

MICHAEL A. BLAAKMAN

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2024– Associate Professor of History, Princeton University
- 2018–2024 Assistant Professor of History, Princeton University
David L. Rike University Preceptor, 2021–24
Associate Director, Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies, 2021–22
- 2016–2018 Assistant Professor of History, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn.
- Fall 2016 Postdoctoral Fellow, Program in Early American Economy and Society,
Library Company of Philadelphia

EDUCATION

- 2016 Ph.D. in History, Yale University
- 2009 A.B. in History, *summa cum laude*, College of William & Mary

SCHOLARSHIP

Books

- in progress* *The Simcoes and the Enemies of the American Revolution.*
- 2023 *Speculation Nation: Land Mania in the Revolutionary American Republic.* Early American Studies Series. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2023.

Winner of the Frederick Jackson Turner Award for best first book in American history, Organization of American Historians
- The Early Imperial Republic: From the American Revolution to the U.S.–Mexican War.* Co-edited with Emily Conroy-Krutz and Noelani Arista. Early American Studies Series. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2023.

Articles & Essays

- 2023 “Introduction,” co-authored with Emily Conroy-Krutz, in *The Early Imperial Republic*, ed. Blaakman, Conroy-Krutz, and Arista.
- “Beyond Borders: An Historical Overview.” Introductory essay for *Beyond Borders: Mapping Maine and the American Northeast Boundary, 1625-1893*, a digital archive and exhibit at the Maine Historical Society. <https://bit.ly/MeHSbeyondborders>

- 2021 “Haughty Republicans,’ Native Land, and the Promise of Preemption,” *William & Mary Quarterly* 78 (April 2021), 243-50.
- “The Heart of a Deal: Corruption and Conquest in David McCullough’s *The Pioneers*,” *Journal of the Early Republic* 41 (summer 2021), 185-95.
- “How Should History Make Us Feel?” *The Panorama* blog, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, June 21, 2021. <https://bit.ly/MBPano>
- 2020 “The Marketplace of American Federalism: Land Speculation across State Lines in the Early Republic,” *Journal of American History* 107 (December 2020), 583-608.
- 2019 “The Home Frontier: Households, Gender, and National Expansion in the Early Republic,” a review essay on *Home Rule: Households, Manhood, and National Expansion on the Eighteenth-Century Kentucky Frontier*, by Honor Sachs, and *The Threshold of Manifest Destiny: Gender and National Expansion in Florida*, by Laurel Clark Shire, *Journal of the Early Republic* 39 (spring 2019), 149–58.
- 2015 “Martha Bradstreet and the ‘Epithet of Woman’: A Story of Land, Libel, Litigation, and Legitimizing ‘Unwomanly’ Behavior in the Early Republic,” *Early American Studies* 13 (summer 2015), 544–85.
- Featured on *Now & Then*, a podcast on American history. Episode: “Women Change Makers: Three Legal Battles,” March 1, 2023. <https://bit.ly/3oFpylk>
- 2012 “Dismal Swamp Company,” in *The George Washington Encyclopedia*, George Washington’s Mount Vernon. www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia

FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

External

- 2024 Frederick Jackson Turner Award, Organization of American Historians
- 2022 Barra Foundation Resident Research Fellowship, American Philosophical Society Library Fellowship, George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon
- 2020–21 Fritz and Claudine Kundrun Open-Rank Fellowship, International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello
- 2017 Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) Manuscript Prize
- 2016–17 Bernard and Irene Schwartz Postdoctoral Fellowship, Eugene Lang College at the New School for Liberal Arts and the New-York Historical Society (declined)
- 2016 Postdoctoral fellowship, Program in Early American Economy and Society, Library Company of Philadelphia
- 2015 Amanda and Greg Gregory Fellowship, George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon
- Graduate Student Travel Award, SHEAR
- 2014 Research fellowship, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
- 2013–14 Advisory Council Dissertation Fellowship, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania

