

Christopher P. Magra, Ph.D.

Professor of Early American History

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[Faculty Bio](#) [AHA Profile](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Academia.edu](#)

EDUCATION:

- ◆ Ph.D., The University of Pittsburgh, 2006, **Awarded Distinction**

EMPLOYMENT:

- ◆ 2018-Present: Professor of Early American History, Department of History, University of Tennessee, Graduate and Undergraduate teaching, full time
- ◆ 2012-2018: Associate Professor of Early American History, Department of History, University of Tennessee, Graduate and Undergraduate teaching, full time
- ◆ 2010-2012: Assistant Professor of Early American History, Department of History, University of Tennessee, Graduate and Undergraduate teaching, full time
- ◆ 2007-2010: Assistant Professor of Early American History, Director of the Atlantic History Center, Department of History, California State University at Northridge, Graduate and Undergraduate teaching, full time
- ◆ 2006-2007: Robert M. Duncan Assistant Professor of Early American Economic History, Department of History, California State University at Northridge, Graduate and Undergraduate teaching, full time

PUBLICATIONS:

Books

- ◆ *Atlantic Chains of Chocolate: Seapower, Slavery, and Capitalism in Early America* (In Progress)
- ◆ *Poseidon's Curse: British Naval Impressment and Atlantic Origins of the American Revolution* (Cambridge University Press, 2016).
- ◆ *The Fisherman's Cause: Atlantic Commerce and Maritime Dimensions of the American Revolution* (Cambridge University Press, 2009).
 - Winner of the 2010 Winslow House Book Prize

Articles

- ◆ "Anti-Impressment Riots and the Origins of the Age of Revolution," *The International Review of Social History*, 58:21 (Special Issue, 2013): 131-151.
- ◆ "The Fraternity of the Sea: Family, Friendship, and Fishermen In Colonial Massachusetts, 1750-1775," *International Journal of Maritime History*, Vol. 22, No. 2 (December 2010), 113-128.
- ◆ "Fishermen, Fish Merchants, and the Origins of the American Navy," *The International Journal of Naval History*, Vol. 8, No. 1 (August 2009): <http://www.ijnhonline.org/issues/volume-8-2009/aug-2009-vol-8-issue-2/>
- ◆ "Beyond the Banks: The Integrated Wooden Working World of Eighteenth-Century Massachusetts' Cod Fisheries," *The Northern Mariner/ Le Marin Du Nord*, Vol. 17, No. 1 (January, 2007; actual printing January, 2008), 1-15.
 - Winner of the 2008 Keith Matthews Award

- ◆ “The New England Cod Fishing Industry and Maritime Dimensions of the American Revolution,” *Enterprise and Society*, Vol. 8, No. 4 (November, 2007), 799-806.
- ◆ “Faith At Sea: Exploring Maritime Religiosity in the Eighteenth Century,” *International Journal of Maritime History*, Vol. 19, No. 1 (June 2007), 87-106.
- ◆ “‘Soldiers...Bred to the Sea’: Maritime Marblehead, Massachusetts and the Origins and Progress of the American Revolution,” *New England Quarterly*, Vol. 78, No. 4, (December 2004), 531-562.
 - Winner of the 2004 Labor And Working Class History Association Graduate Research Award

Book Chapters

- ◆ “Chocolate and the Atlantic Economy: Circuits of Trade and Knowledge,” in Victoria Barnett Woods, ed., *Cultural Economies of the Atlantic World: Objects and Capital in the Transatlantic Imagination* (Forthcoming with Routledge).
- ◆ “Thralls In Nelson’s Navy: British Impressment and American Mariners,” in Sean M. Heuvel, ed., *Yankees In Nelson’s Navy* (Forthcoming with the Naval Institute Press).
- ◆ “Anti-Impressment Riots and the Origins of the Age of Revolution,” in Clare Anderson, Emma Christopher, Niklas Frykman, Lex Heerma van Voss, and Marcus Rediker, eds., *Mutiny and Maritime Radicalism in the Age of Revolution: A Global Survey* (Cambridge University Press, 2014), 131-151.
- ◆ “Guerre de Course and the First American Naval Strategy” in Bruce Elleman and S.C.M. Paine, eds., *Commerce Raiding: Historical Case Studies, 1755-2009* (Naval War College Press, 2014), 27-40.

