

Abraham Hill Gibson

Associate Professor

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2024–present	Associate Professor, Dept of History, University of Nebraska
2022–2023	Assistant Chair, Dept of History, University of Texas at San Antonio
2021–2024	Assistant Professor, Dept of History, University of Texas at San Antonio
2019–2021	Lecturer, School of Life Sciences, Arizona State University
2017–2019	NSF Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Life Sciences, Arizona State Univ.
2016–2017	Lecturer, School of Hist., Phil., and Rel. Studies, Arizona State Univ.
2015–2016	Lecturer, Dept. of Hist. and Soc. of Science, University of Pennsylvania
2014–2015	Postdoctoral Fellow, Consortium for History of Sci, Tech, & Medicine

EDUCATION

2013	Ph.D., History, Florida State University
2008	M.A., History, Virginia Tech
2005	B.A., English, James Madison University

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Abraham Gibson, *Historians of Tomorrow: The Rise of Artificial Intelligence and the Future of the Past* (manuscript currently in progress).

Abraham Gibson, *Healing the Heart of the World: The Origins of Globalism, 1919-1939* (manuscript currently in progress)

William B. Gibson and Abraham Gibson, *The Vanishing One-Room Schoolhouses of Franklin County, Virginia* (final manuscript under review at University of Virginia Press).

Abraham Gibson, *Feral Animals in the American South: An Evolutionary History* (Cambridge University Press, 2016; paperback issued September 2018).

Special Issues

Abraham Gibson, Manfred Laubichler, and Jane Maienschein (eds.), “Focus Section: Computational History and Philosophy of Science,” *Isis* 110 (September 2019): 497-566.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

Abraham Gibson, Athena Aktipis, and Lee Cronk, “Cooperation Science: Prospectus for a New Field,” *Quarterly Review of Biology* (manuscript currently under review).

Abraham Gibson, "Lead a Horse to Water: Beach Ponies in the American South and the Cultivation of Ferality," in *Non-Human Animals: Ethics and Engineering*, edited by Rosalyn Berne (Jenny Stanford Press, 2025).

Julia Damerow, Abraham Gibson, and Manfred Laubichler, "Of Coding and Quality: A Tale about Computational Humanities," in *Computational Humanities*, edited by Jessica Marie Johnson, David Mimno, and Lauren Tilton (University of Minnesota Press, 2024).

Abraham Gibson, "Digital Humanities in the Deepfake Era," in *Debates in the Digital Humanities 2023*, edited by Matthew K. Gold and Lauren F. Klein (University of Minnesota Press, 2023), 166-175.

Abraham Gibson, "War Horses: Equine Perspectives on the Confederacy," in *Animal Histories of the Civil War Era*, edited by E. J. Hess (Louisiana State University Press, 2022): 84-98.

Abraham Gibson, "Harvesting Hogzillas: Feral Pigs and the Engineering Ideal," in *Nature Remade: Engineering Life from Gene Drives to Gaia*, edited by Luis Campos, Michael R. Dietrich, Tiago Saraiva, and Chris Young (University of Chicago Press, 2020): 60-70.

Abraham Gibson and Cindy Ermus, "The History of Science and the Science of History: Computational Methods, Algorithms, and the Future of the Field," *Isis* 110 (September 2019): 555-566.

Abraham Gibson, Manfred Laubichler, and Jane Maienschein, "Introduction: Computational History and Philosophy of Science," *Isis* 110 (September 2019): 497-501.

Abraham Gibson, "The Moonshine Capital of the World: A Visual History of Untaxed Whiskey in Franklin County, Virginia," *Environmental History* 24 (July 2019): 584-596.

Abraham Gibson, "Biology in the Marvel Cinematic Universe," *Journal of the History of Biology* 52 (June 2019): 365-369.

Abraham Gibson, Christina Kwapich, and Martha Lang, "Roots of Multilevel Selection: Concepts of Biological Individuality in the Early Twentieth Century," in *The Historical and Conceptual Place of Multilevel Selection in Evolution*, edited by Ciprian Jeler (Macmillan, 2018), 13-45.

Abraham Gibson and Cindy Ermus, "Swamp Things: Invasive Species as Environmental Disasters," in *Environmental Disaster in the Gulf South: Two Centuries of Catastrophe, Risk, and Resilience*, edited by Cindy Ermus (LSU Press, 2018), 103-130.