- 2013 Research fellowship, Program in Early American Economy and Society, Library Company of Philadelphia
 Research fellowship, New England Regional Fellowship Consortium
 Research fellowship, Filson Historical Society
 Edward C. Carter II Library Resident Research Fellowship, American Philosophical Society (declined)
- 2009–10 Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship, Slovak Republic
- 2008 Summer History Scholar, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

Princeton

- 2024–26 Special grant from the Humanities Council’s Ruth and Sid Lapidus ’59 Research Fellowships Fund, for the 2026 exhibition *Nursery of Rebellion: Princeton and the American Revolution*
- 2023 Research travel grant, UCRHSS
- 2022 Canadian Studies Research Grant, Humanities Council
- 2021–24 David L. Rike University Preceptorship in History
- 2021 Subvention grant, University Committee on Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences (UCRHSS)
- 2020 Research assistance grant, Anonymous Fund, UCRHSS
- 2019 Research travel grant, UCRHSS

St. Thomas

- 2018 Faculty Research Grant, Center for Faculty Development (declined)
- 2017 Dean’s Summer Research Grant, College of Arts and Sciences

Yale

- 2016 Edwin W. Small Prize (for outstanding dissertation in American history)
- 2013 History Department Pre-Dissertation Summer Research Fellowship

William & Mary

- 2009 *Phi Beta Kappa*
 Ellen Monk Krattiger Award (thesis prize in early American history)
- 2008 John F. Kroeger Award (junior prize in history)

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

Organized

- 2021 “New Histories of Black Citizenship: A State-of-the-Field Roundtable,” SHEAR (virtual), July 14-17.
- 2019 “Making a Republic Imperial,” a two-day conference sponsored by the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, the Library Company of Philadelphia’s Program

in Early American Economy and Society, the Institute for Thomas Paine Studies at Iona University, and the Princeton Department of History. Convener and organizer with Emily Conroy-Krutz. March 28-29.

Invited Presentations

- 2024 “Counterrevolution in Favor of Liberty: Abolishing Slavery in Loyalist Upper Canada.” International Center for Jefferson Studies, Monticello, “After 1776: Opportunities, Shocks and Dangers,” Charlottesville, Va., October 25-26.
- 2023 “Author Q&A: *Speculation Nation: Land Mania in the Revolutionary American Republic.*” Ohio Seminar in Early American History and Culture, Ohio State University, September 19.
- 2021 “What the West Could Fund: Statecraft, Anti-Speculation, and the American Revolution in Land Policy, c. 1776-1790.” Michigan Early Atlantic Seminar, University of Michigan, October 8.
- “Preemptive Property: Native Power, Unceded Land, and Speculation in the Early Republic.” Atlantic History Workshop, New York University, September 28.
- Roundtable participant, “Investing in Empire: The Pejepscot Proprietors and Their World.” Historian’s Forum, Maine Historical Society, August 7.
- “Paper Promises: State Finance and Land Speculation in the Era of the American Revolution.” Early American Studies Seminar, Corcoran Department of History, University of Virginia, March 15.
- 2020 “Preemptive Property: Native Power, Unceded Land, and Speculation in the Early Republic.” Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture, College of William & Mary, November 17.
- “What the West Could Fund: Statecraft, Anti-Speculation, and the American Revolution in Land Policy, c. 1776-1790.” Colonial Americas Workshop, Princeton University, October 27.
- 2019 “The Logic of Land Mania.” CUNY Graduate Center, Early American Republic Seminar, April 12.
- 2018 “From Tom Paine’s Farm to Empire State: Confiscation and Speculation in Revolutionary New York.” Third International Conference of Thomas Paine Studies, Iona University, October 11-13.
- “The Marketplace of American Federalism: Land Speculation across State Lines in the Early Republic.” Missouri Regional Seminar on Early American History, Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, University of Missouri, Sept. 28.
- “Pursuing Happiness: Economic Culture in the New Republic.” President’s plenary session: “Whither the Early Republic: A 40th-Anniversary Forum on the Future of the Field.” SHEAR, Cleveland, July 19-22.
- 2016 “Speculators and States: Land Mania in the Early Republic.” Symposium on the Nineteenth-Century American State, Yale Center for the Study of Representative Institutions, April 15-16.

