

# Ruma Chopra

## OFFICE

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## EDUCATION

University of California Davis, Ph.D., History, 2008  
Dissertation: Loyalist Persuasions: New York City, 1776-1783 (Committee: Alan Taylor, Clarence Walker, Caroline Cox, John Smolenski)  
Carnegie Mellon University, M.A., Cultural Studies  
University at Albany, M.A., English  
Carnegie Mellon University, B.S., English

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT (RECENT)

Professor, San Jose State University, 2016 - Present  
Associate Professor, San Jose State University, 2012 - 2015  
Assistant Professor, San Jose State University, 2008 – 2012  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Oberlin College, 2007-2008

## RESEARCH/TEACHING INTERESTS

British Atlantic settlement in the “old thirteen,” Caribbean, Canadian Maritimes, and West Africa; Indigenous and African slaveries, and indentured labor; Voluntary and Involuntary Migrations; Atlantic Revolutions; Loyalists and Maroons; Climate and History.

## AWARDS, GRANTS, and HONORS

Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Fellowship, University of Göttingen (Germany), 2017  
Michael J. Connell Foundation Fellowship (The Huntington Library), 2017  
Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Fellowship, New York City, 2015  
Franklin Research Grant (American Philosophical Society), 2015  
Fletcher Jones Foundation Fellowship (The Huntington Library, CA), 2014  
John Carter Brown Library Fellowship (Brown University, RI), 2013  
Howard H. Peckham Fellowship in Revolutionary America (Clements Library, Ann Arbor, MI), 2012  
David Library of the American Revolution Research Fellowship (Washington Crossing, PA), 2005 & 2010  
Omohundro Institute of Early American History Postdoctoral Fellowship, Finalist (Williamsburg, VA), 2008  
Alan Taylor Dissertation Fellowship (Davis, CA), 2007  
New York State Library Cunningham Fellowship (Albany, NY), 2006  
American Antiquarian Society, Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Fellowship (Worcester, MA), 2006  
Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Fellowship (New York, NY), 2005  
Jacob M. Price Visiting Research Fellowship (Clements Library, Ann Arbor, MI), 2005  
Institute of Government Affairs Fellowship, University of California (Davis, CA), 2005  
All-University of California Economic History Group Summer Fellowship (Davis, CA), 2004  
Hemispheric Institute for the Americas Fellowship, University of California (Davis, CA), 2004  
Borderlands Fellowship, University of California (Davis, CA), 2003

## RESEARCH

### BOOKS

*Almost Home: Maroons Between Slavery and Freedom in Jamaica, Nova Scotia, and Sierra Leone* (forthcoming, Yale University Press)

*Choosing Sides: Loyalists in Revolutionary America* (Rowman and Littlefield Press, 2013).

*Unnatural Rebellion: Loyalists in New York City during the Revolution* (University of Virginia Press, 2011).

### JOURNAL ARTICLES/BOOK CHAPTERS

"Maroons and Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia, 1796-1800" in *Acadiensis: Journal of the History of the Atlantic Region*. (forthcoming, 2017)

"Post-War Loyalist Hopes in Nova Scotia: To be Parts and not Dependencies of the Empire," in R.N. Brannon and J. S. Moore (eds) *Loyalty and Revolution: Essays in Honor of Robert M. Calhoon* (forthcoming, South Carolina University Press).

"'Wayward Humors and Perverse Disputings': Exiled Blacks and the Foundation of Sierra Leone, 1787-1800," in B. N. Lawrance and N. R. Carpenter (eds) *Africans in Exile: Mobility, Law, and Identity, Past and Present* (forthcoming, University of Indiana Press).

"Loyalist Women during the Revolutionary Era," in T.A. Foster (ed) *Women in Early America* (New York University Press, 2015).

"Charles Inglis," in M.G. Spencer (ed) *The Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of the American Enlightenment* (Bloomsbury, 2015).