Published Academic Conference Proceedings

- ◆ "Colonial American Resistance to British Naval Impressment in the Revolutionary Era," in Craig C. Felker and Marcus O. Jones, eds., *New Interpretations in Naval History: Selected Papers from the Sixteenth Naval History Symposium Held at the United States Naval Academy* (Newport, R.I.: Naval War College Press, 2012), 1-11.

Entries In Reference Works

- ◆ “Marblehead: 1776-1790,” in Richardson Dilworth, ed., *Cities in American Political History: A Reference Guide* (Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2011): 60-65.
- ◆ “Work: Sailors and Seaman,” in *Scribner’s Encyclopedia of the New American Nation* (Detroit: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2006), Vol. 3, 389-391.

Book Reviews (42)

- ◆ *Agricultural History*
- ◆ *American Historical Review* (5)
- ◆ *Diplomatic History*
- ◆ H-Maritime@h-net.msu.edu
- ◆ *History: Review of New Books* (2)
- ◆ *International Journal of Maritime History* (9)
- ◆ *Itinerario*
- ◆ *Journal of American History* (2)
- ◆ *Journal of the Early Republic*
- ◆ *Journal of Legal History*
- ◆ *Journal of Social History*
- ◆ *Journal of World History*
- ◆ *Latin Americanist*
- ◆ *Mariner's Mirror*
- ◆ *Nautical Research Journal* (4)
- ◆ *New England Quarterly* (3)
- ◆ *Northern Mariner/Le Marin Du Nord* (6)
- ◆ *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*

HONORS AND AWARDS:

- ♦ The 2018 David and Kathryn White Teaching Award
- ♦ A 2015 Hagley Museum and Library Exploratory Research Grant
- ♦ The 2013 David Library of the American Revolution Research Fellowship
- ♦ The 2013 University of Tennessee Humanities Center Research Fellowship
- ♦ The 2012 University of Tennessee Summer Graduate Research Assistance
- ♦ Student nomination for the 2012 University of Tennessee Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching Award
- ♦ The 2011 University of Tennessee Summer Graduate Research Assistance
- ♦ The 2011 University of Tennessee Professional Development Award
- ♦ The 2011 University of Tennessee Chancellor's Grant for Faculty Research
- ♦ The 2010 Winslow House Book Prize
- ♦ The 2009 California State University at Northridge College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Competition Grant
- ♦ The 2008 Keith Matthews Award for best article published in the *Northern Mariner* in 2007
- ♦ The 2008 California State University at Northridge Probationary Faculty Support Program Grant
- ♦ The 2007 California State University at Northridge College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Summer Research Grant
- ♦ Finalist for the 2007 Herman E. Krooss Dissertation Prize
- ♦ The 2005-06 Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship
- ♦ The 2005 Peabody Essex Museum Research Fellowship
- ♦ The 2005 W.B.H. Dowse Fellowship at the Massachusetts Historical Society
- ♦ The 2005 Samuel P. Hays Research Grant
- ♦ The 2002 Pennsylvania State Society Daughters of the American Colonists History Award

PROFESSIONAL PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS:

