

James McWilliams

Curriculum Vita

Degree Year

Ph.D. 2001 The Johns Hopkins University, History
M.A. 1996 The University of Texas at Austin, American Studies
B.A. 1991 Georgetown University, Philosophy

Position	University	Dates
Professor of History	Texas State University	2009-present
Associate Professor of History	Texas State University	2007-2009
Associate Fellow in Agrarian Studies	Yale University	2007-2008
Assistant Professor History	Texas State University	2003-2007
Visiting Assistant Professor of History	Southwest Texas State University	2000-2003

Courses Taught

History 1310—History of the United States before 1877
History 3365—The Early American Republic, 1763-1789^[SEP]
History 3363—Early American History to 1763^[SEP]
History 4365—Early American History: The Revolutionary Period
History 5313—Graduate Seminar in Colonial British America^[SEP]
Honors 1390—The Evolution of American Culture, 1607-1850^[SEP]
History 3565—Social and Intellectual
History of the U. S., 1776-1850^[SEP] History 5390—Directed Studies
History 4399—Senior Seminar

Books

Eating Promiscuously: Adventures in the Future of Food (Counterpoint Press, 2017)

The Modern Savage: Our Unthinking Decision to Eat Animals (St. Martin's Press, 2015)

The Pecan: A History of America's Native Nut (University of Texas Press, 2013).

Just Food: How Locavores Get It Wrong and How We Can Truly Eat Responsibly (Little Brown, 2009). Winner of the 2010 Books for a Better Life Award.

American Pests: The Losing War on Insects from Colonial Times to DDT (Columbia University Press, 2008).

Building the Bay Colony: Local Economy and Culture in Early Massachusetts (University of Virginia Press, 2007).

A Revolution in Eating: How the Quest for Food Shaped America (Columbia University Press, 2005).

Academic Articles

“Worshipping Weeds: The Parable of the Tares, The Rhetoric of Ecology, and the Origins of Agrarian Exceptionalism in Early America,” *Environmental History* (April 2011), 290-311.

”The Pen and the Plow: Bridging the Knowledge Gap between American Entomology and Agriculture, 1740-1870,” *American Entomologist* (56) 1 (2010), 44-53.

“Butter, Milk, and a Spare Rib”: Women’s Work and the Transatlantic Economic Transition in Seventeenth-Century Massachusetts,” *The New England Quarterly* (LXXXII) no. 1 (March 2009), 1-20.

“The horizon opened up very greatly: Leland O. Howard and the Transition to Chemical Insecticides in the United States, 1894-1927,” *Agricultural History* (Fall 2008), 3-26.

“Cuisine and National Identity in the Early Republic,” *Historically Speaking* (May/June 2006), 5-8.

“African Americans, Native Americans, and the Origins of American Food,” *The Texas Journal of History and Genealogy*. Volume 4 (2005), 12-16.

“how unripe we are”: An Intellectual Construction of American Food,” *Food, Society, and Culture* (Fall 2005), 143-160.

“To Forward Well-Flavored Productions”: The Kitchen Garden in Early New England.” *The New England Quarterly* (March 2004), 25-50.

“The Transition from Capitalism and the Consolidation of Authority in the Chesapeake Bay Region, 1607-1760: An Interpretive Model,” *Maryland Historical Magazine* (Summer 2002), 135-152.

“New England’s First Depression: An Export-Led Interpretation,” *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* (Summer 2002), 1-20.

“Work, Family, and Economic Improvement in Seventeenth-Century Massachusetts Bay,” *The New England Quarterly* (September 2001), 2-31. Winner of the 2000 Whitehill Prize in Colonial History.

“Brewing Beer in Massachusetts Bay, 1640-1690.” *The New England Quarterly* (December 1998), 353-384.

Selected Popular Writing (full bibliography available as separate document)

“The Carnivore’s Dilemma,” *The American Scholar* (Spring 2014)

“Meat Makes the Planet Thirsty,” *The New York Times* (March 7, 2014)

“Fruit Mutiny,” *The Paris Review Daily* (August 8, 2014)

“Clunkers,” *The New York Times Book Review* (July 7, 2013)

“All Steak and No Sizzle,” *Slate* (April 2013)

“Nature’s Perfect Package,” *Harper’s* (August 2012)

Selected Academic Book Reviews

Heavenly Merchandise: How Religion Shaped Commerce in Puritan America, by Mark Valeri, *Business History Review* (forthcoming, the Business History Review).