"Religion and the Loyalists," in D.L. Dreisbach and M.D. Hall (eds) *Faith and the Founders of the American Republic* (Oxford, 2014). (Co-written with R. M. Calhoon)

"Enduring patterns of Loyalist Study: Definitions and Contours," *History Compass*, 11, no. 11 (2013): 983-993.

"Loyalists," in L. Duménil (ed) *Encyclopedia of American Social History*, (Oxford Press, 2013).

"Printer Hugh Gainé Crosses and Re-Crosses the Hudson," *New York History*, 90 (Fall, 2009): 271-285.

### BOOKS REVIEWS

L. S. Shire, *The Threshold of Manifest Destiny: Gender and National Expansionism in Florida*, in *CHOICE* (forthcoming, 2017)

H.A. Whitfield, *North of Bondage: Loyalist Slavery in the Maritimes*, in *CHOICE* (June, 2016)

J. Polasky, *Revolution without Borders: The Call to Liberty in the Atlantic World*, in *American Historical Review* (June, 2016)

- J. Jemmott, *Ties that Bind: The Black Family in Post-Slavery Jamaica, 1834-1882*, in *CHOICE* (October, 2015)
- P. Papas, *Renegade Revolutionary: The Life of General Charles Lee*, in *American Historical Review*, 120, no. 1 (2015): 236.
- P. Gould, *Writing the Rebellion: Loyalists and the Literature of Politics in British America* in *Journal of American History*, 101, no. 2 (2014).
- J. Bannister and L Riordan, *The Loyal Atlantic: Remaking the British Atlantic in the Revolutionary Era*, in *The Journal of Early Modern History*, 17, no. 3 (2013): 309-311.
- W. Roberts, *A Place in History: Albany in the Age of Revolution, 1775-1825* in *Journal of Early American History*, 32, no. 3 (Fall, 2012): 561-563.

## BLOG

"Refugees Fit for Rescue: Loyalists, Maroons and Mi'kmaq" in Early Canadian History blog, April 2017. See <https://earlycanadianhistory.ca/2017/04/17/refugees-fit-for-rescue-loyalists-maroons-and-mikmaq/>

## **INVITED TALKS & ENGAGEMENTS**

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| 2017 | Royal Society of Canada<br>Fredericton, New Brunswick (Canada)<br>"Thinking Historically about Refugees: Loyalists and Maroons in the Eighteenth Century."    |
| 2017 | David Library of the American Revolution<br>Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania<br>"Maroons in the Age of Slavery"  |
| 2016 | Conference on Popular Royalisms<br>Yale University, Connecticut<br>"The Loyal Maroons"  |
| 2016 | Indentured Lives: Rethinking the Experience of Indian Overseas Labour Migration, 1800-1920<br>University of Edinburgh, UK<br>"Not Slaves: Indians in Jamaica" |
| 2015 | Conables Conference in International Studies<br>Rochester Institute of Technology, New York<br>"Free Blacks in Nova Scotia and Sierra Leone"                  |
| 2014 | Huntington Library<br>San Marino, California<br>"Sentimental Relocations: Jamaican Maroons in the Anti-Slavery Era"   |
| 2014 | George Washington Teacher Institute<br>Mount Vernon, Virginia<br>"Loyalist Perspective on the American Revolution"  |

- 2014 Society of the American Revolution  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
“Post-Revolutionary Legacies.”
- 2013 John Carter Brown Library  
Providence, Rhode Island  
“Enemies of the British Atlantic, 1750-1800”
- 2013 Fraunces Tavern Museum  
**(RECORDED by C-SPAN, see <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/rumachopra>)**  
New York City, New York  
“Through Loyalist Eyes: The American Revolution as an Unnatural Rebellion”
- 2013 Richmond Roundtable on the American Revolution  
Richmond, Virginia  
“Rethinking Loyalism in British America, 1750-1800”
- 2013 David Library of the American Revolution  
Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania  
“Choosing Sides: Allegiances during the Revolutionary Era”
- 2012 Clements Library, University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
“Deporting ‘Dangerous Enemies,’ 1750-1800.”
- 2011 College of William & Mary, Omohundro Institute of Early American History  
Williamsburg, Virginia  
“Post-War Loyalist Hopes in the Canadian Maritimes”
- 2010 The George Washington Forum on American Ideas, Politics & Institutions  
Making Democracy: Violence, Politics, and the American Founding  
Athens, Ohio  
“ The Loyalist Problem of Suppressing the “Unnatural Rebellion”