- ♦ "Guns and Chocolate: Military Security and Food Production After the Seven Years' War," After Wars Faculty Research Seminar, Center for the Study of War and Society, University of Tennessee (2018)
- ♦ "Do Numbers Count? Statistics and History and the Relationship Between Capitalism and Slavery In Early America," Faculty Research Colloquium, University of Tennessee (2017)
- ♦ "Building Warships and Making Chocolate: Food Production and Military Expansion in Early America," Food, Agriculture and Society Seminar, University of Tennessee (2017)
- ♦ "Charleston Chocolate: Food and Empire in Early America," The North American Society for Oceanic History annual conference, Charleston, South Carolina (2017)
- ♦ "Imperial Chains: British Press Gangs, Economic Constraints and Atlantic Origins of the American Revolution," Annual Consortium on the Revolutionary Era, Charleston, South Carolina (2017)
- ♦ "Chocolate Production in Early America: From the Fields to the Mills," Sixth Annual Conference on Food Studies, University of California at Berkeley (2016)
- ♦ "Caleb Davis' Chocolate Mill: Reinterpreting Early American Manufacturing," Annual Business History Conference, Portland, Oregon (2016)
- ♦ "Press Gangs Were Bad for Business: British Naval Impressment, Atlantic Commerce, and the Economic Origins of the American Revolution," Massachusetts Historical Society Conference on the Causes, Course, and Consequences of the American Revolution (2015)
- ♦ "Seeing their trade distressed": Press Gangs, Profits, and Revolution, Gaspee Days Maritime History Conference, Providence, Rhode Island (2015)
- ♦ "Press Gangs and Profits: The Cost of Doing Business in the Atlantic World," American Origins Seminar, The University of Southern California and the Huntington Library (2014)
- ♦ "The Wages of War: Coerced Military Service and the Loss of Economic Freedom in the American Revolutionary War," 20th Annual Omohundro Institute of Early American History Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia (2014)

- ♦ “The Limits of Empire in Eighteenth-Century Massachusetts,” The American Historical Association Conference, Washington, D.C., (2014)
- ♦ “Economic Freedom and the Atlantic Origins of the American Revolution,” The Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Knoxville, TN (2014)
- ♦ “‘Extravagance, Intemperance, Negligence in Religion, and Disorderliness:’ Marblehead, the Early Years,” St. Michael’s Church Tercentenary Symposium, Marblehead, MA (2014)
- ♦ “Capitalism and Seapower,” After Wars Faculty Research Seminar, Center for the Study of War and Society, University of Tennessee (2012)
- ♦ “Resisting Press Gangs: The Radicalism of the American Revolution Reconsidered,” 2012 North American Labor History Conference, Detroit, MI (2012)
- ♦ “Maritime Radicalism and the American Revolution,” Mutiny and Radicalism Workshop, The Hague, Netherlands (2012)
- ♦ “Naval Impressment and the Transition to Capitalism in the Atlantic World,” North American Society for Oceanic History Annual Conference, Galveston, TX (2012)
- ♦ “Anti-Pressment Riots and the ‘Radicalism’ of the American Revolution,” International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam (2011)
- ♦ “The Maritime Dimensions of the Declaration of Independence,” North American Society for Oceanic History Annual Conference, Norfolk, VA (2011)
- ♦ “Cod and the Atlantic Origins of the American Revolution,” Colonial Society of Massachusetts, Boston (2011)
- ♦ “The Radicalism of the American Revolution Reconsidered,” Kentucky Early American History Seminar, Frankfort, KY (2011)
- ♦ “Naval Impressment and Maritime Origins of the American Revolution,” 9th Maritime Heritage Conference, Naval Historical Foundation, Baltimore, MD (2010)
- ♦ “Colonial American Resistance to British Naval Impressment in the Revolutionary Era,” Naval History Symposium, U.S. Naval Academy, (2009)
- ♦ “Oceanic Resource Extraction and Conflict in the Revolutionary Era,” 12th Annual North Atlantic Fisheries History Conference, Old Dominion University, (2009)
- ♦ “British Naval Impressment and Maritime Origins of the American Revolution,” North American Society for Oceanic History Conference, Cal State Maritime Academy, (2009)
- ♦ “Marblehead Fishermen and the American Revolution,” Guest Lecture, Marblehead Museum & Historical Society, (2009)
- ♦ “Overfishing and Conflict in Historical Perspective,” 18th Annual Greening Conference, Cal State University at Northridge, (2009)
- ♦ “Naval Strategy during the Revolutionary War,” North American Society for Oceanic History Annual Conference, University of West Florida, (2008)
- ♦ “The Commercial Fishing Industry and the Origins of the American Navy,” 8th Maritime Heritage Conference, the Maritime Museum of San Diego, CA (2007)
- ♦ “Fishermen, Fish Merchants, and the Origins of the American Navy,” Naval History Symposium, U.S. Naval Academy, (2007)
- ♦ “Eighteenth-Century Yankee Cod Fishermen In Northern Waters,” Canadian Nautical Research Society Annual Conference, Churchill, Manitoba (2007)
- ♦ “Cod and Slaves: The Commercial Connections Between Colonial New England and the British and French West Indies,” Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture Conference, College of William & Mary, (2007)
- ♦ “Business Competition and Atlantic Origins of the American Revolution,” Plenary Session, Business History Conference, Case Western Reserve University, (2007)
- ♦ “The Atlantic History Program At Cal State University, Northridge,” Atlantic Studies Symposium, Louisiana State University, (2007)
- ♦ “Colonial Fishermen, Merchant Mariners, and the Maritime Dimensions of the American Revolution,” North American Society for Oceanic History Annual Conference, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, (2007)

