

Matthew Karp

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor of History, Princeton University, 2019–present
Assistant Professor of History, Princeton University, 2013–2019
Elias Boudinot Bicentennial Preceptor, 2016–2019

Instructor, University of Pennsylvania, 2011–2012
Teaching Fellow, Rowan University, 2011–2012

EDUCATION

Ph.D., History, University of Pennsylvania, 2011
B.A., History, Amherst College, 2003

BOOKS

Millions of Abolitionists: The Republican Party and the Political War Against Slavery
(book in progress)

This Vast Southern Empire: Slaveholders at the Helm of American Foreign Policy
(Harvard University Press, 2016; paperback, 2018)

- 2017 [John H. Dunning Prize](#), American Historical Association
- 2017 [Stuart L. Bernath Book Prize](#), Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations
- 2016 [James H. Broussard Best First Book Prize](#), Society for Historians of the Early American Republic
- 2016 North Jersey Civil War Roundtable Book Award
- Finalist, 2017 Harriet Tubman Prize, Lapidus Center for the Historical Analysis of Transatlantic Slavery

ARTICLES

“The People’s Revolution of 1856: Radical Populism, National Politics, and the Emergence of the Republican Party,” *Journal of the Civil War Era*, vol. 9 (December 2019), 524-545

“The Mass Politics of Antislavery,” *Catalyst*, vol. 3 (Summer 2019), 131-78

“Arsenal of Empire: Southern Slaveholders and the U.S. Military in the 1850s,” *Common-place: The Interactive Journal of Early American Life*, vol. 12 (July 2012)

“Slavery and American Sea Power: The Navalist Impulse in the Antebellum South,” *Journal of Southern History*, vol. 77 (May 2011), 283-324

BOOK CHAPTERS

“The World the Slaveholders Craved: Proslavery Internationalism in the 1850s,” in *The World of the Revolutionary American Republic: Land, Labor, and the Conflict for a Continent*, ed. Andrew Shankman (Routledge, 2014), 414-432

“King Cotton, Emperor Slavery: Antebellum Slaveholders and the World Economy,” in *The Civil War as Global Conflict: Transnational Meanings of the American Civil War*, eds. David T. Gleeson and Simon Lewis (University of South Carolina Press, 2014), 36-55

“The Grand Strategy of the Master Class: Slavery and Foreign Policy from the Antebellum Era to the Civil War,” in *Rethinking Grand Strategy*, eds. Elizabeth K. Borgwardt, Christopher McKnight Nichols, and Andrew Preston (Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2020)

“Antislavery and Empire: The Early Republican Party Confronts the World,” in *Ideologies and U.S. Foreign Policy, A New History* eds. Danielle Holtz, David Milne, and Christopher McKnight Nichols (Columbia University Press, forthcoming 2021)

“‘This Nation Is A Globe’: Exceptionalism and Universalism in the Mid-Nineteenth-Century United States” (essay for forthcoming volume, *National Narratives of Global Integration*, eds. Jeremy Adelman, et al)

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Research grants, Princeton University Committee on Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship, New-York Historical Society, 2015–16 (10 months)

Visiting Scholarship, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2012–13 (9 months)

C. Vann Woodward Prize, awarded by the Southern Historical Association to the year’s best dissertation in southern history, 2012

M.B. Hamer Fellowship, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, 2010–11 (9 months)

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Fellowship, 2009–10 (12 months)

Virginia Historical Society Mellon Research Fellowship, 2009

Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2004–2009

REVIEW ESSAYS

“The Bludgeoning Generation,” *Reviews in American History* (forthcoming, 2020)

- on Joanne Freeman, *The Field of Blood: Violence in Congress and the Road to Civil War*