Midnight Ride, Industrial Dawn: Paul Revere and the Growth of American Enterprise, by Robert Martello, *The New England Quarterly* (Winter, 2011).

Urban Farming in the West: A New Deal Experiment in Subsistence Homesteads, by

Robert Carriker, *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (January 2011).

Industrializing the Corn Belt by J. L. Anderson, *Journal of American History* (December 2009).

The Early American Table, by Trudy Eden, *Agricultural History* (Spring 2009).

African American Foodways, by Anne Bower (ed.), *American Historical Review* (Spring 2008).

Food in History, by Jeffrey Pilcher, *Journal of the Social History of Medicine* (Summer 2006).

Seduced, Abandoned, and Reborn: Visions of Youth in Middle-Class America, 1780-1850, by Rodney Hessinger, *Reviews in American History* (June 2006).

Dining at the Governor's Mansion, by Carl McQueary, *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (January 2004).

Donald Barthelme: The Genesis of a Cool Sound by Helen Barthelme. *Southwestern American Literature* (Fall 2002).

Marriage in the Early Republic: Elizabeth and William Wirt and the Companionate Ideal, by Anya Jabour, *Maryland Historical Magazine* (Summer 1999).

Fellowships, Awards, Grants, and Honors

Election, Texas Institute of Letters (2010)

Presidential Award for Scholarly Excellence, Texas State (2009-2010)

Presidential Seminar Award, 2009-2010.

Books for a Better Life Award, Just Food, 2009.

The Hiatt Prize, Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture (2009)

The Valero Award, Texas State University (2009)

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Program in Agrarian Studies, Yale University (2007-2008)

Dean's Award for Scholarly Excellence, Texas State (2007)

Runner Up, Presidential Award for Scholarly Excellence, Texas State (2006)

Research Enhancement Grant, Texas State University (2006)

Dean's Award for Excellency in Scholarly/Creative Activity, Texas State (2004)

Schlesinger Library Research Support Grant, Harvard University (2004)

The Linda D. Russo Travel Grant, the International Association of Culinary Professionals Foundation (January 2003)

University Honors (Whitbread) Advisor of the Year Award, Texas State (2003)

The Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Scholar-in-Residence (2003)

W.H.B Clowse Fellowship, Massachusetts Historical Society (Summer 2001)

The John E. Rovensky Fellowship in Business and Economic History, Department of Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2000-2001)

The Alfred D. Chandler Traveling Fellowship, Harvard Business School (2000-2001)

The Johns Hopkins University Department of History Fellowship (1997-2001)

Invited Lectures and Papers Delivered (selected):

Just Food speaking tour (2010-2014): Vassar College, Smith College, New York University, Arizona State University, College of Charleston, University of Texas,.

Invited Lecture, "Animal Rights on Small Farms," Cornell University School of Law, April 6, 2014.

Invited Lecture, "The Downside of Sustainable Animal Agriculture," MIT Food Boot Camp—Massachusetts Institute of Technology, March 23, 2012.

Invited Lecture, "The Downside of Sustainable Agriculture," Wesleyan University, Middleton, CT, February 9, 2012.

Invited Lecture, "Eating Sustainable in the 21st Century," The Eats Symposium, The University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill, November 17, 2011.

Invited Lecture, The Kritikos Lecture, University of Oregon—Portland, April 27, 2011.

Invited Lecture, The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, “Sustainable Food Production, 2050,” March 23, 2011.

Invited Panelist, “Farmers, Markets, and Farmers Markets: What Agricultural History Can Tell Us about the Local Foods Movement,” sponsored by the Agricultural History Society, Organization of American Historians annual meeting—Houston, Texas March 19, 2011.

Plenary speaker, “Farmers, Entomologists, and Expertise in Nineteenth-Century America,” Association of American Entomologists, San Diego, December 10, 2010.
Invited panelist, “The Local Food Collaborative,” University of Virginia October 7, 2010.

Invited Lecture, “Business But Not Business as Usual: The Future of Sustainable Global Agriculture,” Oregon State University, March 15, 2010.

Invited Lecture, “The Limits of the Local,” Colgate University, Hamilton, New York, April 22, 2010.