- ♦ “The Crucible of the American Revolutionary War: The Military Conversion of the New England Cod Fishing Industry,” The 74th Annual Society for Military History Conference, Frederick, MD, (2007)
- ♦ “Work and Weather on the Edge: The Impact of Deep-Sea Cod Fishing on the American Revolution,” American Society for Environmental History Conference, Baton Rouge, LA, (2007)
- ♦ “The Political Economy of Cod and Origins of the American Revolution,” Nicholson Center for British Studies Conference, University of Chicago, (2007)
- ♦ “Cod and Atlantic Origins of the American Revolution,” Consortium on the Revolutionary Era, 1750-1850, Atlanta, GA, (2006)
- ♦ “‘Soldiers...Bred To The Sea’: Marblehead, Massachusetts and the Maritime Origins of the American Revolution,” the 26th Annual North American Labor History Conference, Wayne State University, (2004)
- ♦ “Town Life and the American Revolution,” Keynote Address, Pennsylvania Assembly of the Daughters of the American Colonists Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, (2002)
- ♦ “The Evolution of A New England Town: Marblehead, Massachusetts and the American Revolution,” the 45th Annual Missouri Valley History Conference, The University of Nebraska, (2002)
- ♦ “Fish and War: The Impact of Maritime Culture on the American Revolution,” Interdisciplinary Forum on Military Studies, The Ohio State University, (2000)

TEACHING FIELDS:

- ♦ Early America
- ♦ Atlantic World

COURSES TAUGHT:

Undergraduate

- | | |
|--|---|
| ♦ American History Survey (I), U.S. To 1865 | ♦ Revolutionary America, 1763-1800 |
| ♦ American History Survey (II), U.S. 1865 To Present | ♦ Global Dimensions of the Am Rev |
| ♦ Problems in U.S. History to 1865 | ♦ The Atlantic World |
| ♦ Colonial America, 1600-1763 | ♦ The Atlantic Economy |
| | ♦ Piracy in the Atlantic World |
| | ♦ Western Civilization (II), 1648-Present |

Graduate

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| ♦ Readings Seminar: Capitalism and Slavery | ♦ Research Seminar: The Atlantic Dimensions of the American Revolution |
| ♦ Readings Seminar: Early America and the Atlantic World | ♦ Research Seminar: Making Atlantic Connections |
| ♦ Readings Seminar: Ocean-Centered History | |

MENTORING:

Doctoral Candidates

- ♦ J. Logan Tomlin, “Papal Plots and Muslim Mischief: Religious Fear and Democratic Sensibilities in Early America” (Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Tennessee, 2018).
- ♦ Elizabeth Eubanks, “Patriarchal Benevolence: Gender and Charity in Early America” (In Progress).
- ♦ Michael Lynch, “Frontiersmen: Manliness and Military Mobilization in the American Revolution” (In Progress).