“The Long Shot: How Bernie Became Bernie,” *The Nation*, May 7, 2019

- on Bernie Sanders, *Where We Go From Here* and Jeff Weaver, *How Bernie Won*

“Lincoln: The Great Uncompromiser,” *The Nation*, November 13, 2017

- on Sidney Blumenthal, *The Political Life of Abraham Lincoln*, vols. 1 and 2

“The Eternal Struggle,” *The Nation*, April 3, 2017

- on John Stauffer and Henry Louis Gates Jr., eds., *The Portable Frederick Douglass* and Robert Levine, *The Lives of Frederick Douglass*

“From Slave to Soldier,” *The Wall Street Journal*, December 9, 2016

- on Douglas Egerton, *Thunder at the Gates: The Black Civil War Regiments that Redeemed America*

“The New World Order,” *Boston Review*, October 3, 2016

- on Ben Wilson, *Heyday: The 1850s and the Dawn of the Global Age*

“John Brown’s Body,” *Public Books*, May 1, 2014

- on James McBride, *The Good Lord Bird*

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Eugene Genovese, *The Sweetness of Life: Southern Planters at Home*, *Journal of the Early Republic*, vol. 39 (Winter 2019), pp. 800-802

Review of Alice Elizabeth Malavasic, *The F Street Mess: How Southern Senators Rewrote the Kansas-Nebraska Act*, *Journal of American History*, vol. 106 (June 2019), p. 180

Review of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Civil War in the United States*, ed. Andrew Zimmerman, *Journal of Southern History*, vol. 84 (May 2018), pp. 463-64

Review of Jürgen Osterhammel, *The Transformation of the World: A Global History of the Nineteenth Century*, in *Journal of American History*, vol. 101 (March 2015), pp. 1261-62

Review of David C. Keehn, *Knights of the Golden Circle: Secret Empire, Secession, Civil War*, in *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, vol. 118 (July 2014), pp. 86-87

Review of Guy Gugliotta, *Freedom’s Cap: The United States Capitol and the Coming of the Civil War*, in *Journal of Southern History*, vol. 79 (August 2013), pp. 711-13

Review of William K. Scarborough, *The Allstons of Chicora Wood: Wealth, Honor, and Gentility in the South Carolina Lowcountry*, in *Civil War History*, vol. 59 (June 2013), pp. 248-49

Review of Laura Jarnagin, *A Confluence of Transatlantic Networks: Elites, Capitalism, and Confederate Migration to Brazil*, in *Enterprise and Society*, vol. 13 (2012), pp. 228-29

Review of Hans Konrad Van Tilburg, *A Civil War Gunboat in Pacific Waters: Life On Board USS Saginaw*, in *Journal of Southern History*, vol. 77 (November 2011), pp. 1065-66

Review of Paul Finkelman and Peggy A. Russo, eds., *Terrible Swift Sword: The Legacy of John Brown*, in *H-CivWar*, April 2008

Review of W. Stephen Belko, *The Invincible Duff Green: Whig of the West*, in *Southern Historian*, vol. 29 (Spring 2008), pp. 82-84

OTHER HISTORICAL WRITING

“Frederick Douglass Railed Against Economic Inequality,” *Jacobin* (online), February 20, 2020

“Abel Upshur,” *Princeton and Slavery* project, December 2017

Author’s Response, H-Diplo Roundtable Review on *This Vast Southern Empire*, October 16, 2017

Author’s Response, “A Roundtable on Matthew Karp, *This Vast Southern Empire*,” *Passport: The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Review*, April 2017, pp. 15-17

“In the 1850s, the future of American slavery seemed bright,” *Aeon*, October 2016

Interview with Eric Foner, *Jacobin* (Issue 18), September 2015

“Henry Clay” and “Ostend Manifesto,” in Timothy J. Lynch, ed., *The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Military and Diplomatic History* (2013)

“A Confederacy of Kidnappers: Steve McQueen’s *12 Years a Slave*,” *Jacobin* (online), November 4, 2013

“The Transnational Significance of the American Civil War: A Global History,” Conference Report, *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute*, 52 (Spring 2013)

