

Matthew Warner Osborn, Ph.D.
Department of History
University of Missouri, Kansas City
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Education

Ph.D., University of California at Davis, June 2007

Major Field: Nineteenth-Century United States History

Minor Field: European History

Dissertation Committee: Karen Halttunen (chair), Alan Taylor, Catherine Kudlick, David Henkin

M.A., University of California at Davis, June 2003

Major Field: United States History

B.A., University of California at Santa Cruz, June 1989

Research and Publications

Night Hawk: America's First Superhero

[Manuscript completed January 2024, forthcoming from the University of Chicago Press]

Documentary Film: Altimeter Films, 2023–2024.

Consultant for a documentary on the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous and the writing of the Big Book, which will feature research from my first book, *Rum Maniacs*. Based in Los Angeles, [Altimeter Films](#) regularly publishes documentaries on streaming services like Netflix. The film is in production with a national release scheduled for 2025.

“Crime Journalism and the Urban Gothic Novel,” in Christopher Raczkowski, editor, *A History of American Crime Fiction* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017)

Rum Maniacs: Alcoholic Insanity in the Early American Republic

(Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, March 2014)

“A Detestable Shrine: Alcohol Abuse in Antebellum Philadelphia,” *The Journal of the Early Republic* 29 (Spring 2009): 101–132.

“Diseased Imaginations: Constructing Delirium Tremens in Philadelphia, 1813–1832,” *The Social History of Medicine* 19 (2006): 191–208. Awarded the 2004 Roy Porter Memorial Essay Prize.

Senior Editor. *The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Social History*, edited by Lynn Duménil (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012).

Video. Disney Educational Productions, 2009–2011

Principal academic consultant for the conception, research, and script writing of the four-DVD series *The American Presidents*, for use in elementary and middle school classrooms. Published 2010–2011, the first two in the series were awarded Parent’s Choice Gold Awards.

Curriculum: *Active Voices: Civil Society and the Environment, Grade 12*. (Sacramento: California Integrated Waste Management Board, 2009). Coauthored with educator Sylvia Aquino, this unit is part of the State of California’s Education and the Environment Initiative Curriculum.

Book Reviews:

A Nation of Counterfeiters: Capitalists, Con Men, and the Making of the United States by Stephen Mihm (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2007). *The New England Quarterly* 81 (2008): 722-724.

Singing for Freedom: The Hutchinson Family Singers and the Nineteenth-Century Culture of Antebellum Reform by Scott Gac (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007). *The Journal of the Early Republic* 28 (2008): 488-491.

Embodied History: The Lives of the Poor in Early Philadelphia by Simon P. Newman (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003). H-Net: Humanities & Social Sciences Online, March 2005.

Gracefully Insane: Life and Death Inside America's Premier Mental Hospital by Alex Beam (New York: Public Affairs, 2001) and *Mad Yankees: The Hartford Retreat for the Insane and Nineteenth-Century Psychiatry* by Lawrence Goodheart (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2003). *The New England Quarterly* 77 (2004): 315-319.

Teaching Experience

Associate Professor of History. University of Missouri, Kansas City, 2017-present.

Assistant Professor of History. University of Missouri, Kansas City, Fall 2011 to 2017.

Adjunct Assistant Professor of History and Assistant to the Core Director. Occidental College, 2010-2011.

Adjunct Assistant Professor. Occidental College, 2008-2010.

Lecturer. UC Davis, Winter 2008.

Lecturer. Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, Fall 2007.

Instructor. Laney College, Oakland, CA, Spring 2007.

Instructor. UC Davis, Summer Session, 2004; Summer Session, 2005.

Academic Awards and Fellowships

University of Missouri Research Board Grant, September 2014-May 2015.

SHEAR Fellowship, Library Company of Philadelphia and Historical Society of Pennsylvania, July 2013.

UC Davis Dissertation Fellowship, July 2006-June 2007.

Reed-Smith Fellowship, UC Davis, July 2005-June 2006.

2004 Roy Porter Memorial Essay Prize for "Diseased Imaginations: Constructing Delirium Tremens in Philadelphia, 1813-1832," awarded by the Society for the Social History of Medicine.

Barra Dissertation Fellowship, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, January 2005-May 2005.

Research Associate, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, September 2004-December 2004.

SHEAR Library Resident Research Fellowship, American Philosophical Society, February 2005.

Albert M. Greenfield Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Library Company of Philadelphia,
September 2004–January 2005.

Graduate Student Travel Award, University of California at Davis, January 2004.

Roland Marchand Memorial Fund Research Award, University of California at Davis,
September 2002.

Humanities Institute Research Fellowship, University of California at Davis,
September 2001–June 2002.

Seminar and Conference Papers, Roundtables, and Panels

Chair and commentator: “On Being Human: Alternative Medicine and Changing Conceptions of the Human Body in Nineteenth-Century America,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, July 2017.

Chair and commentator: “Asylums, Vaccinations, and Taboos: The Intersections of Medicine, Authority, and Intellectual History in America,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, St. Louis, April 2015.

“A Roundtable: Drugs, Alcohol, and the Gendered and Racial Experience of Addiction in the Early Republic,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, July 2014.

“Alcoholics and Pink Elephants: Delirium Tremens in Twentieth-Century Medicine and Culture,” Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference, Chicago, April 2014.

“Alcoholics and Pink Elephants: Delirium Tremens in Twentieth-Century Medicine and Culture,” Altered Consciousness, Queen Mary, University of London, November 2013.

