

M. SCOTT HEERMAN
CURRICULUM VITAE
LAST UPDATED: JUNE, 2025

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Education:

University of Maryland:

Ph.D., Department of History, 2013.

Advisor: Ira Berlin, Distinguished University Professor, Department of History

Dissertation: "Deep River: Slavery, Empire, and Emancipation in the Upper Mississippi River Valley, 1730-1860"

Earlham College:

B.A. in Politics and History, 2007

College and Departmental Honors, Phi Beta Kappa

Institute for Documentary Editing: ("Camp Edit"), Madison Wisconsin, 2008.

Languages:

Spanish (proficient), French (intermediate).

Employment History:

Faculty Positions:

Associate Professor of History, College of William & Mary, Aug. 2025-present.

Editor of Book Publications, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, Aug., 2025-present.

Associate Professor of History, University of Miami, 2021- Aug. 2025.

Assistant Professor of History, University of Miami, 2015-2021.

Patrick Henry Scholar (Postdoctoral Fellowship), Department of History, Johns Hopkins University, 2013-2015.

Professional Appointments:

History Instructor, Sidwell Friends School, Washington D.C. 2012-13.

Graduate Assistant, Documentary History of the First Federal Congress, George Washington University, 2011-12.

Graduate Assistant, Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project, George Washington University, 2010

Peer Reviewed Publications:

Monograph:

The Alchemy of Slavery: Human Bondage and Emancipation in the Illinois Country, 1730-1865. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018.

Edited Works:

“Sources and Citizenship in the Antebellum U.S.: A View from Abroad” *Law & History Review* 42 no. 3 (Aug., 2024): 649-658.

Guest editor with Michael Bernath, "Cracks in the Foundation: The Fourteenth Amendment and its Limits," introduction to special issue of the *Journal of the Civil War Era* 10 no. 2 (March 2020): 1-4.

Articles and Book Chapters:

“Birthright or Citizenship: Tutelage, Consular Protection, and Race in the U.S. Empire Before the Civil War” *Journal of American History* 112 no. 1 (June, 2025):15-35.

"Freedom in Chains: U.S. Empire and the Illegal Slave Trade" in *The Early Imperial Republic: From the American Revolution to the U.S.-Mexican War* ed. Michael Blakeman, Emily Conroy-Krutz, and Noelani Arista (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2023): 179-201.

"Abolishing Slavery in Motion: Foreign Captivity and International Abolitionism in the Early United States” *William and Mary Quarterly* 77 no. 2 (April, 2020): 246-72.

“Black Migration, Black Villages, and Black Emancipation in Antebellum Illinois” in *Emancipations, Revolutions, Reconstructions: Black Politics in the Long Nineteenth Century* ed. David Waldstreicher and Van Gosse (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2020): 102-115.

“‘Reducing Freedmen to Slavery’: Black Kidnapping and the Politics of Abolition in Antebellum Illinois,” *Journal of the Early Republic* 38 no. 2 (Summer 2018): 261-91.

“Beyond Plantations: Indian and African Slavery in the Illinois Country, 1720-1780,” *Slavery and Abolition* 38 no. 3 (Sept., 2017): 489-509.

“In A State of Slavery: Black Servitude and the Limits of Legal Emancipation” *Early American Studies* 14 no.1 (Winter 2016): 114-39.

“‘That A’Cursed Illinois Venture’: Slavery and Revolution in Atlantic Illinois,” *Journal of Illinois History* 13 no. 2 (Summer 2010): 107-28.

Works in Progress:

Freedom’s Ensemble: Abduction and the Politics of Belonging in an Age of Atlantic Emancipations 1750-1860 (Under Contract, University of Pennsylvania Press)

“Repertoires of Resistance: A Case for Complaint” (Draft article in progress)

Book Reviews:

Review of Gunther Peck, *Race Traffic: Antislavery and the Origins of White Victimhood, 1619-1819* in *William and Mary Quarterly* (Apr., 2025): 342-46.

Review of Kevin Kenny, *The Problem of Immigration in a Slaveholding Republic: Policing Mobility in the Nineteenth-Century United States*, in *Journal of Southern History* 90 no. 2 (Aug., 2024): 611-12.

Review of David Gellman, *Liberty's Chain: Slavery, Abolition, and the Jay Family of New York*, in *Journal of the Early Republic* 43 no. 2 (Summer 2023): 337-40.

Review of Eric Herschthal, *The Science of Abolition: How Slaveholders Became the Enemies of Progress* in *New West Indian Guide* 97 nos. 3-4: 350-1.

Review of Christian Pinnen, *Complexion of Empire in Natchez: Race and Slavery in the Mississippi Borderlands* in *Ethnohistory* 69 no. 3 (July 2022): 356-57.

“Laboring on the Land of Empires” review of Joshua D. Rothman, *The Ledger and the Chain: How Domestic Slave Traders Shaped America*, Ariel Ron, *Grassroots Leviathan: Agricultural Reform and the Rural North in the Slaveholding Republic* and Kevin Waite, *West of Slavery: The Southern Dream of a Transcontinental Empire* in *Reviews in American History* 49 no. 4 (Dec., 2021): 546-60.

