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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 19<sup>th</sup> 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**

“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 World War One Centennial, University of Wisconsin-Madison; 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; N/LIGHT: Cultural and Art Histories of Light and the Night, Northwestern University.

**RECENT MEDIA APPEARANCES** include BBC Challen 4, *New York Times* The Book Review Podcast; “Edison,” *PBS American Experience*; “The Revolutionist: Eugene Debs,” *PBS-WFYI*, “American Socialist,” *NPR Thoroughline*; *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)