“A Very Old Book: The Case for Eric Hobsbawm’s *Age of Revolution*,” *The Junto*, February 7, 2013

“The Plantation as Crime Scene: Quentin Tarantino’s *Django Unchained*,” *The Junto*, January 9, 2013

SELECTED PUBLIC WRITING

Contributing editor, *Jacobin* magazine, 2015–present

“Bernie’s Five Year War,” *Jacobin* (Issue 38), August 4, 2020

“Is This the Future Liberals Want?” *Jacobin* (Issue 35), October 14, 2019

“51 Percent Losers,” *Jacobin* (online), November 14, 2018

“Fairfax County, USA,” *Jacobin* (online), November 28, 2016

“Against Fortress Liberalism,” *Jacobin* (online), April 18, 2016

“A Second Civil War,” *Jacobin* (online), May 1, 2014

“Dead White Reds,” *Jacobin* (online), April 18, 2013

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

Co-organizer (with Peter Wirzbicki), “The Antislavery Moment: Capitalism, Democracy, and Abolition in the Nineteenth-Century Atlantic,” conference at Princeton University (forthcoming)

Co-organizer (with Linda Colley), “The Global 1860s,” conference at Princeton University, October 15-17, 2015

Organizer, “The Long Aftermath of Slavery: From Emancipation to Reparations in the United States and the Caribbean,” colloquium at Princeton University, April 3-4, 2015

INVITED LECTURES & TALKS

“The Mass Politics of Antislavery”: conversation with Eric Foner, Verso Books, Brooklyn, December 3, 2019

“Free Labor and Democratic Revolution: The Early Republican Party Confronts the World”: Temple University, October 9, 2019

“The People against Precedent: The Early Republican Party and the Politics of Law and Order”: Davis Seminar, Princeton University, September 12, 2019

“The Politics of Slavery and Antislavery”: Gilder Lehrman Institute seminar on Slavery and Abolition, Pace University, July 25, 2019

“Millions of Abolitionists: The Republican Party and the Radical Democratic Struggle against Slavery”: University of Connecticut, March 29, 2019

“The People’s Revolution of 1856: Radical Populism and the Emergence of the Republican Party”: Pennsylvania State University, September 22, 2018

“The Politics of Slavery and Antislavery”: Gilder Lehrman Institute seminar on Slavery and Abolition, Columbia University, July 12, 2018

“This Vast Southern Empire: Slaveholders at the Helm of American Foreign Policy”: University of California, Berkeley, March 16, 2018

“Slave Power: How Southern Slaveholders Mastered American Foreign Policy”: University of Alabama, September 20, 2017

“History, Politics, and Writing for a Popular Audience”: University of Washington, May 25, 2017

“Prospects for a Resurrected Democracy”: County College of Morris, New Jersey, April 20, 2017

“This Vast Southern Empire: Slaveholders at the Helm of American Foreign Policy”: Tamiment Library, New York University, March 30, 2017

“Slave Power: How Southern Slaveholders Mastered U.S. Foreign Policy”: Cornell University, March 2, 2017

“This Vast Southern Empire”: conversation with Eric Foner, New School for Social Research, November 30, 2016

“The Foreign Policy of Slavery, 1833-1865”: New-York Historical Society, April 2016

“Slavery and Freedom in Antebellum New York”: White & Case LLP, New York, February 2016

“Visions of Modernity in the American Proslavery Argument”: Department of History seminar, Sheffield University, October 2015

“Visions of Modernity in the Proslavery Argument”: Workshop in American Studies, Princeton University, February 2015

“King Cotton, Emperor Slavery: Antebellum Slaveholders and the Global Economy”: Early American History Seminar, Columbia University, December 2014

“Arsenal of Empire: Jefferson Davis and the U.S. Army in the 1850s”: Phi Alpha Theta Society, Rowan University, March 2012