History Undergraduate Honors Theses

- ♦ Hannah Nolan, “Alternative Facts: Partisan Press Coverage of the French Revolution in Philadelphia” (In Progress).

University Undergraduate Honors Theses

- ♦ Caroline Tuma, “The Two Faces of Alexander Hamilton” (Spring 2018)

SERVICE:

The University of Tennessee

Service to the University

- ♦ General Education Working Group: Global Citizenship, U.S. (Spring 2018)
- ♦ Faculty Senate (Fall 2014 – Spring 2017)
- ♦ Faculty Senate Athletics Committee (Fall 2014 – Spring 2017)
- ♦ Provost’s Mic/Nite Presentation (Fall 2014)
- ♦ Brazil Student Exchange Institute Guest Lecturer, English Language Institute, (2013)
- ♦ Classroom Technology Upgrade Committee (Fall 2012 – Spring 2013)

Service to the College of Arts & Sciences

- ♦ Reappointment Committee for Adrian Del Caro as Head of MFL (Fall 2016)
- ♦ Syllabus Database Taskforce (Fall 2013)
- ♦ Search Committee for Head of History (Fall 2012 – Spring 2013)

Service to the Department

- ♦ Symposium Organizer, “The American Revolution on the Tennessee Frontier,” (Spring 2018)
- ♦ Teaching Review Committee (Fall 2017 – Spring 2018)
- ♦ Undergraduate Committee (Fall 2018 – Spring 2019) (Fall 2017 – Spring 2018)
- ♦ Graduate Committee (Fall 2016 – Spring 2017) (Fall 2015 – Spring 2016) (Fall 2010 – Spring 2012)
- ♦ Guest Lecturers Committee (Fall 2018 – Spring 2019) (Fall 2016 – Spring 2017) (Fall 2014 – Spring 2015) (Fall 2010 – Spring 2013)
- ♦ Tenure and Promotion Committee (Fall 2016)
- ♦ “UT Bridge To AP U.S. History,” (Fall 2017) (Fall 2016) (Fall 2015) (Fall 2014 - Spring 2015)
- ♦ Department Head’s Advisory Committee (Fall 2014 – Spring 2015) (Fall 2012 – Spring 2013)
- ♦ Fourth Year Review Committee (Fall 2017) (Fall 2014 – Spring 2015)
- ♦ U.S. and the World Search Committee (Fall 2012 – Spring 2013)
- ♦ Director of the History Honors Program (Spring 2011 – Spring 2013)
- ♦ Civil War Search Committee (Fall 2011 – Spring 2012)

Service to the History Profession

- ♦ Editorial Board, *The Northern Mariner/Le marin du nord* (2016 - Present)
- ♦ Panel Chair, The Annual SHEAR Conference (2018)
- ♦ Panel Commentator, The Omohundro Institute’s Annual Conference (2018)
- ♦ Panel Commentator, Consortium on the Revolutionary Era (2017)
- ♦ External Reviewer, *The New England Quarterly* (2017)
- ♦ ACLS Reviewer, Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowships (2016-2017)
- ♦ External Reviewer, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, Promotion and Tenure (2016)
- ♦ Panel Chair, Annual Business History Conference (2016)
- ♦ External Reviewer, *Journal of the Early Republic* (2015)
- ♦ Panel Chair, Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (2014)
- ♦ External Reviewer, *International Bibliography of Military History* (2013)
- ♦ External Reviewer, *Atlantic Studies: Global Currents* (2010)

Service to the Community

- ♦ Public Lecture, Volunteer Rotary Club, Knoxville, TN (2017) (2014) (2013)
- ♦ UT Workshop for Knoxville History Teachers at the East TN Historical Society (2016)
- ♦ Recorded Interview on Deborah Sampson for National History Day with Christopher Standridge and some of his eighth-graders at Northwest Middle School, Knoxville, TN (2014)
- ♦ Public Lecture, St. Michael’s Church Symposium, Marblehead, MA (2014)
- ♦ Public Lecture, Jefferson County Historical Society, Dandridge, TN (2012)
- ♦ Guest Judge, History Day, Knoxville, TN (2011) (2012)

