christian University, Fort Worth

Selected publications

Books

Flood on the Tracks: Living, Dying, and the Nature of Disaster in the Elkhorn River Basin (Lubbock: Texas Tech University Press, 2018). Nebraska Book Award recipient.

Inspiration and Innovation: Religion in the American West (Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell, 2015).

God's Country, Uncle Sam's Land: Faith and Conflict in the American West (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2006). Paperback edition, 2008.

Articles and book chapter

"Rock Music and the New West, 1980-2010," *Western Historical Quarterly* 42(Spring 2012): 53-71.

“State Violence and the Un-American West: Mormons, American Indians, and Cults,” in *From Jeremiad to Jihad: Religion, Violence, and America*, John D. Carlson and Jonathan H. Ebel, eds., (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012).

“That’s Just the American Way’: The Branch Davidian Tragedy and the American West,” *Western Historical Quarterly* 35(Winter 2004): 453-471.

“‘Mobocratic Feeling’: Religious Outsiders, the Popular Press, and the American West,” *American Journalism* 20(Winter 2003): 57-72.

“The Worst Floods in History’: Federal Government and the Floods of 1944 in the Elkhorn River Basin,” *Great Plains Quarterly* 21(Summer 2001): 179-192.

“Spin Doctors at Santee: What the Dakota Press Said—and Didn’t Say—About the Ghost Dance and Wounded Knee,” *Western Historical Quarterly* 28(Spring 1997): 45-67.

“Up the River: Flooding and Flood Control in Nebraska’s Elkhorn River Valley through the Flood of 1940,” *Nebraska History* 76(Winter 1995): 176-187.

Book reviews

57 reviews in 30 journals.

Works in progress

I am writing a book-length environmental history of North Texas; co-editing a collection of essays on religion in the North American West; and, writing book chapters on religion in the American West between the world wars and on Fort Worth’s development of water resources through 1920.

Teaching and mentoring

Doctoral dissertations directed

Brett Dowdle, “‘Beyond the Pale of Human Sympathy’: Utah and the Reconstruction of the American West, 1856-1890,” TCU, PhD dissertation, 2018.

Lisa Barnett, “The Politics of Peyote: The Construction of Religious and Racial Identities in the Creation of the Native American Church, 1880-1937,” TCU, PhD dissertation, 2017.

Beth Hessel, “‘Let the Conscience of Christian America Speak’: Religion and Empire in the Incarceration of Japanese Americans, 1941-1945,” TCU, PhD dissertation, 2015.

Robert Little, “Unfading Halo: The Untold Progressivism of Elihu Root,” TCU, PhD dissertation, 2015.

Rebekah Crowe, “*Civis Americanus Sum*: George Francis Train and the Meaning of Young America,” TCU, PhD dissertation, 2013.

David Grua, "Liabilities of Conquest: Wounded Knee and the Politics of Memory," TCU, PhD dissertation, 2013.

Jacob Olmstead, "From Old South to Modern West: Fort Worth's Celebration of the Texas State Centennial and the Shaping of an Urban Identity and Image," TCU, PhD dissertation, 2011.

Jahue Anderson, "Red Earth, Salty Water: An Environmental History of the Red River Basin," TCU, PhD dissertation, 2009.

Glen Ely, "Riding the Butterfield Frontier: Life and Death Along the Butterfield Overland Mail Road in Texas, 1858-1861," TCU, PhD dissertation, 2008.

Elaine Turney, "From Reformations to Pragmatic Reforms: Paradigmatic Influences on Wildlife Policy in Yellowstone National Park," TCU, PhD dissertation, 2007.

Harold W. Rich, "Beyond Outpost: Fort Worth Becomes a City, 1880-1918," TCU, PhD dissertation, 2006.

Masters theses directed

Joseph Schiller, "Nature's Entrepreneur: Amon Carter and the Remaking of Texas," MA thesis, 2016.

Reilly Ben Hatch, "'By Sword and Fire': Navajo Raiding and *Neuvomexicano* Responses, 1540-1821," MA thesis, 2016.

Blake Williams, "Creating a Christian America: The Development of Protestant Nationalism in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era," MA thesis, 2008.

Robert Guy Bickers, "Mission Implausible: Surprise and Success in the Hawaiian Mission, 1819-1825," MA thesis, 2007.