Abraham Gibson, "Path to the Present," in *A Handbook of Evolutionary Ethics*, edited by Michael Ruse and Robert J. Richards (Cambridge University Press, 2017), 72-85.

Abraham Gibson, "Beasts of Burden: Feral Burros in the American West," in *The Historical Animal*, edited by Susan Nance (Syracuse University Press, 2015), 38-53.

Abraham Gibson and Michael Ruse, "Sociobiology and Evolutionary Psychology," in *A Companion to the History of American Science*, edited by Georgina Montgomery and Mark Largent (Wiley, 2015), 252-262.

Abraham Gibson, Christina Kwapich, and Martha Lang, "Roots of Multilevel Selection: Concepts of Biological Individuality in the Early Twentieth Century," *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences* 35 (December 2013): 505-532.

Abraham Gibson, "Edward O. Wilson and the Organicist Tradition," *Journal of the History of Biology* 46 (November 2013): 599-630.

Abraham Gibson, "American Gibraltar: Key West during World War II," *Florida Historical Quarterly* (Spring 2012): 393-425.

Digital Publications

Abraham Gibson, "[Keeping It Real: Historians in the Deepfake Era](#)," *AHA Perspectives Daily* (May 17, 2021).

Abraham Gibson, "[Data Science and the 3-point Revolution](#)," *Age of Revolutions* (February 25, 2019).

Abraham Gibson, "[Sounding the Old Wolf Cry](#)," *The Bigger Picture*, Smithsonian Institution Archives (November 14, 2013).

Abraham Gibson, "[Dog Days at the Zoo, part 2](#)," *The Bigger Picture*, Smithsonian Institution Archives (September 18, 2012).

Abraham Gibson, "[Dog Days at the Zoo, part 1](#)," *The Bigger Picture*, Smithsonian Institution Archives (September 11, 2012).

Digital Projects

The Vanishing Schools of Franklin County, Virginia
<<https://thevanishingschools.com/>>

Funded by Virginia Humanities, this project launched in October 2023.

Honest Abe's Information Emporium
<<https://honestabes.info/>>

Funded by the U.S. Dept of Education, this project launched in April 2023.

Museum Exhibits

The Vanishing Schools of Franklin County, Virginia

Funded by Virginia Humanities, this exhibit opened at the Blue Ridge Institute & Museum, Ferrum College, in October 2023, and it currently remains on display.

Book Reviews

“Abraham Gibson, “*Making Machines of Animals: The International Livestock Exposition*, by Neal Knapp,” *Journal of the History of Biology* (forthcoming)

Abraham Gibson, “*Charleston Horse Power: Equine Culture in the Palmetto City*, by Christina Rae Butler,” *Journal of Southern History* (forthcoming).

Abraham Gibson, “*The Age of Mammals: Nature, Development, and Paleontology in the Long Nineteenth Century*, by Chris Mania,” *American Historical Review* (forthcoming).

Abraham Gibson, “*The Herds Shot Round the World: Native Breeds and the British Empire, 1800-1900*, by Rebecca Woods,” *H-Environment Roundtable Reviews* 13 (2023).

Abraham Gibson, “*The Re-Origin of Species: A Second Chance for Extinct Animals*, by Torill Kornfeldt,” *Quarterly Review of Biology* 94 (December 2019): 446.

Abraham Gibson, “*Wild by Heart: North American Animals Confront Colonization*, by Andrea L. Smalley,” *Journal of Southern History* 84 (2018): 704-706.

Abraham Gibson, “*Fascist Pigs: Technoscientific Organisms and the History of Fascism*, by Tiago Saraiva,” *Journal of the History of Biology* 51 (2018): 183-185.

Abraham Gibson, “*The Runes of Evolution: How the Universe became Self-Aware*, by Simon Conway Morris,” *Quarterly Review of Biology* 92 (September 2017): 321.

Abraham Gibson, “*Animals as Food: (Re)connecting Production, Processing, Consumption, and Impacts*, by Amy Fitzgerald,” *Agricultural History* 91 (2017): 133-134.

Abraham Gibson, “*The Readable Darwin: The Origin of Species*, edited by Jan A. Pechenik,” *Quarterly Review of Biology* 90 (June 2015): 217.