2015 “Land Mania, Fledgling Governments, and the Problem of the Public Coffers in the Revolutionary American Republic.” McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Oct. 16.

2014 “‘What an Itch I had to purchase’: Speculators, Loyalist Lands, and Confiscation in Revolutionary New York.” CUNY Graduate Center, Early American Republic Seminar, May 16.

Conference Presentations

2023 “Peter Martin’s Odyssey: A Black Loyalist and the Many Authors of Upper Canadian Abolition.” Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, “For 2026: Contested Freedoms” (annual conference), Williamsburg, Va., October 27-28.

“Peter Martin, John Graves Simcoe, and the Many Authors of Upper Canada’s Gradual Abolition Law.” Chapter presented at SHEAR Second Book Writers’ Workshop, SHEAR, Philadelphia, July 13-16.

Roundtable participant, “The Early Imperial Republic.” Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, Arlington, Va., June 15-17.

2022 “Borderline Revolution.” Davis Center Symposium on “Revolutionary Change,” Princeton University, May 6-7.

2020 Roundtable participant, “Settler Colonialism and Popular History: Engaging with David McCullough’s *The Pioneers*.” SHEAR, Philadelphia, July 16-19. (*Postponed to 2021.*)

2019 “Plotting Empire and Nation in the Early Republic: Concluding Remarks.” With Emily Conroy-Krutz. Making a Republic Imperial, Library Company of Philadelphia and McNeil Center for Early American Studies, March 28-29.

2018 “Land Mania and State Formation in the Revolutionary American Republic.” Featured double session on “New Perspectives on the Politics of Land and Capitalism in the 19th Century.” Organization of American Historians, Sacramento, April 12-14.

2017 “Siren Capital: Early Republic Land Speculators and the Problem of Transatlantic Investment.” SHEAR, Philadelphia, July 20-23.

2016 “The Corrupt Republic?: Land Sales, Speculators, and Early American Political Culture.” Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, Worcester, Mass., June 23-26.

2015 “Land Speculators in the Marketplace of Early American Federalism.” American Society for Legal History, Washington, D.C., Oct. 29–Nov. 1.

“Exceptional Speculations: Land Speculators and Ideology in the Early Republic.” SHEAR, Raleigh, July 16–19.

“The Marketplace of American Federalism: Land Speculators, Governments, and the Post-Revolutionary Mania in Lands.” “So Sudden an Alteration”: The Causes, Course, and Consequences of the American Revolution, Massachusetts Historical Society, April 9–11.

2012 “Martha Bradstreet and ‘the Epithet of Woman’: Property, Honor, and Womanly Behavior in the Early Republic.” SHEAR, Baltimore, July 19-22.

- 2011 “Martha Bradstreet and the ‘Dastardly Conspiracy’: One Woman’s Struggle for Property and Honor in the Early Republic.” *The Power of Stories: Authority and Narrative in Early America*, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Sept. 29-Oct. 1.
- 2008 “‘Pritty Much Worm Eaten’: The Material World of an Ordinary Planter in Colonial Virginia.” *Virginia Forum*, University of Mary Washington, April 11-12.

