

ERNEST FREEBERG, Ph.D.
Department of History
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
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EDUCATION:

1995 Ph.D. in History, **Emory University**
Fields: American Social/Cultural History, American Religion, History of Science
1980 BA in English, **Middlebury College**, cum laude

ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

2010-2023 **Distinguished Professor of Humanities**, University of Tennessee
2009-2024 **Beaman Professor**, University of Tennessee
2008-2009 **Lindsay Young Professor**, University of Tennessee
2003-2009 **Associate Professor**, University of Tennessee
1995-2003 **Assistant/ Associate Professor**, Colby-Sawyer College, NH

BOOKS:

A Traitor to his Species: Henry Bergh and the Birth of the Animal Rights Movement (Basic Books, 2020)

The Age of Edison: Electric Light and the Invention of Modern America (Penguin, 2013). ALA *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title, 2014.

Democracy's Prisoner: Eugene V. Debs, the Great War, and the Right to Dissent, (Harvard University Press, 2008). A Los Angeles Times Book Prize finalist.

The Education of Laura Bridgman, First Deaf and Blind Person to Learn Language, (Harvard University Press, 2001) Winner of the AHA Dunning Prize.

AWARDS:

2024 **College Marshall**, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Tennessee
2010 **Eli M. Obler Book Award**, American Library Association
2010 **Leroy Graf Award for Outstanding Professor of History**, UT
2009 **Los Angeles Times Book Prize Finalist**
2009 **David J. Langum, Sr. Book Prize in American Legal History**
2009 **Scribes Book Award, Honorable Mention**, Am. Soc. of Legal Writers
2008 **Award for New Creative Projects in the Arts and Humanities**, UT
2002 **John H. Dunning Prize**, American Historical Association
1992 **Sidney E. Mead Prize**, American Society of Church Historians

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS:

NEH Public Scholars Fellowship (2024-6)

Winterthur Library Research Fellowship (2016-7)

American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, (2011-12)

Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Research Grant (2010)

Dibner Research Fellowship in the History of Science and Technology,
Huntington Library, (2009)

Winterthur Museum and Library Research Fellowship, (2009-10 and 2011-12)

Emory University Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Research Fellow in Residence,
(2004-5)

Newberry Library, Research Grant, (2004)

Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Research Grant, (2002)

Lilly Library, Indiana University, Helms Grant, (2002)

Indiana Historical Society, Director's Grant, (2001)

Spencer Foundation, Research Grant, (1999), and Dissertation Fellowship, (1994)

American Antiquarian Society, Research Fellowship, (1996)

Library Company of Philadelphia, Mellon Research Fellowship, (1995)

Woodrow Wilson Foundation, Charlotte W. Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship
(declined), (1993)

Massachusetts Historical Society, Mellon Research Fellowship, (1992)

ARTICLES/ CHAPTERS:

"Free Speech," in *A History of American Literature and Culture of the First World War*
(Cambridge University Press, 2021).

"After the Red Scare: Civil Liberties in the Era of Harding and Coolidge," in *Little "Red
Scares": Anti-Communism and Political Repression in the United States, 1921-1946* ed.
Robert J. Goldstein (Ashgate, 2014).

"The Meanings of Blindness in 19th Century America," *Proceedings of the American
Antiquarian Society*, Vol. 110, Part 1 (Fall, 2002), pp. 119- 152.

"More Important than a Rabble of Common Kings': Dr. Howe's Education of Laura
Bridgman," *History of Education Quarterly*, Vol. 34, No. 3 (Autumn, 1994), pp. 305-
327.

"Why David Barrow Moved to Kentucky: Virginia Baptists in the Great Revival,"
Virginia Baptist Register, Vol. 32 (1993), 1617-1627.

"'An Object of Peculiar Interest': The Education of Laura Bridgman," *Church History*,
Vol. 61, No. 2 (Jun., 1992), pp. 191-205. Winner of the Sidney E. Mead Prize from the
American Society of Church Historians.

SELECTED REVIEWS, REFERENCE WORKS, PUBLIC HISTORY

Book Review, Michael Willrich, *American Anarchy: The Epic Struggle between Immigrant Radicals and the US Government at the Dawn of the Twentieth Century*, H-Diplo (online) May 21, 2024.

“How a Flu Virus Shut Down the American Economy in 1872—By Infecting Horses,” *The Conversation*, December 2020.

“Inviting Controversy: When UT Students Demanded Their Free Speech Rights, a Half-Century Ago,” Knoxville History Project, (August 2017) online.

Book Review, Christopher Jones, *Routes of Power: Energy and Modern America*, *Journal of American History*, March 2015.

Book Review, Anthony Capozzola, *Uncle Sam Wants You: World War I and the Making of the Modern American Citizen*, *American Historical Review*, February 2009.

““Why This Is a Good Time to Remember Eugene V. Debs,” *History News Network*, August 4, 2008.

“Lost in the Hollywood Jungle—Hollywood and the Radical Politics of Upton Sinclair,” *Los Angeles Times*, 19 February 2008.

Book Review, Kim E. Nielsen. *The Radical Lives of Helen Keller*, *American Historical Review*, Feb. 2006.

“William Ellery Channing,” *Encyclopedia of New England Culture*, Yale University Press, 2005.

“Civil Liberties in WWI” and “Journalism in the Spanish-American War,” *War and American Popular Culture: A Historical Encyclopedia*, Greenwood Press, 1999.

In Search of Common Ground: How Black and White Southerners Remember the Confederacy. A radio documentary produced for the Southern Regional Council. (1991)

PRESENTATIONS/INVITED LECTURES include Gotham Center for New York History; Smithsonian Lemelson Center, “Great Inventors and the Patent System”; University of Durham Institute of Advanced Study (UK); Computer History Museum (Mountain View, CA), Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering, and Technology (Kansas City, MO), Seattle Science Lectures at Town Hall; *Los Angeles Times* Book Festival; National Humanities Center *America in Class* Program; Northwestern University, N/LIGHT: Cultural and Art Histories of Light and the Night.

MEDIA APPEARANCES include BBC Channel 4, *New York Times* The Book Review Podcast; “Edison,” *PBS American Experience*; “The Revolutionist: Eugene Debs,” PBS-

WFYI, "American Socialist," NPR *Throughline*; *99% Invisible* Podcast; *Flash Forward* Podcast, PBS *Story in the Public Square*; C-Span Book TV; "The Contenders," C-Span.

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION/PUBLIC and PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

- **Department Head**, UT History Department (2013-2022)
- **Distinguished Lecturer**, Organization of American Historians (2008-)
- **Associate Head**, UT History Department (2008-11)
- **Board Member**, Knoxville History Project (2015-2022; chair, 2015-8))
- **Chief Reader**, Advanced Placement US History, College Board (2009-13)
- **Test Development Committee**, AP US History, College Board (2007-13)
- **Consultant/Lecturer**, Teaching American History project, serving rural East Tennessee history teachers. (2003- 2013)
- **Board Member**, New Hampshire Humanities Council (2002-3)
- **Editorial Board**, History of Education Quarterly (2000-2003)
- **Reporter/Producer**, Maine Public Radio (1983-1989)