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- 2017 Organization of American Historians  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
“Age and Authority in Maroon Communities”
- 2017 University of Pennsylvania Libraries  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
“The Jamaican Maroons and the Meanings of Migration”
- 2016 Atlantic Canada Studies Conference  
Sacville, New Brunswick  
“Maroons and Mi’kmaq in Nova Scotia”
- 2015 Black Canadian Studies Association  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

“Jamaican Maroons in Nova Scotia, 1796-1800”

- 2015 Organization of American Historians  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Commentator, “Patriots, Loyalists and Communication Networks in the Atlantic World”
- 2014 Consortium on the Revolutionary Era, Oxford, Mississippi, 1750-1850  
Title: “Caribbean Deportations in the era of the Haitian Revolution”
- 2012 Eighteenth Annual Omohundro Institute Conference, San Marino, California  
Title: “Britons Re-Born: American Loyalists in the Canadian Maritimes after the Revolution”  
(Cities and Empires panel)
- 2012 American Literature Association  
San Francisco, California  
Chair, “Tories Traitors and Spies: Loyalists of the American Revolution”
- 2011 American Historical Association, Boston, Massachusetts  
Title: “Loyalist Lessons from the Unnatural Rebellion”
- 2010 Shared Heritage: Mexico and California 200 Years (King Library)  
“Mexican Independence from the American Perspective”
- 2010 Charting New Courses in the History of Slavery and Emancipation  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi  
Title: “Competing Beneficiaries: Black and White Loyalists during the War of American Independence”
- 2009 Researching New York Conference  
400 Years of Exploration: The Hudson-Champlain Corridor and Beyond  
Albany, New York  
Title: “Rebels and Loyalists Compete for Imperial New York City: 1775-1776”
- 2009 Fifteenth Annual Conference of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Title: “Limits of Sentimentality: Loyalist Negotiation with the British during the Revolution”
- 2009 Loyalism and the Revolutionary Atlantic World, Orono, Maine  
Title: “Loyalist Persuasions: New York City, 1776-1783”
- 2009 American Historical Association, New York City, New York  
Title: “Loyalism in the Atlantic Diaspora”
- 2008 San Jose State University Teaching Symposium, San Jose, California  
“Narrating the Revolution, Narrating the Nation: Some Reflections”
- 2008 European Science Foundation Conference, Vadstena, Sweden  
Conference Theme: “Imaging War: Intergenerational Perspectives”  
Title: “Crafting Allegiance: Petitions of Loyalist Refugees during the American Revolution”
- 2008 International Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World, Harvard University, Massachusetts

Title: "New Yorkers' Vision of Reunion with the British Empire: 'Quicken Others by our Example'"

- 2008            Organization of American Historians, New York City, New York  
Title: "Alternate Visions of Empire"
- 2007            Colonial Society of Massachusetts, Boston, Massachusetts  
Title: "Trans-Atlantic Allegiances during the American Revolution"
- 2007            Bay Area Seminar in Early American Studies, Stanford, California  
Title: "Loyalists Cope with Disappointments: New York City, 1777-1778"
- 2005            David Library of the American Revolution, Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania  
Title: "Loyalists Welcome the British: New York City, 1776-1777"

**BOARD MEMBER**

Colonial Society of Massachusetts

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Reviewer for the Journal of the Early American Republic, Journal of American History; American Antiquarian Society; New York History; University of North Florida Press; Cambridge University Press, CHOICE