

Ruma Chopra

OFFICE

Department of History
San Jose State University
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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., Linguistics
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

Michael J. Connell Foundation Fellowship (The Huntington Library), 2018
Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Fellowship, University of Göttingen (Germany), 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* XLVI, no. 1 (Winter/Spring 2017): 5-23.

"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* (2018, 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* (2018, 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* (May, 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 | University of Göttingen
Göttingen (Germany)
“Servants and Slaves in the British Atlantic” |
| 2017 | Royal Society of Canada
Fredericton, New Brunswick (Canada)
“Thinking Historically about Refugees: Loyalists and Maroons in the Eighteenth Century.” |
| 2017 | David Library of the American Revolution
Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania
“Maroons in the Age of Slavery” |
| 2016 | Conference on Popular Royalisms
Yale University, Connecticut
“The Loyal Maroons” |
| 2016 | Indentured Lives: Rethinking the Experience of Indian Overseas Labour Migration, 1800-1920
University of Edinburgh, UK
“Not Slaves: Indians in Jamaica” |
| 2015 | Conables Conference in International Studies
Rochester Institute of Technology, New York
“Free Blacks in Nova Scotia and Sierra Leone” |
| 2014 | Huntington Library
San Marino, California
“Sentimental Relocations: Jamaican Maroons in the Anti-Slavery Era” |

- 2014 George Washington Teacher Institute
Mount Vernon, Virginia
“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 Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas (forthcoming, November)
Binghamton University, New York
“Asian Laborers in the Post-Slavery Caribbean”
- 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