

Seth Archer
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor of History and Director of Graduate Studies 2018–
Department of History, Cultures, and Ideas, Utah State University
Mellon Research Fellow in American History 2015–17
Faculty of History, University of Cambridge

EDUCATION

University of California, Riverside PhD, History, 2015
College of William and Mary MA, History, 2009
University of Arizona MFA, Creative Writing, 1999
College of William and Mary BA, Religion/English, 1996

PUBLICATIONS

Book:

- *Sharks upon the Land: Colonialism, Indigenous Health, and Culture in Hawai‘i, 1778–1855*. Studies in North American Indian History. Cambridge University Press, 2018.
 - 2019 President’s Book Award, Social Science History Association
 - Finalist, 2024 William H. Welch Medal, American Association for the History of Medicine

Articles:

- “Vaccination, Dispossession, and the Indigenous Interior,” *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 97, no. 2 (2023): 255–93
- “Hawaiian Health and the Filibuster of Walter Murray Gibson,” *American Nineteenth Century History* 20, no. 2 (2019): 95–113
- “Colonialism and Other Afflictions: Rethinking Native American Health History,” *History Compass* 14, no. 10 (2016): 511–21
- “Remedial Agents: Missionary Physicians and the Depopulation of Hawai‘i,” *Pacific Historical Review* 78, no. 4 (2010): 513–44

Critical and Review Essays:

- “Lower than the Angels: Racial Jurisprudence and Paternalism in Zion,” *Mormon Studies Review*, vol. 13 (2026), reviewing W. Paul Reeve, Christopher B. Rich Jr., and LaJean Purcell Carruth, *This Abominable Slavery: Race, Religion, and the Battle Over Human Bondage in Antebellum Utah* (Oxford University Press, 2024)

- “Precedents for a Pandemic: Reflections on Disease and Indigenous Communities,” *Perspectives on History: The Newsmagazine of the American Historical Association*, May 2020. Republished in *Fifteen Eighty Four*, the blog of Cambridge University Press, June 2020.
- “‘I Had a Terror’: Emily Dickinson’s Demon,” *Southwest Review* 94, no. 2 (2009): 255–73. Reprinted in *Emily Dickinson*, edited by Harold Bloom. Bloom’s Modern Critical Views. New York: Chelsea House/Infobase Learning, 2017.
 - McGinnis-Ritchie Award for Nonfiction, *Southwest Review*
- “Reading the Riot Acts,” *Southwest Review* 91, no. 4 (2006): 500–16

Book reviews:

- *Journal of American History* 108, no. 1 (2021): Jaime Marroquín Arredondo and Ralph Bauer, eds., *Translating Nature: Cross-Cultural Histories of Early Modern Science* (Pennsylvania, 2019)
- *American Historical Review* 124, no. 2 (2019): Kealani Cook, *Return to Kahiki: Native Hawaiians in Oceania* (Cambridge, 2018)
- *Western Historical Quarterly* 49, no. 3 (2018): Joy Schultz, *Hawaiian by Birth: Missionary Children, Bicultural Identity, and U.S. Colonialism in the Pacific* (Nebraska, 2017)
- *William and Mary Quarterly* 74, no. 3 (2017): James F. Brooks, *Mesa of Sorrows: A History of the Awat’ovi Massacre* (Norton, 2016)
- *Pacific Historical Review* 86, no. 1 (2017): Nancy Shoemaker, *Native American Whalers and the World: Indigenous Encounters and the Contingency of Race* (North Carolina, 2015)
- *Journal of American Studies* 50, no. 1 (2016): Dane A. Morrison, *True Yankees: The South Seas and the Discovery of American Identity* (Johns Hopkins, 2014)
- *Western Historical Quarterly* 46, no. 4 (2015): James L. Haley, *Captive Paradise: A History of Hawai’i* (St. Martin’s, 2014)
- *Pacific Historical Review* 84, no. 4 (2015): Laurie B. Green, John Mckiernan-González, and Martin Summers, eds., *Precaious Prescriptions: Contested Histories of Race and Health in North America* (Minnesota, 2014)
- *Native American and Indigenous Studies* 2, no. 1 (2015): Jennifer Thigpen, *Island Queens and Mission Wives: How Gender and Empire Remade Hawai’i’s Pacific World* (North Carolina, 2014)

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Predatory Landscapes: Captivity and Cosmology in the Early American West,” book project
 “The Other Slavery and the Spirit of Pestilence,” article manuscript under review at *Ethnohistory*
 “Epidemics and Empire,” chapter in *The Cambridge History of Medicine*, vol. 5, edited by Rana Hogarth and Projit Bihari Mukharji, general editor Lauren Kassell (forthcoming 2028)

INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

Aspinall Lecture, Colorado Mesa University	2024
Rocky Mountain Seminar in Early American History, University of Utah	2024
HIST123: Historiography of Native America, Dr. Preston McBride, Pomona College	2023
Pacific Populations: Fertility, Mortality and Movement in Colonial Oceania (speaker series), Univ. of New South Wales-Sydney Laureate Center for History and Population	2022
Contagious Connections: Epidemic Disease in the Vast Early Americas (speaker series) Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture	2021
What's New in Vast Early American Environmental History? (workshop participant) OI Coffeehouse, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture	2021
Utah State University (USU) Honors Program 45 th Annual Last Lecture	2020
Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West	2020
Infectious Historians podcast	2020
University of Chicago Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture	2018
University of Oxford Rothermere American Institute	2018
Utah Valley University, Orem, UT	2018
New Books Network podcast	2018
Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK	2017
Cambridge American History Seminar, University of Cambridge	2016
McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania	2015
Whittier College, Whittier, CA	2014
Cotsen Foundation Summer Institute for Teachers, Huntington Library, San Marino, CA	2014
American Historical Association/National Endowment for the Humanities (AHA-NEH) Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges Institute, Huntington Library	2013

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Research Residency, M12 Studio, Big Springs, NE	2025
Charles Redd Fellowship Award in Western American History, Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, Brigham Young University	2024
Center for Intersectional Gender Studies and Research travel grant, USU	2024
Mountain West Center for Regional Studies faculty small grant, USU	2023
Creative Activity and Research Enhancement grant, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, USU	2023
American Philosophical Society Phillips Fund for Native American Research grant	2020
Mountain West Center for Regional Studies faculty small grant, USU	2020

Creative Activity and Research Enhancement grant, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, USU	2019
Faculty travel grant, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, USU	2019
NEH summer institute fellowship, “The Native American West: A Case Study of the Columbia Plateau,” Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA	2018
Huntington Library Molina Fellowship in the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences	2014
University of California Humanities Research Institute Andrew Vincent White and Florence Wales White dissertation fellowship	2013–14
University of California Pacific Rim Research Program graduate research fellowship	2013

AWARDS AND HONORS

Aspinall Lecturer, Colorado Mesa University	2024
University Honors Program Outstanding Professor, USU	2020
Social Science History Association President’s Book Award	2019
Shortlisted, Cambridge University Students’ Union teaching awards, graduate student supervision category	2017

CONFERENCES, WORKING GROUPS, AND PANELS ORGANIZED

Program Committee, American Association for the History of Medicine annual conference, Ann Arbor, MI	2023
Co-convener, “Social History of Race, Health, and Environment” working group Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine	2021–22
Co-organizer, “Race, Ethnicity, and Health: Historical and Contemporary Disparities” O. C. Tanner Foundation symposium, USU	2019
Program Committee, Pacific History Association annual conference, Cambridge/London	2018
Co-organizer, Front Range Early American Consortium annual conference, USU	2018
Panel organizer, “Indigenous Revolutions, 1700–1850,” AHA annual conference New York	2015
Panel organizer, “Survival, Sustenance, and Recognition in the Indigenous Pacific” Pacific Coast Branch-AHA annual conference, Portland	2014

SELECTED PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

“Predation’s Shadow: Captivity and Colonialism in Numic Lands,” Western History Association annual conference, Albuquerque	2025
“Captivity, Cosmology, and Gender in the Indigenous Intermountain West,” Western History Association annual conference, Los Angeles	2023

“Smallpox Prevention and Settler Expansion in Native North America,” American Society for Environmental History annual conference, Eugene, OR	2022
“Sovereign Immunity: Smallpox and Public Health in Native North America,” Second Book Writers’ Workshop, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) annual conference	2021
“The United States Discovers Public Health,” American Association for the History of Medicine annual conference (plenary session: History, Historians, and the Pandemic)	2021
“Vaccination, Removal, and the Indigenous Interior,” Yale Early American Historians working group	2021
“Emily Dickinson,” for <i>Nkrumah & Emily</i> blog, Dr. Keenan Norris, San José State Univ.	2020
“Native Health and Indian Removal,” Front Range Early American Consortium annual conference	2020
“Smallpox and the Medicine Line,” Western History Association annual conference Las Vegas	2019
“Native Health and Indian Removal,” American Association for the History of Medicine annual conference, Columbus, OH	2019
“Native Antiquities and Western History,” Western History Association annual conference, San Antonio	2018
“‘The Child Bearers Are the Mainstay of the King’: Walter Murray Gibson’s Hawaiian Zion,” British American Nineteenth-Century Historians (BrANCH) annual conference University of Warwick, UK	2017
“Sex Laws and Public Health in Hawai‘i, 1824–1829,” Pacific Coast Branch-AHA annual conference, Sacramento	2015
“Sex Laws and Survival in 1820s Hawai‘i,” Native American and Indigenous Studies Assoc. annual conference, National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, DC	2015
“Virgin Soil, Hawaiian Culture,” AHA annual conference, New York	2015
“Cultural Revolution: Hawai‘i, 1806–1823,” Ninth Annual Western History Dissertation Workshop, University of Washington Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest	2014
“Disease and Religious Law in Hawai‘i, 1819–1824,” Pacific Coast Branch-AHA annual conference, Portland	2014
“Disease, Health, and Mormonism in Hawai‘i, 1850–1865,” Native American and Indigenous Studies Association annual conference, University of Saskatchewan	2013
“Pox Hawaiiana, 1778–1787,” Workshop on Settler Colonialism in U.S. History and Culture, University of California, Irvine	2013
“Sharks upon the Land: Epidemics and Culture in Hawai‘i,” Symposium on Epidemics and History, University of California, Riverside	2013
“Epidemics and Reproduction in Colonial Hawai‘i,” Pacific Coast Branch-AHA annual conference, University of San Diego	2012