Comments

- 2023 Respondent to a book talk by Sharon Ann Murphy, *Banking on Slavery: Financing Southern Expansion in the Antebellum United States*. Economic History Workshop, Princeton University, November 2.
- Comment on a paper by Keith Pluymers, “Pumps and Protosystems: Water Before the Waterworks in Eighteenth-Century Philadelphia.” Shelby Cullom Davis Center Seminar, Princeton University, October 6.
- Panel commentator and chair, “Revolutionary Movements: Mobility and Motion during the American Revolution.” SHEAR, Philadelphia, July 13-16.
- 2022 Panel commentator, “Recrafting Imperial Narratives from the Periphery: Colonial Subjects and the Shaping of the Eighteenth-Century British Atlantic World.” *Crafting Narrative of Empire: Contested Roots of Revolution in the Long Eighteenth Century*, Iona University, Sept. 22-24.
- 2021 Comment on a paper by Katlyn Carter, “Secrecy and Sovereignty in the Age of Revolutions.” Shelby Cullom Davis Center Seminar, Princeton University, Sept. 24.
- 2019 Discussant with Mary Ryan, “Taking the Land to Make the City.” Mellon Initiative in Architecture, Urbanism, and the Humanities, Princeton University, May 2.
- Comment on a paper by Linda Colley, “What Happens When a Written Constitution is Printed? A History Across Borders.” Shelby Cullom Davis Center Seminar, Princeton University, April 26.
- 2013 Comment on a paper by Max Edling, “War, Money, and the American State, 1783-1867.” *Political Economy and Empire in the Early Modern World*, Transatlantic Political Cultures Working Group and Transitions to Modernity Colloquium, Yale University, May 3-4.
- 2012 Comment on papers by Jon Butler, Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, and Michael P. Winship. *Religion and Empire in the Early Modern Atlantic*, Transatlantic Political Cultures Working Group, Yale University, November 30.

Public Presentations

- 2024 Book talks: *Speculation Nation: Land Mania in the Revolutionary American Republic*. George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon (January 18); Library Company of Philadelphia (September 26).
- “Hope in Times of Crisis: Lessons from 1783.” ROTC Tiger Battalion Annual Awards Banquet, Princeton University (April 11).
- 2023 Book talks: *Speculation Nation: Land Mania in the Revolutionary American Republic*. Yale Club of New York City (October 17), Massachusetts Historical Society (October 11), Maine Historical Society (October 4).

- “The Simcoes and the Enemies of the American Revolution.” Fellows’ talk, George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon, May 10.
- 2022 “Environment, Climate, and Diplomacy in the Age of Jefferson, *or, Why Ambassador Jefferson Wound Up with a Rotting Moose in His Paris Mansion.*” Annual conference, American Academy of Diplomacy, International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello, October 21.
- 2021 “Land Mania and the American Revolution.” Annual meeting, Delaware Chapter of the Society of Colonial Wars, October 5.
- 2020 Panelist, webinar on New Frontiers in Early American History, hosted by the International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello and the George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon, November 19.
- “A Revolution for Empire: Politics, Profits, and the Problem of the Revolutionary Frontier.” American Revolution Symposium, Friends of Boca Grande Community Center, Florida, April 24. (*Postponed to 2022.*)
- 2017 Guest on *BackStory*, a public radio program and podcast by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. Episode: “Call to Arms: Enlistment in America,” May 26.
- 2015 “Speculation Nation: Land and Mania in the Revolutionary American Republic.” Lunch and Fellowship talk at the George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon, August 19.
- 2013 “Speculation Nation: Land Speculators and Land Mania in Post-Revolutionary America.” Public fellows’ talk at the Massachusetts Historical Society, July 24.

TEACHING

Princeton

<i>lecture</i>	Revolutionary America
<i>undergrad seminars</i>	Frontiers and Borderlands in the Era of the American Revolution
	The Age of Democratic Revolutions (with David Bell)
	Revolution in the Archives
<i>graduate seminar</i>	Readings in Early American History
<i>graduate advising</i>	Keely Smith, Ph.D. candidate: “Communicating Sovereignty: A History of the Muscogee Language and Communication Networks, 1715–1880” (co-advised with Wendy Warren). Faculty Fellow and Assistant Professor of History, Tulane University.
	Blake Grindon (Ph.D., July 2023). “The Death of Jane McCrea: Sovereignty and Violence in the Northeastern Borderlands of the American Revolution” (co-advised with David Bell). Patrick Henry Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of History, Johns Hopkins University.