Departmental honors theses directed

Ulrika Shragge, 2023

Braedon Sims, 2021

Claire Demers, 2018

Kendra Larach, 2018

James Hopper, 2009

Courses taught

HIST 10533, "U.S. History through Sport"

HIST 10603, "U.S. History: A Survey to 1877"

HIST 10613, "U.S. History: A Survey since 1877"

HIST 30970, "Topical Studies: American Women's History"

HIST 30970, "Topical Studies: Public History Internship"

HIST 40653, "Beer Drinkers, Hell Raisers, and Robber Barons: The US, 1877 to 1919"

HIST 40703, "Indians of the United States"
 HIST 40733, "The American West to 1900"
 HIST 40813, "The American West since 1900"
 HIST 40853, "American Environmental History"
 HIST 40863, "American Sport History"
 HIST 49963, "History Major Seminar: U.S. History"
 HIST 60763, "Graduate Readings in American Indian History"
 HIST 70603, "Seminar in US History"

- Topics have included "Cities & Social Order in the American West," "American Indian History," "Religion and the American West," "Progressive Period," and "Environmental History"

HIST 70980/70990, "Thesis"
 HIST 80083, "History as a Profession"
 HIST 80090, "Supervised Teaching: College Level"
 HIST 80603, "Research Seminar in US History"

- Topics have included "The American West," "Progressive Period," and "The American West and the Environment"

HIST 90980/90990, "Dissertation"
 MALA 61083, "The Wild West"
 MALA 61183, "Red, White, and Green: American Environmental History"

Honors/Awards

John V. Roach Honors Professor of the Year Finalist, 2023

Selected papers and presentations

"Dreaming of Water in an Arid Land: Building Waterscapes in Progressive-Era Fort Worth," Texas State Historical Association Annual Conference, Fort Worth, March 2021.

"What Happens in Fort Worth...Flows Downhill to Dallas: Water and Urban Development in Early 20th-Century North Texas," Western Historical Association Annual Conference, Las Vegas, October 2019.

"Living and Dying with Great Plains Rivers from the Age of Winter Counts to the Age of Climate Change," Brown Bag Lecture sponsored by History Nebraska and the University of Nebraska at Kearney Department of History, Kearney Public Library, September 12, 2018.

"*Flood on the Tracks: Bringing a Cold Case Back to Life*," Phi Alpha Theta Lecture, University of Nebraska at Kearney, September 12, 2018.

"Living and Dying with the Elkhorn River," Elkhorn Valley Museum, Norfolk, NE, April 2018.

"The Art of Historical Interpretation: F.S.A. Photos of Depression-Era Texas," Birdville ISD workshop, August 2017.

“Native Americans and Westward Expansion,” *Westward Expansion*, an institute for Texas teachers, Humanities Texas, Austin, February 2017.

“Manifest Destiny,” *From Jefferson to Jackson*, an institute for Texas teachers, Humanities Texas, Houston, June 2016.

“Beyond the Frontier: Why Cynthia Ann and Quanah Parker Still Matter,” Center for Greater Southwestern Studies, University of Texas at Arlington, April 2014.

“From Cowboys to Cambodia: Movement and the Living Myth of the West in Rock Music, 1980-2010,” paper presented at the Pacific Coast Branch American Historical Association annual meeting, Denver, CO, August 2013.

“The Historical Elvis,” gallery talk in conjunction with *Elvis at 21* exhibit, Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, June 16, 2013.

“Roads as Trails to the New West,” Gallery Tour and Lecture for “Ed Ruscha: Road Tested,” Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, April 3, 2011.

“Westward Expansion,” *Shaping the American Republic to 1877*, institute for Texas teachers sponsored by Humanities Texas, TCU, and the Center for Texas Studies, June 15, 2010.

“Land and Liberty: Environmentalism in American Art,” commissioned by the Amon Carter Museum to celebrate Earth Day, delivered at the Museum April 25, 2009.

“Closing the Western Frontier,” *From Disunion to Empire: The United States, 1850-1900*, institute for Texas high school teachers sponsored by Humanities Texas and the University of North Texas with major funding provided by a grant from We the People initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities, June 10, 2008, Denton, TX.

“Turner, Limerick, Religion, the West, and America,” *The West and the Shaping of America*, an institute for Texas high school teachers sponsored by Humanities Texas, Texas Christian University, the Amon Carter Museum, and Texas Tech University with major funding provided from We the People initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities, June 5, 2007, Fort Worth, TX.

“American Indian Education,” Luncheon speech, Daughters of the American Revolution, Fort Worth Chapter, November 17, 2005.

“Republic of Steel: Carnegie, Unions, and the Meaning of America,” Teacher Education Workshop, Fort Worth Independent School District, February 5, 2005.

“Confluence with History: Brent Phelps and the Lewis and Clark Trail,” Gallery Talk, Amon Carter Museum, November 11, 2004.