Abraham Gibson, “*On the Frontier of Science: An American Rhetoric of Exploration and Exploitation*, by Leah Ceccarelli,” *Quarterly Review of Biology* 90 (March 2015): 78-79.

GRANTS and FELLOWSHIPS

National Grants and Fellowships

National Endowment for the Humanities, 2025-2026 (application submitted)

To support research for monograph on A.I. and its impact on historical record

Lemelson Center at NMAH, Smithsonian Institution, 2025-2026 (application submitted)

To support research for monograph on sociotechnical innovations in the game of basketball

U. S. Department of Education, 2021-2022

Project Lead in the Digital Literacy Accelerator program to combat disinformation

National Science Foundation, 2018-2019

NSF Supplemental Grant to develop educational materials on computational humanities

National Science Foundation, 2017-2019

NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship to learn computational methods for second book project

Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, 2014-2015

Postdoctoral Fellowship to support research for second book manuscript

Smithsonian Institution, 2012-2013

Predocctoral Fellowship to support research for dissertation and first book manuscript

National Science Foundation, 2010-2011

NSF Predocctoral Fellowship to provide integrated training in biology and the humanities

State Grants and Fellowships

Virginia Humanities, 2022-2023

Public Humanities Fellowship to document one-room schoolhouses in historic Appalachia

Institutional Grants and Fellowships

Academic Innovation, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2024

Grant to develop an undergraduate course called “Artificial Intelligence & Society”

College of Liberal and Fine Arts, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2022-2023

Collaborative Digital Humanities Fellowship to support research on synthetic media

Academic Affairs, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2022-2023

Grant to support in-person programming for first-year undergraduate students

Najim Center for Innovation, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2022

Research Grant to foster interdisciplinary undergraduate research project on deepfakes

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Courses

“Global Environmental History,” University of Nebraska, 2025.

“Historical Methods,” University of Texas at San Antonio, 2022-2023

“History of Technology,” University of Texas at San Antonio, 2022

“Global Environmental History,” University of Texas at San Antonio, 2022

“The Science of Cooperation,” Arizona State University, 2019

“History of Science and Technology,” Arizona State University, 2017

Undergraduate Courses

“Global Environmental History,” University of Nebraska, 2025.

“History of Science,” University of Nebraska, 2024.

“History of Technology,” University of Texas at San Antonio, 2022, 2024

“Data and Society,” University of Texas at San Antonio, 2023-2024

“History of Science,” University of Texas at San Antonio, 2023
“Environmental History of North Amer.,” University of Texas at San Antonio, 2021-2024
“History and the Public,” University of Texas at San Antonio, 2021
“Technology and Modern Society,” University of Texas at San Antonio, 2020
“U.S. History, 1865-present,” University of Texas at San Antonio, 2020
“History of Science, Ancient Greece to 1700,” Arizona State University, 2019-2021
“History of Science, 1700 to the Present,” Arizona State University, 2019-2021
“History of Engineering,” Arizona State University, 2016-2017
“Environmental History of North America,” Arizona State University, 2016
“Science and Technology in Social Context,” University of Pennsylvania, 2016
“Environmental History of North America,” Virginia Tech, 2013-2014
“History of Disease, Medicine, and Health,” Virginia Tech, 2013-2014
“History of Science,” Florida State University. 2012-2013

Advising Experience

Member, Thesis Committee, Sia Paulsen, Univ. of Texas at San Antonio, 2023-2024
Chair, Thesis Committee, Andrea Varga, Univ. of Texas at San Antonio, 2022-2023
Chair, Thesis Committee, Adam Hasewinkle, Univ. of Texas at San Antonio, 2022-2023
Chair, Comps Committee, Bryan Morales, Univ. of Texas at San Antonio, 2022-2023
Chair, Comps Committee, Johnathan Alvarado, Univ. of Texas at San Antonio, 2022-2023
Member, Thesis Committee, Monica Palacios, Univ. of Texas at San Antonio, 2021-2022

Teaching Awards

Joe Richardson Award for Excellence in Teaching, Florida State University, 2013-2014.
Joe Richardson Award for Excellence in Teaching, Florida State University, 2012-2013.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures

“Rise of the Superorganism: The Science and Politics of Cooperation, 1919-1939,”
Research presentation to the Cooperation Science Network, Arizona State University,
April 28, 2021.

