

james coltrain

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EDUCATION

PhD History 2011

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, Evanston, IL

Concentrations in Early Americas, United States, Early Modern Europe, Art and Architecture, Material Culture, Public History, and Digital Humanities.

Dr. T.H. Breen Advisor

BA History 2002

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS, Lawrence, KS

DISSERTATION

“Constructing Empires: Architecture, Power, and Provincial Identity in Early America”

Using a new form of interdisciplinary history, my project examines the architecture of competing North American fortified communities to reveal the central role of imperial presence in defining individual identity during the 18th century. My multilingual project shows that ordinary provincials lived not in a fluid and open Atlantic World, but amidst fiercely violent imperial competition, where Britain, France, and Spain built massive, costly forts that became primary sites for colonial administration and vivid symbols of imperial presence. In response to the distinct identities these structures helped create, provincials of all backgrounds constantly monitored their imperial affiliations, sometimes making difficult compromises to protect their property, faith, freedom, and lives. My project compares the Castillo San Marcos, a gleaming stone castle in Spanish Florida, the Fortress Louisbourg in Nova Scotia, a modest fishing village redesigned as a cosmopolitan French stronghold, and the British Fort Stanwix, a frontier imperial citadel that later became an outpost for American Revolutionaries.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Articles

2009 “The Structures of Provincialism: Britain’s Many Voice in the Colonies”
Atlantic Studies, Vol. 6, Issue 1 2009

Edited Collections

2013 “The Constrained Atlantic World: Forced and Coerced Labor in Imperial Fort Construction”
Unfree Labor, the State, and the Rise of Global Capitalism, 1500-1945
John Donoghue and Evelyn Jennings eds., Brill Publishers

2011 “Armories” and “Tabby”
World of a Slave
Martha Katz-Hyman and Kym Rice eds., Greenwood Publishing Group

2010 “Reimagining Past Worlds: Issues and Challenges in the Use of 3D Graphics for
Historical Reconstructions”
Journal of the Proceedings of the Chicago Colloquium on Digital Humanities and Computer Science

2009 “A Picture is Worth 1,000 Pasts: How 3D Virtual Reconstructions Can Bridge the Gap
Between Visitor Interest and Scholarly Debate”
EVA London 2009: Electronic Visualization and the Arts
Jonathan Bowen, Suzanne Keene, Jonathan Bowen eds., EVA Intl.

Reviews

- 2013 No Turning Point: The Saratoga Campaign in Perspective
Theodore Corbett, *Journal of Military History* (forthcoming)
- 2013 Material Culture in Anglo-America: Regional Identity and Urbanity in the Tidewater, Lowcountry, and Caribbean
David S. Shields, ed., *South Carolina Historical Magazine* (forthcoming)
- 2007 "The Digital Library for the Decorative Arts and Material Culture"
Common Place, October 2007, www.common-place.org

Public History

- 2012 "Founding a Republic, 1781-1796" 500 Years of Discovery
United States History Textbook, Agate Press

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Assistant Professor of History UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - LINCOLN, 2013-

- Taught courses in Atlantic and United States history
- Designed a freshman seminar introducing the digital humanities to undergraduates
- Taught an interdisciplinary course on digitally modeling historic sites

Faculty Fellow CENTER FOR DIGITAL RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES, UNL, 2013-

- Programmed a Unity 3D plug-in for dynamic sharing and annotation of scholarly 3D data.
- Developed dynamic 3D reconstructions of historic architectural sites

Lecturer UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - LINCOLN, 2012-2013

- Taught courses in Atlantic and United States history

Associate Faculty Fellow CENTER FOR DIGITAL RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES, UNL, 2012-2013

- Designed 3D virtual reconstructions of early American historic architecture for real-time browser viewing

Subject Matter Expert AGATE PRESS, 2012

- Edited a United States History textbook for historical accuracy

Instructor NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, 2007-12

- Designed curricula for and taught original courses in history, media, and 3D imaging
- Won grant funding for equipment and travel across five countries for historical research

Assistant Master CRC RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE, NORTHWESTERN, 2005-11

- Designed yearlong academic programming for 105 student residents and 15 faculty volunteers
- Oversaw Northwestern's second most profitable on-campus charity

Instructor ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO, 2007-10

- Designed curricula and taught original history, art and architectural history, film, and composition courses

INVITED LECTURES

“Digital Humanities Applications of Unity 3D”

Center for 21st Century Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (Upcoming, November 2013).

“Making Digital History Work for You”

History Department, University of Notre Dame.

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

“Recreating Historical Materiality through Scientific Simulations of Light and Texture”

A Return to the Material, Digital Humanities Forum 2013, University of Kansas.

“A 3D Common Ground: Bringing Humanities Data Together Inside Online Game Engines”

Digital Humanities 2013, University of Nebraska.

“New Possibilities for 3D Historical Reconstructions Using Web Browser Game Engines for Real-Time Display”

Chicago Colloquium on Digital Humanities and Computer Science, University of Chicago.

“If Only You’d Been There: Recreating the Phenomenology of Past Spaces by Simulating Historical Light, Texture, and Sound”

Chicago Colloquium on Digital Humanities and Computer Science, University of Chicago.