“Delirium Tremens in American Medicine, Society, and Culture,” History and Philosophy of Medicine Seminar Series, Clendening Library, Kansas University Medical Center, September 2012.

“America’s First Batman: Popular Theatricality in the Dramatic Republic,” First Friday’s Lecture Series, UMKC History Department, September 2011.

“The First Batman: Identity and Popular Romanticism in the Early Republic,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, July 2011.

“A Disease of the Stomach: Alcohol Addiction Treatments in the Early American Republic,” The 6th International Conference on the History of Alcohol and Drugs, Buffalo, NY, June 2011.

“Dissecting Failure in the Early Republic,” Occidental College History Department Colloquium, Los Angeles, November 2008.

“Death Lurks behind the Bowl: Temperance and the Benevolent Empire of Medicine,” Pennsylvania Historical Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, October 2006.

“Diseased Imaginations: Constructing Delirium Tremens in Philadelphia, 1813–1832,” Qualitative Inquiry on Drug Use Seminar (QUIDUS), University of California at San Francisco, May 2006.

“The Drunkard’s Stomach: Anatomy and Morality in the Early Republic,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Washington DC, April 2006.

”Treating the Dark Scourge: Alcohol Abuse in Antebellum Philadelphia,” McNeil Center for Early American Studies Seminar, Philadelphia, March 2006.

“Treating the Dark Scourge: Alcohol Abuse in Antebellum Philadelphia,” MedHeads, history of medicine seminar, Berkeley, CA, February 2006.

“Klapp’s Cure: Phantoms and Inebriate Care, 1815–1827,” McNeil Center for Early American Studies “Works-in-Progress Series.” April 2005.

“Diseased Imaginations: Constructing Delirium Tremens in Philadelphia, 1813–1832,” The American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Washington DC, January 2004.

“The Discovery of Delirium Tremens: Alcohol and Insanity, 1813–1822,” UC Davis Humanities Institute, May 2002.

Invited Lectures, K-16 Collaboration, and Public History

“The Drunkard’s Stomach: Benjamin Rush and the End of the American Revolution,” Sons of the American Revolution, Olathe, KS, November 2016.

“Demon Rum,” John Wornall House Museum, November 2015.

“Goth Girls: Edgar Allan Poe and the Return of the Funereal Female,” Lawrence Arts Center, October 2015.

Podcast: Author Interview, Ben Franklin’s World, May 5, 2015.

“Alcoholics and Pink Elephants,” Kansas City Public Library, July 2014.

Invited Lecture. “School and Church at Watkin’s Mill,” UMKC Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshop, Summer 2014.

“Seeing Things You Know that Ain’t,” 2012 History Graduate Student Conference at Diastole, Kansas City, April 2012.

“Remembering Prohibition,” The National World War I Museum, Kansas City, September 2011.

Invited Lecture. “A Great Awakening?,” Teaching American History Grant, Spitzer College, August 2010.

Content Review Expert. Environmental Education Initiative, Fall 2008–Spring 2009.
Reviewed the historical content of various curriculum units to ensure accuracy.

Consultant. UC Davis History Project, July 2008.

Planning and piloting a series of workshops for middle-school history teachers entitled Building Bridges across the History Curriculum. Workshops addressed thematic links, content review, and strategies to develop students’ understanding of the discipline of history.

Author. California Environmental Education Initiative, 2007–2009.

Researched and coauthored an environmental-history curriculum unit entitled *Active Voices: Civil Society and the Natural Environment, Grade 12* (Sacramento: California Integrated Waste Management Board, 2009).

Research Assistant. Teaching American History Institutes, UC Davis History Project.

Summer 2004, Summer 2006, Summer 2007, Summer 2008.

Provided research assistance and guidance to cohorts of fifth grade, middle school, and high school teachers.

“The Theater of Addiction,” The National Library of Medicine. Washington D.C. April 2006.

“Poe’s Demons: Delirium Tremens in the Life and Fiction of Edgar Allan Poe,” Edgar Allan Poe House. Philadelphia, May 2005.

“Drink and Despair.” Albert M. Greenfield Foundation Annual Lecture, Library Company of Philadelphia. April 2005.

Selected Academic Service

Faculty Advisor, History Graduate Student Association, 2023–present.

Chair, IPhD Committee, UMKC History Department, 2016–present.

Board Member, University of Missouri Press, 2017–present.

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, UMKC, 2015 to 2019.

Writing Intensive Initiative Group, University Writing and Reading Board, Spring 2014.

Assessment Officer, UMKC History Department, 2012–present.

Assistant to the Core Director, Occidental College, 2010–2011.

Coordinator, Faculty Learning Community on Teaching Writing, Occidental College, Fall 2010.

Reader, Institutional Assessment of the Third Year Writing Requirement, Occidental College, Summer 2009.

Committee Member, Summer Reading Committee, Occidental College, Spring 2009.

Reader, Institutional Assessment of First Year Writing Requirement, Occidental College, Spring 2009.

Panel Organizer, “Reassessing Doctors and Reform,” Pennsylvania Historical Association Annual Meeting. October 2006.

Panel Organizer, “Morality and Democracy in the Alcoholic Republic,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting. April 2006.

Steering Committee Member, “Approaching Evidence in Early America: The Perils and Promise of Interdisciplinarity,” Graduate Student Conference, McNeil Center for Early American Studies. October 2005.