- graduate committees* BJ Lillis, Ph.D. candidate: “A Valley between Worlds: Slavery, Dispossession, and the Creation of a Settler-Colonial Society in the Hudson Valley, 1674-1766”
- Elena Telles Ryan, Ph.D. candidate: “Legal Lineage: Families and the Evolution of Belonging in the Southwestern Great Lakes, 1763-1848”

St. Thomas

- lecture* Early America in Global Perspective
The American Revolution
- undergrad seminar* North American Borderlands

Yale

- undergrad seminars* The American Revolution
Politics and Capitalism in the Early United States

PUBLIC HISTORY

- 2023– Co-curator (with Gabriel Swift) for *Nursery of Rebellion: Princeton and the American Revolution*, an exhibition commemorating the 250th anniversary of U.S. independence, which will run in fall 2026 at the Milberg Gallery, Firestone Library, Princeton University.
- 2016 Historical Research Assistant for an educators’ curriculum guide, “New World – New Netherland - New York,” Education Department, New-York Historical Society.
- 2015 Editorial consultant for an educators’ curriculum guide, “Dutch Breukelen: Where Brooklyn Began,” Education Department, Brooklyn Historical Society.
- 2012–16 Founding contributor to *The Junto: A Group Blog on Early American History*.
- 2009 Certificate in Early American Material Culture and Museum Studies. National Institute of American History and Democracy, College of William & Mary.
- 2006–07 Intern, Departments of Architectural Research and Architectural Collections, Research Division, Colonial Williamsburg.

SERVICE

To the Field

- Program Committee, state-of-the-field conference marking the centennial of J. Franklin Jameson’s *The American Revolution Considered as a Social Movement*, Kluge Center, Library of Congress (2024–)
- Advisory Council, Program in Early American Economy and Society, Library Company of Philadelphia (2024–)

Advisory Council, RevolutionNJ: the New Jersey Historical Commission's initiative commemorating the 250th anniversary of American independence (2021-)

Traveling Exhibition Advisory Committee, RevolutionNJ (2024-)

Mentor, SHEAR Junior Mentoring Program (2023-)

Program Committee, 2021 SHEAR Annual Meeting

First Book Award Committee, Library Company of Philadelphia

Manuscript workshop participant, University of Pennsylvania Press

Peer reviewer: *Early American Studies*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of the Early Republic*, *William & Mary Quarterly*, Oxford University Press

Fellowship jury, George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon

Princeton

University Committee on Committees (2023-)

History Minor and Extramural Study Officer, History Department (2023-)

Faculty Adviser, Yeh College (2023-)

Co-sponsor, Colonial and Revolutionary Americas Workshop (2021-)

Guest lecturer, Humanities Boot Camp, Warrior Scholar Project (2023)

Faculty-Student Committee on Discipline (2021-22)

Search Committee, open-rank position in Indigenous and Native North American History (2021-22)

Executive Committee, Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies (2021-22)

University Committee on Classrooms and Schedule (2019-22)

Search Committee, Associate Professor of European Intellectual History (2019-20)

Postdoctoral Fellowship Committee, Davis Center for Historical Studies (2019-20)

Reader, Martin A. Dale '53 Fellowship, Office of the Dean of the College (2019-20)

Finance Committee, History Department (2018-19)

Graduate Program Review Committee, History Department (2018-19)

St. Thomas

Fulbright Faculty Advisor (2017-18)

Young Scholars Undergraduate Research Program Advisor (2017-18)

Undergraduate Research Review Board (2017-18)

Search Committee, History of the Modern Middle East and Islamic World (2017-18)

Search Committee, East Asian History (2017-18)

Yale

Co-coordinator of Yale Early American Historians working group (YEAH) (2012-15)

History Department representative to the Graduate Student Assembly (2011-12)

Co-president of the Andrews Society (history graduate students' association) (2011-12)

William & Mary

Strategic Planning Subcommittee on the Liberal-Arts University (2009)

Honors and Interdisciplinary Studies Committee, Faculty of Arts and Sciences (2008-09)