

# TORE C. OLSSON

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## EMPLOYMENT

**The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN**  
Assistant Professor of History, 2013 – present

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in History, May 2013

**University of Georgia, Athens, GA**

**Dissertation:** “The American South, Mexico, and the Twentieth-Century Remaking of the Rural World,” directed by Shane Hamilton (chair), Pamela Voekel, Bethany Moreton, James Cobb

*\*Winner of the 2014 Oxford University Press USA Dissertation Prize in International History from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, the 2014 Gilbert C. Fite Dissertation Award from the Agricultural History Society, and the 2014 Dissertation Prize from the Latin American and Caribbean Studies section of the Southern Historical Association; finalist for the 2014 C. Vann Woodward Dissertation Prize from the Southern Historical Association*

**Exam Fields:** U.S. since 1865, Latin America since 1870, Food and Power in Global Context, U.S. to 1865

M.A. in History, August 2007

**University of Georgia, Athens, GA**

B.A. in History, May 2004

**University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA**

## RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

### **BOOKS:**

*Agrarian Crossings: Reformers and the Remaking of the US and Mexican Countryside* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2017)

### **ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS:**

“Transplanting El Tenesí: Mexican Technocrats in the US South,” in Gilbert Joseph, Andra Chastain, and Timothy Lorek, eds., *Itineraries of Expertise: Science, Technology, and Environment in Latin America’s Long Cold War* (Durham, NC: Duke University

Press, under consideration)

Roundtable participant, “New Histories of the Green Revolution,” *Agricultural History* 92, no. 2 (Summer 2017)

“Sharecroppers and *Campesinos*: The American South, Mexico, and the Transnational Politics of Land Reform in the Radical 1930s,” *Journal of Southern History* 81, no. 3 (August 2015), winner of the 2016 Stuart L. Bernath Scholarly Article Prize from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations; winner of the 2016 Wayne D. Rasmussen award for best article in agricultural history not published in *Agricultural History* from the Agricultural History Society

“Peeling Back the Layers: Vidalia Onions and the Making of a Global Agribusiness,” *Enterprise & Society* 13, no. 4 (December 2012), winner of the 2012 Mira Wilkins Prize for best article in international business history, Business History Conference

“Your DeKalb Farmers Market: Food and Ethnicity in Atlanta,” *Southern Cultures* 13, no. 4 (Winter 2007), republished in Sauceman and Edge, eds., *Cornbread Nation V: The Best of Southern Food Writing* (University of Georgia Press, 2010)

### **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

2016 National Endowment for the Humanities faculty fellowship, January – December

Winner of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations’ 2016 Stuart L. Bernath Scholarly Article Prize, for “Sharecroppers and *Campesinos*,” *Journal of Southern History* (2015), June

Winner of the Agricultural History Society’s 2016 Wayne D. Rasmussen Award for best article on agricultural history published in a journal other than *Agricultural History*, for “Sharecroppers and *Campesinos*,” *Journal of Southern History* (2015), June

Quest Scholar of the Week, University of Tennessee, February

2015 Residential Fellowship, 2015-2016, Tennessee Humanities Center

Bill and Rita Clements Fellowship for the Study of Southwestern America, 2015-2016, Clements Center for Southwestern Studies, Southern Methodist University (declined)

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Emory University, 2015-2016 (declined)

Finalist, Postdoctoral Fellowship, Agrarian Studies Program, Yale University

- 2014 Finalist, C. Vann Woodward Dissertation Prize, granted by the Southern Historical Association, October
- Dissertation Prize, Latin American and Caribbean Studies section of the Southern Historical Association (LACS-SHA), September
- Quest Scholar of the Week, University of Tennessee, September
- Oxford University Press USA Dissertation Prize in International History, granted by the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, June
- Gilbert C. Fite Dissertation Award, granted by the Agricultural History Society, June
- Professional Development Award, University of Tennessee, Spring
- Excellence in Research Award in the Humanities, University of Georgia Graduate School, February
- Robert C. Anderson Memorial Award for the outstanding research of a recent doctoral graduate, University of Georgia, January
- 2013 William Appleman Williams Junior Faculty Research Grant, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, October
- Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Food Studies, Institute for the Humanities, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2013-2014 (declined)
- Mira Wilkins Prize for best article in international and comparative business history, Business History Conference, for "Peeling Back the Layers: Vidalia Onions and the Making of a Global Agribusiness," *Enterprise and Society* 13, no. 1 (2012)
- 2012 Ambrose Monell Fellow in Technology and Democracy, Miller Center for Public Affairs National Fellowship, University of Virginia, 2012-2013
- Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, 2012-2013 (declined)
- Warner-Fite Award for Outstanding Graduate Scholarship in American/U.S. History, April, Department of History, University of Georgia
- 2011 International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (SSRC-IDRF), 2011-2012
- Research Fellowship for the Study of the Global South, New Orleans Gulf South