“An Introduction to Computational History of Science,” Brown Bag Lecture at the
Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania, May 14, 2020.

“The History of Science and the Science of History: Computational Methods, Algorithms,
and the Future of the Field.” Joint Atlantic Seminar for the History of Biology (JAS-Bio),
Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, March 30, 2019.

“Animals in the Confederate Arsenal: Horses, Pigs, and the American Civil War,”
Invited Lecture at the Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, September 18, 2018.

“Desert Canaries: A History of Feral Burros in the American West,” Return to Freedom
American Wild Horse Sanctuary, Lompoc, California, June 26, 2018.

“Beasts of Burden: Mining Burros in the American West,” Ralph L. Hennebach Lecture at the Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado, March 22, 2018.

“Feral Animals in the American South,” Virginia Festival of the Book, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, Charlottesville, Virginia, March 24, 2017.

“The Assault on Fertility,” Earth and Environmental Sciences Working Group, Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 5, 2016.

“Feral Animals in the American South,” Invited Lecture at the University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. September 23, 2016.

“Origin of the Social Impulse: E.O. Wilson’s Recent Decision to Reject Kin Selection,” Ethics in Science Invited Lecture Series, University of Houston, Houston, Texas, December 4, 2015.

Conference Papers

“The Use of Generative AI for Pedagogy in Responsible and Educational Ways,” Academic Data Science Alliance Annual Meeting, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas, October 27, 2023.

“Automation and the Historian of Tomorrow,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 18-21, 2021.

“Rise of the Global Organism: The Science and Politics of Holism in the Interwar Era,” International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB), Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Long Island, New York, July 13, 2021.

“Getting Back to Nature: Feral Animals in the History of the Life Sciences,” Feral: A Nearly Carbon-Neutral Conference, Association of Social Anthropologists of Aotearoa / New Zealand, November 20, 2018.

“The Science of Cooperation between World Wars: Lessons from Invertebrate Zoology,” Joint Atlantic Seminar for the History of Biology, Princeton, New Jersey, April 7, 2018.

“The Moonshine Capital of the World: Documenting Agricultural, Technological, and Social Change in Franklin County, Virginia,” American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting, Riverside, California, March 15, 2018.

“Neither Wild nor Tame: Feral Animals in the History of Biology,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario, November 9, 2017.

“Beasts of the Southern Wild: Feral Swine in Southern History,” Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, Trade Winds Island Resort, St. Petersburg, Florida, November 4, 2016.

“Counting the Animals: Insights from the 2012 Agricultural Census,” Agricultural History Society Annual Meeting, Lexington, Kentucky, June 6, 2015.

“The Science of Cooperation after World War I,” Southern History of Science and Technology Conference, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, April 10, 2015.

“The Path to the Present,” Evolution and Ethics Conference, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, March 28, 2015.

“Feral Burros in the American West: The Environmental Legacy of Nineteenth-Century Mining Booms,” American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, March 21, 2015.

“The Science of Cooperation between World Wars,” Introductory Symposium, Philadelphia Area Center for the History of Science, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 18, 2014.

“The Hunt for Hogzilla: Feral Swine in Southern History and Culture,” American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, March 15, 2014.

“The Evolutionary History of Domestic Animals in the American South,” Tuesday Colloquium series, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, August 20, 2013.

“Dogs and People in the Prehistoric Southeast,” History Graduate Student Association Conference, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, March 23, 2013.

“Feral Animals in the American South: The Science and Culture of Broken Symbioses,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 4, 2013.

“Lost in the Desert: Feral Animals in American History,” HGSA Conference, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, April 3, 2010.

“Mining Burros of the Southwest,” Florida Conference of Historians, Wakulla Spring State Park, Wakulla, Florida, February 19, 2010.

“Crossing the Species Divide,” Dialogues Conference: Crossing Borders, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, March 27, 2009.

“Common Descent and the Anthropocentric Response,” Darwin’s Reach: Celebrating Darwin’s Legacy Across the Disciplines, Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York, March 12, 2009.

“Religious Identity, Educational Standards, and the Florida Evolution Debate,” Graduate Student Symposium in Religious Studies, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, February 21, 2009.