Invited Lecture, “Sustainable Farming in the Past and Future,” Knight Program of Science Journalism, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, April 9, 2010.

Plenary Speaker, “Agriculture’s Golden Mean: Achieving Global Sustainability in the Twenty-First Century,” Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources Statewide Conference, University of California, Berkeley, April 27, 2009.

Invited Lecture, “Agricultural History and the Future of Food,” Knight Science Fellowships, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, March 27, 2009.

Invited Panelist, “The History at Stake in Calls for Alternative Agriculture,” American Society of Environmental Historians, Tallahassee, Florida, February 27, 2009.
Invited Lecture, “The History of Insect Control,” The Aspen Ideas Festival, July 8, 2008.

Invited Lecture, “The Pen and the Plow: The Origins of Economic Entomology in the United States,” The American Antiquarian Society, April 2008.

Invited Lecture, “Silent Spring, Insecticides, and the Origins of Earth Day,” Drexel University, Great Works Symposium, April 21, 2007.

Invited Lecture, “Let Us Spray.: The Origins of Insecticides in the United States,” Yale University, Program in Agrarian Studies, October 27, 2006.

Invited Lecture, “Cuisines and Cultures,” The Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey, April 27, 2006.

Invited Lecture, Drexel University, the Benjamin Franklin Symposium, “Ben Franklin, Mario Batali, and the Birth of American Indulgence,” March 1, 2006.

Invited Lecture, “Native Americans, African Americans, and the Origins of American Food,” The Culinary Historians of New York, September 14, 2005.

Invited Lecture, “Native Americans, African Americans, and the Origins of American Food,” Fraunces Tavern Lecture Series, New York, September 14, 2005.

Invited Lecturer, The Burrell Lecture, Howard Payne University, “Native Americans, African Americans, and the Origins of American Food,” February 10, 2005.

Invited Lecturer, “A Taste of the Past: Understanding the Transatlantic World Through Food,” World History Association of Texas Annual Meeting, February 28, 2004.

Paper presentation, “Anxious Merchants and Technological Change in Puritan New England,” annual meeting of the Society for the Historians of Technology, San Jose, California, October 2002.

Invited Lecture, “Accounting for the Past One Debit and Credit at a Time,” The Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts, May 2002.

Selected Media Appearances

WNYC (NPR), New York, “The Leonard Lopate Show,” July 20, 2010.

NPR and WBUR, “Science Friday” (with Michael Pollan), August 21, 2009.

WHYY (NPR), Philadelphia, “You Bet Your Garden,” September 27, 2008

ABC (Australian Broadcasting Association), “By Design,” August 17, 2007.

KUT (NPR) Austin, “Morning Addition,” August 11, 2007

KUT (NPR) Austin, “Morning Edition,” June 28, 2005^[1]_[SEP]

WBUR (NPR) Boston, “Here and Now with Robin Young,” July 5, 2005

WNYC (NPR) New York, “The Leonard Lopate Show,” July 21, 2005^[1]_[SEP]

WAMC Albany (NPR), “Roundtable” with Susan Arbetter, August 4, 2005

WURO Pittsburg, “On the Menu” with Ann and Peter Haigh, August 10, 2005

WREL, Lexington, VA. “Jim Bresnahan Show,” August 10, 2005^[1]_[SEP]

WERE, Cleveland, OH. “Maury’s Market,” September 8, 2005^[L]_[SEP]

Houston Public Radio, “Front Row,” September 8, 2005 (in studio)^[L]_[SEP]

WHYY (NPR), Philadelphia, “A Chef’s Table,” September 12, 2005 (in studio)

WKBK, Keene, NH. “What’s Cooking with Luca,” September 15, 2005

WREL, Lexington, VA. “The Happy Cook,” September 16, 2005

Professional

I regularly evaluate manuscripts and book proposals for the following presses and journals: Columbia University Press, University of North Carolina Press, Oxford University Press, University of Kansas Press, *The William and Mary Quarterly*, *The Journal of American History*, *The Journal of Southern Cultures* and the *Journal of Sustainable Agriculture*.

Contributing Writer Positions

The Texas Observer (2002-present)^[L]_[SEP]

The History News Service (2003-2005)^[L]_[SEP]

Columnist, Freakonomics.com (2009-2011)

Columnist, Pacific Standard (2013-present)

Columnist, The American Scholar (2018-present)