- Center at Tulane University, Spring
- Rockefeller Archive Center Grant-in-aid, Tarrytown, NY, May
- University of Georgia Latin American and Caribbean Studies Institute Graduate Field Research Award, Spring
- 2010 University of Georgia Graduate School Dean's Award for research travel, Winter
- 2009 William Jennings Bryan Award for best graduate paper of the year, for "Peeling Back the Layers of Globalization: Biology, Technology, and Labor in the Making of a Global Agribusiness, 1930-2000," University of Georgia Department of History, April
- 2008 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, University of Georgia, April
- 2006 Best Paper Prize at the UMass graduate history conference "History and Power Across American Borders," for "Beyond Grits and Greens: The DeKalb Farmers Market, Food, and Ethnic Identity in Atlanta, 1977-2006," Amherst, MA, November 4

### **INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS**

- 2016 "Rethinking the Green Revolution: The American South, Mexico, and the Origins of Rural Development," at Yale University's Agrarian Studies colloquium, March 4
- "How East Tennessee Transformed the World: TVA's Global Career after World War II," at the Tennessee Humanities Center's Conversations and Cocktails series, March 1
- 2014 "Remaking the Mexican Farm: The Rockefeller Foundation and the Lost Promise of the Green Revolution," at the workshop "A Diet of Globalization for Mexico," University of Illinois at Chicago, December 4-6
- "Next Generation Philanthropy Scholars" conference at the Rockefeller Archive Center, Tarrytown, NY, Oct. 16-18
- "Teaching American and World History Through Food," at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Workshop for Teachers of Social Studies, East Tennessee Historical Society, Knoxville, TN, February 22
- 2013 "Food, Farms, and Global Poverty: Rethinking the History of the Green Revolution," at the University of Illinois – Chicago's Food Studies Working Group, October 3

- “The Domestic Roots of the Green Revolution: How the American South Provided a Blueprint for Global Rural Development,” at the University of Georgia’s Institute for Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics annual retreat, May 16-17
- “Technology and Democracy in the Green Revolution: Rockefeller Agricultural Development from the American South to Mexico,” at the University of Virginia’s Miller Center of Public Affairs spring fellows’ conference, May 10-11
- 2012 “Doing Digital History: EndNote, Acrobat, and Photoshop,” in James C. Cobb’s Graduate Research Seminar, University of Georgia, October 10
- 2010 “Atlanta’s Buford Highway and the Culinary Culture of Migration,” at the Southern Foodways Alliance Annual Field Trip, Atlanta, Georgia, June

### **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

- 2018 “Low Modernism and the Green Revolution,” at the American Historical Association annual meeting, Washington, DC, January 4-7
- 2017 Panel commentator, “Farming the Fault Line: Agriculture Across Borderlands,” Agricultural History Society meeting, Grand Rapids, MI, June 8-10
- Organizer and paper commentator, Agricultural History Society annual graduate student workshop, Grand Rapids, MI, June 7
- 2016 “Transplanting ‘el Tenesí’: Mexican Planners in the American South during the Cold War Era,” at the Yale University conference “Traveling Technocrats: Experts and Expertise in Latin America’s Long Cold War,” New Haven, CT, Oct. 14-15
- “The Roots of the Green Revolution: The American South, Mexico, and the Transformation of the Global Countryside,” at the World History Association, Ghent, Belgium, July 2-5
- Panelist, roundtable on Gabriel Rosenberg’s 2015 *The 4-H Harvest: Sexuality and the State in Rural America* (University of Pennsylvania Press), Agricultural History Society annual meeting, New York, NY, June 23-25
- Panelist, roundtable titled “New Histories of the Green Revolution,” Agricultural History Society annual meeting, New York, NY, June 23-25
- “Transplanting ‘el Tenesí’: A History of Comparisons between the U.S. South and Mexico,” at the Canadian Latin American and Caribbean Studies annual meeting, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, June 1-3