“Simian Sodas: Science and Religion in the 1920s South,” Evolution and Religion Conference: Towards a History of an Evolving Relationship, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina, February 14, 2009.

“Confronting the Tree of Life,” Conference on Information Fluency, Critical Thinking and Ethics, University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida, January 27, 2009.

Panels Organized

Panel Organizer, “Digital Tools and Methods in the History of Science,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, November 17-20, 2022.

Panel Organizer, “Digital Futures in the History of Science and Technology,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 20, 2021.

Panel Organizer, “Pests, Friends, Trophies and Meat: Examining Domestic Animals in Environmental History,” American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, March 15, 2014.

Panel Organizer, “Evolutionary History: How Biology Can Help Us Understand History,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 4, 2013.

Panels Chaired

Chair, “Digital Futures in the History of Science and Technology,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 20, 2021.

Chair, “Rethinking the Historiography of Biology,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington, November 2, 2018.

Chair, “Improving Early Modern and Modern Agriculture through Science,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario, November 10, 2017.

Roundtables

“Roundtable on Artificial Intelligence and the Historical Record: Implications and Applications,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, January 2024.

“Roundtable on Animals and the Environment in the Early Republic,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 16, 2021.

“Roundtable on the Future of Digital Humanities in the History of Science,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, October 9, 2020.

Seminars

Participant, “A Century of Engineering Life: Populations and Ecosystems,” ASU-MBL History of Biology Seminar at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, May 17-22, 2018.

Podcasts and Livestreams

Panelist, “Interview with Arvid Agren, author of *Gene’s Eyes View of Evolution*,” Cooperation Science Network, January 25, 2022.

Interviewee, “Interview with Abraham Gibson, author of *Feral Animals in the American South*” Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, April 30, 2021.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Service to the Department

Web Champion for Department Website, Department of History, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2022-2024

Public History Task Force, Department of History, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2022-2024

Associate Chair, Department of History, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2022-2024

Faculty Advisory Committee, Department of History, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2022-2024

Graduate Committee, Department of History, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2021-2023

Annual Review Committee, Department of History, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2022-2023

Selection Committee, John L. Nau III Graduate Awards, Department of History, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2021-2023.

Service to the College

Tenure and Promotion Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Nebraska, 2024-2025.

Collaborative Digital Humanities Fellows Program Review Committee, College of Liberal and Fine Arts, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2023-2024.

Committee to revise FTT Promotion Guidelines, College of Liberal and Fine Arts, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2023-2024.

Recruitment and Enrollment Committee, College of Liberal and Fine Arts, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2023-2024.

Interdisciplinary School Task Force, College of Liberal and Fine Arts, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2022-2023

COLFA Visioning Task Force, College of Liberal and Fine Arts, University of Texas at San Antonio. 2021-2022.

Committee to revise promotion & tenure guidelines and annual review standards for College of Liberal and Fine Arts, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2021-2022.

Search committee to hire an assistant professor of Digital Humanities in the College of Liberal and Fine Arts, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2021-2022.

Awards committee for conference on excellence in graduate research in the College of Liberal and Fine Arts, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2021-2022.

Service to the University

Generative A.I. Faculty Guidelines Task Force, Texas at San Antonio. 2023-2024

Medical Humanities Steering Committee, University of Texas at San Antonio. 2022-2023.

Graduate Council, University of Texas at San Antonio. 2022-2023.

Service to the Profession

Reviewed manuscript for *Animal History* journal, 2025.

Reviewed grant applications for Virginia Humanities, 2024.

Founder and host of monthly Digital History working group at the Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, 2021-2023.

Reviewed manuscript for *Digital Humanities Quarterly*, 2023.

Reviewed applications for the Science and Technology Studies (STS) Program at the National Science Foundation, 2022.

Reviewed manuscripts for *Isis*, 2019, 2021

Reviewed manuscript for *Age of Revolutions* digital journal, 2021.

Reviewed manuscript for *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences*, 2020.

Developed an NSF-funded training workshop on computational history, 2019.

Developed an NSF-funded training manual on computational history, 2019.

Reviewed manuscript for *Environmental History*, 2019.

Reviewed manuscripts for *Journal of the History of Biology*, 2018, 2019.

Reviewed fellowship applications for the Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, 2017.