“Monuments to the Imperial Atlantic: Fort Architecture and Provincial Experience in Early America”

Omohundro Institute Conference, The “Political Arithmetic” of Empires in the Early Modern Atlantic World 1500-1807, University of Maryland.

“What is 3D Modeling and What Can It Do for You?”

THATCamp Chicago, Northwestern University.

“Constructing the Atlantic’s Boundaries: Forced and Coerced Labor on Imperial Fortifications in Colonial Florida”

Unfree Labor, the Atlantic Empires, and Global Capitalism, Loyola University Chicago.

“Fuerte Real: The Castillo San Marcos and Provincial Identity in the Atlantic World”

Forming Nations, Reforming Empires: Atlantic Polities in the Long 18th Century, New York University.

“Bastions of Empire: Defensive Architecture, Imperial Power, and Community Identity in the 18th Century”

Society for American City and Regional Planning History, National Conference, Oakland, CA.

“‘Large, Beautiful, and Commodious’: Church Architecture and Imperial Influences in Early 18th-Century Boston”

Regional Graduate Conference, University of Notre Dame.

“Anxious Defenders: Fort Architecture and Imperial Identity in the Atlantic World”

McNeil Center for Early American Studies Biennial Graduate Student Conference, Fear and Desire: Early America and Its Discontents, University of Pennsylvania.

“A Picture is Worth 1,000 Pasts: How 3D Virtual Reconstructions Can Bridge the Gap between Visitor Interest and Scholarly Debate”

EVA London 2009, British Computing Society, London, United Kingdom.

“The Entrenched Atlantic World: How the Architectural Record of St. Augustine Challenges Conceptions of Power

and Identity in Early America”

Northwestern Center for Historical Studies International Doctoral Workshop, Contested Narratives in an American and Transatlantic Context, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany.

“Between the Towers: Defensive Architecture and Imperial Experiences in the New World”

Illinois Daughters of the American Revolution Annual Luncheon.

“A Stronghold of Empire: The Castillo San Marcos and Imperial Identity in the Atlantic World”

History Graduate Student Conference, Loyola University Chicago.

“Entrenched Empires: How the Demands of Safety Constrained Challenges to Authority in 18th Century America”

Chicago Graduate Student History Conference, University of Illinois at Chicago.

“Reimagining Past Worlds: Issues and Challenges in the Use of 3D Graphics to Create Historical Reconstructions”

Chicago Colloquium on Digital Humanities and Computer Science, University of Chicago.

“Popular Political Rhetoric in New York’s Revolutionary Press: 1774-1776”

Graduate Student Conference, American and German Research Perspectives, Max Plank Institute for History, Gottingen, Germany.

COURSES DEVELOPED AND TAUGHT

Digital History

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Spring 2013

Digital Historical Modeling

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Spring 2013

Colonial American History

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Spring 2013

Exploring the Digital Humanities

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Fall 2012

United States History to 1877

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Fall 2012

Pirates: Colonial Conflict in the Atlantic

Northwestern University, Winter 2011

Controversy in American Public History

Northwestern University, Spring 2010

American Material Culture to 1877

Northwestern University, Fall 2009

Historical Documentary Film: Theory and Practice

Northwestern University, Fall 2009

Pirates and Early America

School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Fall 2009

The Civil War in Popular Memory

School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Fall 2009

United States History to 1865

Northwestern University, School of Continuing Studies, Fall 2009

American Historical Fiction in Film

Northwestern University, School of Continuing Studies, Summer 2009

Jerusalem: City of Three Faiths in Art and Architecture

School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Spring 2009

American Historical Fiction and Film

School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Fall 2008

Popular Culture in the American Revolution

School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Fall 2008

Introduction to 3D Modeling and Animation

Northwestern University, Fall 2008

Imagery of New World Empires: Britain, France, Spain

Northwestern University, Spring 2008

Popular Culture in the American Revolution

School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Spring 2008

Popular Culture in the American Revolution

School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Fall 2007

American Historical Fiction in Film

Northwestern University, Fall 2007

Popular Culture in the American Revolution

Northwestern University, Spring 2007

HONORS and AWARDS

Humanities Computing Stipend
Northwestern University Graduate School

Graduate Fellowship, Full Tuition and Stipend
Northwestern University

Annual Scholarship Award
National Society of the Colonial Dames, Illinois Chapter

Memorial Scholarship
History Department, University of Kansas

Graduate Research Grant
Northwestern University Graduate School

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Scholarship
University of Kansas

Scholarly Recognition
Illinois Daughters of the American Revolution

Merit Scholarship, Full Tuition and Stipend
University of Kansas

Graduate Research Grant
Northwestern University Graduate School

Summer Technology Grant
Northwestern University Graduate School.

SKILLS

Web Development

Advanced HTML, CSS, Javascript, JQuery, PHP, and SQL

3D Modeling and Animation

Autodesk 3D Studio Max, Maya, Unity 3D, Blender, Zbrush, and Vue X-Stream

Film Production

Adobe Premiere and After Effects, Apple Final Cut Pro and Shake

Graphic Design and Publishing

Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign

Languages

Reading and Research in Spanish and French, Basic Reading in Latin