Review of Aline Helg, *Slave No More: Self-Liberation Before Abolitionism in America*, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2019) in *Journal of the Early Republic* 40, no. 3 (Fall 2020): 603-5.

Review of Loren Schweninger, *Appealing for Liberty: Freedom Suits in the South*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018) in *Journal of Social History* 53 no. 4 (Summer 2020): 1125-6.

Review of Randy Browne, *Surviving Slavery in the British Caribbean* in *Journal of American History* 105 no. 3 (Dec., 2018): 674-5.

“Legal Scarecrows: Agency and Culture in American Legal History” review of Anne F. Twitty, *Before Dred Scott: Slavery and Legal Culture in the American Confluence, 1787-1857* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2016), Kelly Kennington, *In the Shadow of Dred Scott: St. Louis Freedom Suits and the Legal Culture of Slavery in Antebellum America* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2017), and Kurt Metzmeir, *Writing the Legal Records: Law Reporters in Nineteenth-Century Kentucky* (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2016) in *Ohio Valley History Review* 17 no. 4 (Winter 2017): 81-6.

Review of Sharla Fett, *Recaptured Africans: Surviving Slave Ships, Detention, and Dislocation in the Final Years of the Slave Trade* in *Journal of the Civil War Era* 7 no. 4 (Dec., 2017): 650-2.

Review of Erin M. Greenwald. *Marc-Antoine Caillot and the Company of the Indies*

in Louisiana: Trade in the French Atlantic World in *Journal of Southern History* 83 no. 4 (Nov., 2017): 933-5.

Review of Ken. S. Mueller, *Senator Benton and the People: Master Race Democracy on the Early American Frontier* in *Ohio Valley History Review* 16 no.4 (Winter 2016): 77-9.

Review of Matthew W. Hall, *Dividing the Union: Jesse Burgess Thomas and the Making of the Missouri Compromise*, in *Missouri Historical Review* 111 no.1 (October 2016): 76-7.

Review of Robert M. Morrissey, *Empire by Collaboration: Indians, Colonists, and Governments in Colonial Illinois Country* in *Ethnohistory* 63 no. 3 (July 2016): 743-4.

Fellowships and Grants:

Fellowships:

Barra Sabbatical Fellowship, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, AY 2023-24.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Faculty Fellowship, awarded December 2020.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Postdoctoral Fellowship, The Library Company of Philadelphia, Fall 2018.

Barbara Thom Postdoctoral Fellow, Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, AY 2016-17.

American Historical Association, J. Franklin Jameson Fellow in American History, Library of Congress, June-August, 2014.

Anne M. Wylie Dissertation Completion Award, University of Maryland, 2013.

Andrew Mellon Fellowship for Dissertation Research in Original Sources, Council on Library and Information Resources, AY 2011-12.

Research Grants:

Arts and Humanities Fellowship, University of Miami, Summer 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023.

Faculty Seed Grant, Institute for the Advanced Studies of the Americas (U-MIA), University of Miami, Summer 2018, 2019, 2023.

International Travel Grant, Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, Summer 2018.

Provost Research Award, University of Miami, Summer 2016, 2018.

Filson Fellowship, Filson Historical Society, Louisville, Ky., 2014.

Jacob M. Price Visiting Research Fellowship, William Clements Library, University of Michigan, 2011.

Short Term Research Fellowship, The Newberry Library, Chicago, Il., 2011.

King V. Hostick Award, Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency, Springfield, Il., 2011.

Conferences, Seminars, and Presentations:

Invited Seminars and Presentations:

"An Imperial 1848: Slavery and the Unmaking of Universal Rights," Rethinking 1848: Actors, Practices, Networks, European University Institute, Fiesole, Italy, June 9-10, 2025.

"Slavery and a Trans-Atlantic Counter-Revolution," Global Nineteenth Century Seminar, New York University, December 9, 2024.

"Freedom: A Rashomon Effect" McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, May 3, 2024.

"The Trouble With Freedom," Black World Seminar, Johns Hopkins University, March 26, 2024.

"Race, Slavery, and Freedom in the Midwest," National Underground Railroad to Freedom, and Abraham Lincoln Historic Site, Program July 8, 2021 (virtual event).

"Round About Midnight: Slavery in the Land of Lincoln," Newberry Library, August 7, 2019.

"Telling the Buried Truths: The Histories of African-Descended People in Early Illinois" Thirty-Fifth Annual Printers Row Literary Festival, Chicago, Il, June 8, 2019.

"The Slave Next Door: Mapping Haitian Slavery in Philadelphia Neighborhoods" Historical Society of Pennsylvania, April 2, 2019.

"Round About Midnight: Slavery and the Black Freedom Struggle in the U.S. North" Invited Lecture, Illinois Bicentennial Series, Center for Historical Interpretation, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, November 8, 2018.

Conference Papers and Seminar Papers:

"Freedom, Abduction, and the Problem of Policing" American Historical Association, One Hundred and Thirty Ninth Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, January 9, 2026.