“ ‘The True Progress of Civilization’: Visions of Modernity in the International Proslavery Argument”: Annenberg Seminar in History, University of Pennsylvania, February 2011

CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

“An Antebellum One Percent: The Slave Power and Republican Party Populism in the 1850s”: Organization of American Historians (OAH) annual meeting, Washington DC, April 3, 2020 (on program; conference cancelled)

“Revisiting the ‘Slave Power’”: Southern Historical Association (SHA) annual meeting, Louisville, November 9, 2019

“Antislavery and Empire: The Early Republican Party Confronts the World”: Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) annual meeting, Washington DC, June 22, 2019

“Free Labor and Democracy: The Early Republican Party Confronts the World”: Ideologies and U.S. Foreign Policy conference, Oregon State University, May 31, 2019

“The People’s Revolution of 1856”: Early American Republic Seminar, City University of New York, March 2019

“This Nation is a Globe: Nineteenth-Century American Narratives of Global Integration”: Global History Collaborative workshop, L'École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris, June 2018

“The Slave Power and State Power”: Gilder Lehrman Center annual conference, Yale University, November 2017

“The Grand Strategy of the Master Class”: Rethinking Grand Strategy conference, Oregon State University, May 2016

“Architects of Empire: Jefferson Davis, the Proslavery South, and the U.S. Military in the 1850s”: ‘Jefferson Davis’s America’ symposium, Rice University, February 2016

“Regions, Nations, Empires: The American Civil War in Global Context”: The Global 1860s conference, Princeton University, October 2015

“William Henry Trescot and the Geopolitical Mind of the Proslavery South”: British American Nineteenth Century Historians annual meeting, University of Cambridge, October 2015

“American Slavery, Slaveholders, and Global History”: ‘Is Global History Truly Global?’ meeting, Humboldt University, Berlin, December 2014

“Slavery and Imperialism in the Nineteenth Century World: The View from the American South”: ‘The Congress of Vienna and Its Global Dimension’ (Association of Latin American and Caribbean Historians meeting), Vienna, September 2014

“The Rod of Empire: American Slavery and European Imperialism in Africa”: Re/Framing Slavery conference, Accra, Ghana, May 2014

“The World the Slaveholders Craved: Global Imperialism and American Slavery in the 1850s”: symposium in American History, Queen Mary, University of London, June 2013

“ ‘The World Will Fall Back On African Labor’: Rethinking the Antebellum Slave Trade Debates in a Hemispheric Context”: SHA annual meeting, Mobile, November 2012

“ ‘There Is a Higher Law than the “Higher Law”’: Coolie Labor in the Proslavery Imagination”: ‘The Transnational Significance of the American Civil War’ conference, German Historical Institute, Washington, DC, September 2012

“ ‘A Kindred Slave-Holding Republic’: Reconsidering the South’s Cuba Diplomacy in the 1850s”: SHAFR annual meeting, Hartford, June 2012

“ ‘There Is a Higher Law than the “Higher Law”’: Coolie Labor in the Proslavery Imagination”: OAH annual meeting, Milwaukee, April 2012

“ ‘The United States, Cuba & Brazil’: Hemispheric Slavery and American Foreign Policy in the 1840s”: McNeil Center for Early American Studies Seminar, Philadelphia, November 2011

“Sectional Rights, National Power: Jefferson Davis and the U.S. Army, 1849-1860”: Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual meeting, Philadelphia, July 2011

“King Cotton, Emperor Slavery? The Global Argument over Labor and the American Civil War”: ‘Civil War—Global Conflict’ conference, College of Charleston, March 2011

“Slave Trade Versus Slave Empire: Henry Wise’s Ministry to Brazil, 1844-1847”: SHAFR annual meeting, Madison, June 2010

“A Hemispheric Defense of Slavery: The South and American Foreign Policy, 1840-1845”: SHA annual meeting, Louisville, November 2009

As Chair or Commenter

Chair, “Race, Religion, and the Republic” panel, SHA annual meeting, Dallas, November 2017