- “Rethinking the Green Revolution, From the American South to Mexico,” at the Association for American Geographers’ annual meeting, San Francisco, California, March 29-April 2
- 2015 Panel commenter, “Elites and Agriculture,” at the Agricultural History Society’s annual meeting, Lexington, Kentucky, June 4-6
- “Integrating U.S. Regionalism into ‘Americanization’ Narratives in the Era of Development,” at the American Historical Association annual meeting, New York, NY, January 2-5
- 2014 Panel organizer, “The American South and Mexico: Recovering an Entangled Past,” at the Southern Historical Association’s annual meeting, November 13-16, Atlanta, GA. Paper presentation: “Sharecroppers and Campesinos: Transplanting the Mexican Revolution in the New Deal South”
- Chair and commenter for panel titled “Pleasure in the Land: Marking the Spatial Boundaries of the ‘Good Life’ in 20<sup>th</sup> Century America,” at the annual meeting of the American Studies Association, Los Angeles, CA, November 6-9
- “Sharecroppers and Campesinos: Transplanting Revolutionary Mexican Agrarianism in the Rural New Deal,” at the Agricultural History Society’s annual meeting, Provo, Utah, June 19-22
- “Imagining the American South in Mexico: The Rockefeller Foundation, U.S. Regionalism, and Mexico’s Green Revolution, 1943-1950,” at New York University’s international workshop “American (Inter)Dependencies: New Perspectives on Capitalism and Empire, 1898-1959,” April 3-5, New York, NY
- “The Farm Security Administration as Pan-American Leftist Solidarity,” at the conference “Illustrating Anarchy and Revolution: Mexican Legacies of Global Change,” at the Center for Mexican American Studies, University of Texas, Austin, TX, February 5-7
- 2013 *Panel co-organizer*, “Interwar Rural Reconstruction in Global Perspective,” at the Social Science History Association’s annual meeting, November 21-24, Chicago, IL. Papers presentation: “Sharecroppers and Campesinos: How Revolutionary Mexican Agrarianism Radicalized the Rural New Deal”
- Panel co-organizer*, “Looking North, Looking South: Rural Development and the Social Contract between Latin America and the U.S.,” at the Latin American Studies Association’s annual meeting, May 29 – June 1, Washington, DC. Paper presentation: “Sharecroppers and Campesinos: How Revolutionary Mexican Agrarianism Remade the Rural New Deal”
- “From Cotton Farmers to Campesinos: Rockefeller Rural Development in the

- American Mediterranean,” at the American Historical Association’s annual meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 3-6
- 2012 “Sharecroppers and Campesinos: The U.S-Mexican Dialogue on Land Reform and Rural Development in the Radical 1930s,” at the Empire and Solidarity in the Americas workshop, University of New Orleans, October 12-13
- Panel organizer*, “The Mexican Revolution, The United States, and the World: South-North Political and Intellectual Transfers, 1925-1945” at the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations annual meeting, Hartford, CT, June 28-30. Paper presentation, “American Ejidos: How Mexican Revolutionary Agrarianism Remade the Rural New Deal”
- 2011 “Green Revolutions: Agricultural Science and Agrarian Politics in the Transnational Sunbelt,” at the Tepoztlán Institute for Transnational History of the Americas, Tepoztlán, Mexico, July 27-August 3
- “Science and the Small Farm: Rockefeller Agronomy in the American South and Mexico and the Competing Visions of the Green Revolution,” at the Agricultural History Society’s annual meeting, Springfield, IL, June 15-28
- “Corn versus Cotton: Monoculture, Subsistence, and Market Integration in Two Green Revolutions,” at the German Historical Institute’s conference “Cash Crops in Global History,” Washington, DC, June 2-4
- 2010 “Peeling Back the Layers of Globalization: Vidalia Onions and the Nuevo New South,” at “Southern Nation,” Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, April 24-25
- “Peeling Back the Layers of Globalization: Vidalia Onions and the Nuevo New South,” at the Forum on Agricultural, Rural, and Environmental History, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, April 9-10
- 2009 “From Poultry Capital to ‘Alien Capital’: Labor, Management, and Demographic Change in the Northeast Georgia Poultry Industry, 1940-2000,” at the Southern Historical Association, Louisville, Kentucky, November 5-8
- 2007 “Beyond Grits and Greens: The DeKalb Farmers Market and Transnational Foodways in Atlanta, 1977-2006” at the Tepoztlán Institute for Transnational Studies of the Americas, Tepoztlán, Morelos, Mexico, August 1-8
- 2006 Beyond Grits and Greens: The DeKalb Farmers Market, Food, and Ethnic Identity in Atlanta, 1977-2006,” at the University of Massachusetts graduate history conference on "History and Power Across American Borders," Amherst, MA, November 4

## **BLOG POSTS AND POPULAR PRESS WRITING**

- 2016 “U.S. Regionalism and the Many Histories of the Green Revolution,” posted January 7 on HistPhil.org, series on the Green Revolution

## **BOOK REVIEWS AND ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES**

- 2017 Review of *Cultivating Success in the South: Farm Households in the Postbellum Era* by Louis A. Ferleger and John D. Mentz, *Journal of Southern History* (forthcoming)

“The Nature of Economic Development,” *Reviews in American History* 45, no. 1, review of *The Slain Wood: Papermaking and its Environmental Consequences in the American South* by William Boyd, *Transforming the South: Federal Development in the Tennessee Valley, 1915-1960* by Matthew L. Downs, and *Concrete Revolution: Large Dams, Cold War Geopolitics, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation* by Christopher Sneddon