“Genius at Work? Edward Curtis and the Making of Memory,” San Antonio Museum of Art, October 26, 2004.

“Rolling on the River: An Environmental History of the Lewis and Clark Route,” Teacher Workshop, Amon Carter Museum, September 30, 2004.

“The Ghost Dance and Wounded Knee Massacre: Images for Critical Analysis,” Project Flag, Fort Worth Independent School District, July 30, 2004.

“Cowboys, Cattle, and Crooning,” An Afternoon Educational Event for Voices of Change Modern Chamber Music Ensemble providing background to the Dallas concert premiere of “Recalling Yesterdays” by Sam Adler, 3310 St. John’s Drive, Dallas, March 6, 2004.

“James Otto Lewis’ Portraits of the Middle Ground,” Gallery Talk, Amon Carter Museum, December 11, 2003.

“Texas Mecca: The Strange Visions of the Branch Davidian Community,” Western History Association Conference, Fort Worth, TX, October 2003.

“Expanding Classroom Frontiers: Environmental History in the Field,” American Society for Environmental History Conference, Providence, RI, March 27, 2003.

“Read All About It!: Newspapers and Religious Outsiders in the American West,” Missouri Valley History Conference, Omaha, NE, March 10, 2000.

“American Indians at the Millennium: From the Ghost Dance to Y2K,” University of Nebraska at Kearney, Native American History Month presentation, November 4, 1999.
“The Sinful Messiah: The Rise and Fall of David Koresh,” Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN, October 17, 1997.

“Understanding Waco: Placing the Branch Davidian Tragedy Among the West’s Religious Battles,” Southwest Social Science Association Conference, New Orleans, LA, March 29, 1997.

“God’s Country, Uncle Sam’s Land: Mormon Utah, the Myth of the West, and Federal Force,” Missouri Valley History Conference, Omaha, NE, March 7, 1997.

“Spin Doctors and Medicine Men: The Dakota-Language Reporting of the Ghost Dance and Wounded Knee,” Western History Association Conference, Denver, CO, October 14, 1995.

“Up the River: The Futility of Fighting the Elkhorn’s Floods in 1944,” Missouri Valley History Conference, Omaha, NE, March 10, 1994.

“Spreading the American Gleam: The Influence of Interstate 80 on Roadside Architecture in the Great Plains,” Center for Great Plains Studies Conference, Lincoln, NE, April 23, 1993.

“Preachers and Pawnees: Presbyterian Missionaries as Agents of Acculturation, 1834-1846,” Northern Great Plains History Conference, Mankato, MN, October 3, 1991.

Professional service

Editorial board, *Western Historical Quarterly*, 2012-2014

Editorial board, *Plains Histories*, a series from Texas Tech University Press

Armitage-Jameson Prize Committee (best book on history of women in the American West, annual), Coalition for Western Women Historians, 2013-2015 (chair, 2015)

H. Bailey Carroll Award Committee (annual award for best article in the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*), Texas State Historical Association, 2013-2015 (chair, 2015)

Caughey Prize (best book on the American West, annual) Committee, Western History Association, 2010-2012 (chair, 2012)

Manuscript reviewer, Harvard University Press, University of Nebraska Press, University of Oklahoma Press, University of Illinois Press, Harcourt Brace, Houghton Mifflin, Bedford/St. Martin’s, TCU Press, Texas Tech University Press, University of Toronto Press

Article referee, *Western Historical Quarterly*, *Journal of American History*, *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, *Great Plains Research*, *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*

Associate Fellow, Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska at Lincoln

Research Committee, National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, 2005-2015

Judge, Student Papers Division, Phi Alpha Theta Nebraska Regional Conference, 2005-2008

Review Editor, *H-AmIndian*, 2001-2004

Teacher Advisory Committee, Amon Carter Museum, 2002-2004

Arrington-Prucha Prize Committee (best article on religious history, annual), Western History Association, 2001-2003 (chair, 2003)

Local Arrangements Committee, Western History Association (Fort Worth, 2003; San Antonio, 2018)

Program committee, Western History Association (2000, 2010)

Program committee, Texas State Historical Association, 2015 conference

Docent, Museum of Nebraska History, 1996

Judge, National History Day: Nebraska, 1992-97

Preliminary judge, Great Plains Film Festival, 1992, 1995

Professional memberships

American Historical Association

American Society for Environmental History

Center for Great Plains Studies

Coalition for Western Women's History

History Nebraska

Organization of American Historians

Texas State Historical Society

Western History Association