Comment on Duncan Bell, “The Project for a New Anglo Century”: Contested Narratives of the Global workshop, Princeton University, June 2017

Comment on Ari Kelman, “The Dakota War”: Modern America Workshop, Princeton University, February 2016

Comment on Andrew Delbanco, “Some Reflections on Political Religion and Religious Politics in Antebellum America”: Shelby Cullom Davis Center seminar, Princeton University, May 2014

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Courses taught, Princeton University

HIS 376, The American Civil War and Reconstruction: Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020

HIS 404, The Rise of the Republican Party: Fall 2016, Spring 2019

HIS 280, Approaches to American History: Spring 2019 (with Rosina Lozano)

HIS 588, Readings in American History, 1815-1877 (graduate seminar): Spring 2017

HIS 400, A World in Crisis: Fall 2013, Fall 2014

Preceptor, *HIS 375, American Intellectual History* (course taught by Peter Wirzbicki): Fall 2020

Preceptor, *HIS 379, American Capitalism* (course taught by Jonathan Levy): Fall 2013

Guest lecturer, *HIS 280, Approaches to American History*: Spring 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018

Dissertation committees, Princeton University

Bryan LaPointe, committee member (dissertation in progress)

Caitlin Tully, committee member (dissertation in progress)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer referee: Oxford University Press, Cornell University Press, Brill Publishers; *Journal of Southern History*, *Journal of the Early Republic*, *Diplomatic History*, *Bulletin d'histoire politique*; American Philosophical Society, New-York Historical Society

Membership committee, Southern Historical Association, 2019–2020

Program committee, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations annual meeting, 2018

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Princeton University

University Priorities Committee, 2018–2019, 2019–2020, 2020–2021

University Committee on Discipline, 2014–2015

Application referee, Princeton University Society of Fellows

DEPARTMENT SERVICE

Department of History, Princeton

Graduate Committee, 2013–2014, 2016–2017, 2019–2020

Davis Center Executive Committee, 2020–2021

Extramural Study Officer, 2019–2020

Study Abroad Representative, 2016–2017

Executive Secretary, Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies, 2014–2015

Graduate Committee, 2013–2014

Finance Committee, 2013–2014

MEDIA

This Vast Southern Empire

Selected reviews: *New York Review of Books*; *Wall Street Journal*; *Foreign Affairs*; *Public Books*; *Reviews in American History*; *Forbes*; *People's World*; *Dushu* (Chinese language); *American History Research Association of China* (Chinese)

Selected author interviews: *Jacobin* (with Eric Foner), March 21, 2017; *Salon* (with Andrew O'Hehir), December 7, 2016; *Dissent* (with Timothy Shenk), October 27, 2016; *Black Perspectives* (with Ibram X. Kendi), September 12, 2016

Television/Webcast

Canadian Broadcast News Network with Michael Serapio; *Democracy Now* with Amy Goodman; *Rising* with Krystal Ball and Saagar Enjeti

Radio/Podcast

To the Point with Warren Olney, KCRW/PRI, Los Angeles; *Radio Times* with Marty Moss-Cowaine, WHYY, Philadelphia; *The Source*, Texas Public Radio; *The Majority Report* with Sam Seder; *Beneath the Surface* with Suzi Weissman, KPFK, Los Angeles; *The Katie Halper Show*, WBAI, New York City; *Keeping Democracy Alive* with Burt Cohen, Portsmouth Community radio; *Media Mornings*, Vancouver co-op radio; *In the Past Lane* with Edward T. O'Donnell; *New Books in African American Studies* with Adam McNeil; *Chapo Trap House*; *The Michael Brooks Show*; *The Politics of Everything*, produced by *The New Republic*

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association
Organization of American Historians
Southern Historical Association
Society of Civil War Historians
Society for Historians of the Early American Republic
British American Nineteenth Century Historians

LANGUAGES

Spanish (reading competence)