- 2016 Review of *Corazón de Dixie: Mexicanos in the U.S. South since 1910* by Julie M. Weise, *North Carolina Historical Review* 93, no. 3

Review of *Buying into the Regime: Grapes and Consumption in Cold War Chile and the United States* by Heidi Tinsman, *The Latin Americanist* 60, no. 4

- 2015 Review of *Transforming the South: Federal Development in the Tennessee Valley, 1915-1960* by Matthew L. Downs, *Journal of Historical Geography* 50 (October)

- 2014 Review of *The Larder: Food Studies Methods from the American South*, edited by John T. Edge, Elizabeth Engelhardt, and Ted Ownby, *Agricultural History* 89, no. 2

- 2012 “Poultry Workers and Social Class in the South,” in *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, Volume 20: “Social Class” (University of North Carolina Press, 2012)

- 2011 “Soccer,” in *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, Volume 16: “Recreation” (University of North Carolina Press, 2011)

- 2010 Review of *The World According to Monsanto: Pollution, Corruption, and the Control of Our Food Supply* by Marie-Monique Robin, *Enterprise & Society* (November 2010)

Review of *Latino Immigrants and the Transformation of the American South*, edited by Mary Odem and Elaine Lacy, H-net: H-Southern Industry (February 2010)



2009 “Latinos in Georgia,” in the *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, ed. John C. Inscoe

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN**

Graduate courses:

HIST 551, “America and the World since 1865,” historiography course  
HIST 562, “American History since the Civil War,” historiography course  
HIST 593, “History of Mexico, 1870s-Present,” independent readings course

Undergraduate courses:

HIST 299, “Country Music USA: An Introduction to Historical Thinking”  
HIST 439, “Food and Power in U.S. History”  
HIST 222, “U.S. History since 1865”  
HIST 499, “Senior Capstone Research Seminar”

Ph.D. committees:

- Jordan Kuck, “The Dictator without a Uniform: Karlis Ulmanis, Agrarian Nationalism, Transnational Fascism, and Interwar Latvia” (2014)
- J. Tomlin, “The Scourge at our Door: Religious Fears and Democratic Sensibilities in Early America and the Atlantic World” (in progress)
- Joshua Hodge, “Alabama’s Public Wilderness: A Cultural History of Land Use in the Gulf South, 1819-1900” (in progress)
- Andrea Perales Fernández de Gamboa, “Desaprendiendo las múltiples significaciones de Emiliano Zapata: una lectura decolonial” (Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literature, in progress)

### **University of Georgia, Athens, GA**

Graduate Teaching Assistant, 2005-2010, for courses in

Early American History, to 1865 (three courses)  
Modern U.S. History, 1865 to present (five courses)  
Modern Latin American History, 1810 to present (one course)  
Mexican History, from pre-Columbian era to the present (one course)  
Food and Power in American History (one course)

## **SERVICE AND OUTREACH**

Organizer and commenter, Agricultural History Society annual graduate student

workshop, June 2017

Founder and coordinator, Tennessee Workshop in Food, Agriculture, and Society  
(<http://uthumanitiesctr.utk.edu/seminars/foodagsociety.php>)

Member, Search Committee for tenure-track hire in the History of Africa, 2016-2017

Participant, UTK Latin American and Caribbean Studies seminar, 2014-present

UTK Bridge to AP US History, Austin-East High School, Knoxville, Spring 2016

Member, Search Committee for lecturer in Latin American history, Spring 2016

UTK Fulbright interview committee, September 2015, September 2016

Nominating Committee, Agricultural History Society, 2015-2018 (chair in 2017-18)

Article referee, *Enterprise and Society*, Spring 2015

Proposal referee, Oxford University Press, Summer 2014

Manuscript referee, University of Tennessee Press, Fall 2013

Article referee, *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, Fall 2013

Member, Head's Advisory Committee, 2014-2015, University of Tennessee

Member, Undergraduate Committee, 2014-2015, University of Tennessee

Member, Search Committee for hire in the History of Slavery in Early America and the Atlantic World, 2013-2014

Director, Dissertation Writing Workshop, 2014-2015, University of Tennessee

Member, Ad Hoc Faculty Committee on History Department Website, 2013-2014,  
University of Tennessee

Undergraduate Advisor, Department of History, University of Georgia, 2010-2011

Secretary-Treasurer, Graduate Student Association, University of Georgia, 2010-2011

Graduate Student Speaker Series coordinator, Department of History, University of Georgia, 2009-2010

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Historical Association

Organization of American Historians

Southern Historical Association

Latin American and Caribbean Studies Section of the Southern Historical Association

Agricultural History Society

Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations

Latin American Studies Association

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE SKILLS**

Spanish (reading fluency, near fluency in speaking)

Swedish (fluency; native speaker)