- ◆ Public Lecture, Seniors for Creative Learning, Knoxville, TN (2011)
- ◆ Public Lecture, The Mayflower Society, Knoxville, TN (2011)
- ◆ Public Lecture, The Knoxville Civitan Club, Knoxville, TN (2011)

The California State University at Northridge

Service to the University

- ◆ Elected Representative, Faculty Senate, Library Committee (Fall 2008 – Spring 2010)

Service to the Department

- ◆ Chair, Atlantic History Center Steering Committee (Spring 2007 – Spring 2010)
- ◆ Curriculum Committee (Fall 2008 – Fall 2009)
- ◆ Graduate Studies Committee (Fall 2008 – Fall 2009)
- ◆ Duncan Committee (Fall 2006 – Spring 2007)

Service to the History Profession

- ◆ Panel Chair, The North American Society of Oceanic History (2008)
- ◆ External Reviewer, The University Press of Florida (2007)

Service to the Community

- ◆ Public Lecture, The Marblehead Historical Society, Marblehead, MA (2009)
- ◆ Faculty Representative, Summer Academic Enrichment Program for local middle school and high school kids, Northridge, CA (2009)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

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| ◆ American Historical Association | ◆ Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture |
| ◆ Colonial Society of Massachusetts | ◆ Organization of American Historians |
| ◆ Society of Early Americanists | |

PROGRAM BUILDING EXPERIENCE:

2007-2010, The Atlantic History Center, California State University at Northridge

Planning

- ◆ Composed a new charter for the center and succeeded in getting it passed at various university levels.
- ◆ Designed a five year plan for the center.
- ◆ Established an M.A. field for the Atlantic World.

Resource Management

- ◆ Developed, proposed, and implemented new curriculum to service undergraduate and graduate students.
- ◆ Coordinated, and launched the Atlantic History Speaker Series. This was an annual event that increased the department's public profile by inviting internationally recognized historians to give workshops and lectures devoted to Atlantic History. Invitees included Kenneth Morgan, Marcus Rediker, Peter Mancall, and Anthony Pagden.
- ◆ Designed a six page website for the Center in order to promote the speaker series, essay prizes, and the curriculum.
- ◆ Established a faculty advisory committee for the center and recruited colleagues to fill three positions.

Budgeting

- ◆ Created an itemized five year budget for the center.
- ◆ Directed all finances for the center in a fiscally prudent manner.

2006-2007, *The Robert M. Duncan American Economic History Program, California State University at Northridge*

Planning

- ♦ Designed a five year plan for the program.

Resource Management

- ♦ Developed, proposed, and implemented new curriculum to service undergraduate and graduate students.
- ♦ Coordinated, and launched the inaugural lecture in the Duncan Speaker Series.
- ♦ Designed and implemented a nine page website devoted to the program.

Budgeting

- ♦ Acted in a fiscally prudent manner and adhered to the budgetary guidelines the faculty advisory committee established.

REFERENCES:

- ♦ Dr. Marcus Rediker
Distinguished Professor of Atlantic History
3510 Posvar Hall, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, 15260
Email: red1@pitt.edu
Phone: 412-648-7477
- ♦ Dr. Benjamin Carp
Associate Professor and Daniel M. Lyons Chair of Early American History
Address: History Department, Brooklyn College, 1117 Boylan Hall, Brooklyn, NY 11210
Email: bcarp@brooklyn.cuny.edu
Phone: 718-951-5000 x6799
- ♦ Dr. John B. Hattendorf
Ernest J. King Professor of Maritime History,
Chairman, Maritime History Department, and
Director, Naval War College Museum
Address: Naval War College (Code 37), 686 Cushing Road, Newport RI 02841-1207
Email: john.hattendorf@nwc.navy.mil
Phone: 401-841-6020