“A Hawaiian Shatter Zone,” Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture annual conference, Huntington Library	2012
“Fit for Revolt: Lower Colorado River Peoples and Epidemic Disease, 1774–1782” Western History Association annual conference, Incline Village, NV	2010
“Remedial Agents: Missionary Physicians and the Depopulation of Hawai‘i,” American Society for Ethnohistory annual conference, New Orleans	2009

LANGUAGES READ

Spanish, Hawaiian

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Kenneth and Sally Owens Award Committee, Western History Association	2025–27
Chair, “Nationalist Medicine in China,” American Association for the History of Medicine annual conference, Ann Arbor	2023
Referee, <i>Journal of the Early Republic</i>	2022
Referee, <i>American Historical Review</i>	2021
Referee, <i>Centaurus: Journal of the European Society for the History of Science</i>	2021
Referee, <i>Western Historical Quarterly</i>	2021
External examiner, PhD dissertation, University of Birmingham History Faculty	2021
Social Science History Association President’s Book Award Committee	2020
Referee, <i>Journal of American Studies</i>	2020
Book endorsement, <i>California and Hawai‘i Bound: U.S. Settler Colonialism and the Pacific West, 1848–1959</i> (Univ. of Nebraska Press), by Henry Knight Lozano	2020
Referee, <i>Journal of Pacific History</i>	2018
Consultant, Global Catastrophic Biological Risks project, Johns Hopkins University Center for Health Security	2017
Referee, <i>Victorian Studies</i>	2017
Commentator, “A Place in the World,” by Pekka Hämäläinen, Cambridge American History Seminar	2016
Commentator, “‘Bowers of Paradise’: Free Women of Colour and Domestic Enterprise in Colonial Jamaica,” by Erin M. Trahey, American History Graduate Student Conference, Cambridge	2016
Commentator, “The Power of Mutual Understanding: Teaching ‘New Modes of Life’ in Post-Statehood Hawai‘i,” by Sarah Miller-Davenport, Cambridge American History Seminar	2016
Commentator, “Hidden Ethnohistories of California, Nevada, and Arizona,” American Society for Ethnohistory annual conference, Las Vegas	2015
Referee, <i>Pacific Historical Review</i>	2014

RECENT TEACHING

Utah State University:

- HIST 2700: United States to 1877
- HIST 3740: Young Empire: United States, 1790s to 1840s
- HIST 3910: Health, Disease, and Medicine in North America
- HIST 3950: Environmental History
- HIST 4600: History of the American West
- HIST 4990: Undergraduate Research Capstone
- HIST 6030: Graduate Research Seminar
- HIST 6610: Seminar on the American West (graduate)
- HIST 6620: Seminar in Native American History (graduate)
- HIST 6900: Directed Readings (graduate)
- HONR 3020: Health, Society, and Culture: Past and Present – Honors “Think Tank” course co-taught with Dr. Guadalupe Marquez-Velarde, Department of Sociology

Colorado Mesa University:

- SOCI 396: The Indigenous Intermountain West to 1900 (Aspinall course)

University of Cambridge:

- Convener, American History Graduate Workshop
- Instructor, New Worlds in Early America (MPhil seminar)
- Supervisor (small-group undergraduate instruction), North American History, ca. 1500–1865
- Guest Instructor, World Environmental History

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant History Department, UC-Riverside	2012–15
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• American History to 1861• World History, 1500–1900• Twentieth-Century World History• Twentieth-Century World History (writing-intensive)	
Instructor, Citrus College, Glendora, CA	2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• History of the United States before 1877	
Research Assistant Early California Population Project and Cultural Atlas, Huntington Library Steven W. Hackel, principal investigator	2011–12

- Teaching Assistant, College of William and Mary History Department 2008
- European History to 1715
- Editorial Assistant, Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture 2007–08
- *William and Mary Quarterly*
 - Omohundro Institute/UNC Press book series
- Adjunct Lecturer, Boston University Writing Program 2004–06
- Undergraduate writing and research seminars
- Adjunct Lecturer, Northeastern University English Department 2003–06
- Undergraduate writing seminars
- Adjunct Instructor
- Cambridge Center for Adult Education, Cambridge, MA 2002–04
- Brookline Adult and Community Education, Brookline, MA 2000–02
- Creative writing workshops
- Associate Producer 2000–04
- Chedd-Angier Production Company, Watertown, MA
- Research, writing, and project management on multimedia exhibits for museums. Projects included Ellis Island Immigration History Museum, Washington State Historical Museum, Illinois State Museum, Virginia Air and Space Center, River Music Experience (Iowa), Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum (Texas).