Panel Chair, "Keywords in Early American Economy," Program in Early American Economy and Society at 25 Years: Prospective and Retrospective, February 8, 2025, Library Company of Philadelphia.

"Who's Afraid of Big History?" Southern Historical Association, Ninetieth Annual Meeting, Kansas City, Missouri, October 26, 2024.

Panel Comment, "Cultural Practices and Colonial Encounters," for Vast Early America: A Transatlantic Conversation, Omohundro Institute of Early American Culture, Poitiers, France, June 21, 2024.

"Resistance and Abolition: Human Trafficking, Indigenous Slaves, the Trouble with Free Soil," for "Resisting Enslavement in Vast Early America" WMQ-EMSI Workshop, Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, May 31-June 1, 2024.

"A Poly-Vocal History of Abolition" in Afro-Atlantic Lives: Slavery in Latin America, Princeton University, April 11, 2024.

"The Many Antislavery Legalisms of the Atlantic World," Revolutions and Counter-Revolutions in Latin America, EHESS-Condorcet, March 14, 2024 (via Zoom)

"The Limits of Free Soil: International Captivity in an Era of Revolution," For 2026: Contested Freedoms, Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, VA, October 26, 2023

"Prerogatives of Ownership and the Challenge of Narrative in American Slavery," Facing the Future of Early American Studies, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Philadelphia, PA, July 11-12, 2023.

"Property in Mobile People: Captivity, Forced Migrations, and Enslavement in the Eighteenth Century British Empire," *Somerset v. Steuart @ 250: Facts, Interpretations, and Legacies*, David Center for the American Revolution and the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pa, December 1, 2022. (Withdrew due to medical issue)

"Making Free Soil Sovereign: Captivity in a Post-Emancipation Atlantic World," Empire, Sovereignty, and Labor in the Age of Global Abolition, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Philadelphia, PA, February 25-26, 2021. (via Zoom)

"Abolishing Slavery in Motion" Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Forty-First Annual Meeting, Cambridge Massachusetts, July 20, 2019.

"Freedom in Chains: U.S Empire and the Illegal Slave Trade," Making a Republic Imperial, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Philadelphia, PA, March 29, 2019.

"From Captivity to Kidnapping," Work-in Progress Seminar, American Philosophical Society, October 30, 2018.

“Freedom as a Problem of State Power: The Case of the U.S. North, 1760-1820,” Washington Early American Seminar, University of Maryland, College Park, November 14, 2018.

“Kidnapping, Free Soil, and the Second Slavery,” Revising the Geography of Modern World Histories, Centre for the Americas, University of York, February 9, 2018.

“Scarecrows of the Law” paper in Author-Meets-Readers: Anne Twitty’s *Before Dred Scott: Slavery and Legal Culture in the American Confluence, 1787–1857* (Cambridge University Press, 2016), American Society for Legal History, Forty-Fourth Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, October 28, 2017.

“Second Slavery, Second Emancipation” paper in the Second Book Writers Workshop, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, July 20, 2017.

“Carried Back: Black Kidnapping in the Age of Atlantic Emancipation,” Faculty Research Group, Department of History, U.C. Santa Barbara, May 4, 2017.

“The Wolf Shall Be Tamed: Kidnapping, Emancipation, and Jurisdiction in the Second Slavery,” Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities, Twentieth Annual Conference, Stanford Law School, Palo Alto, CA, March 31, 2017

“North of Slavery, South of Freedom: Black Migration and Marronage in Antebellum Illinois,” Emancipations, Reconstructions, Revolutions: African American Politics and U.S. History in the Long Nineteenth Century, McNeil Center for Early American Studies and CUNY Graduate Center, Philadelphia and New York, February 10, 2017.

“More than Maroons: Black Villages and Illinois Freedom Politics,” American Historical Association, One Hundred and Thirty-First Annual Meeting, Denver, January 6, 2017.

“Freedom Papers as Processes in the Archives,” Paper in the Early Modern Atlantic World, Early Modern Studies Institute and Huntington Library, December 2, 2016.

“Rediscovering Race: Indian and African Slavery in the Illinois Country,” Region and Nation in American Histories of Race and Slavery, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, Mt. Vernon, Virginia. October 6, 2016.

“Settling with Colonialism: U.S. Expansion into the Illinois Country,” C19: Society of Nineteenth Century Americanists, Fourth Bi-Annual Meeting, Penn State University, State College, PA, March, 17, 2016.

“‘Reducing Free Men to Bondage’: Human Trafficking and the Politics of Abolition in Antebellum Illinois,” Human Trafficking in Early America, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Philadelphia, PA, April 24, 2015.

“Human Trafficking, Internal Black Migration, and the Rise of the Deep South in Jacksonian America” Slavery, Freedom, and the Remaking of American History: A Conference in Honor of Ira Berlin April 9, 2015 University of Maryland, College Park.

“The Great Escape: Runaway Slave Narratives in Chicago’s Anti-Slavery Press,” American Historical Association, One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting, New York, January 2, 2015.

“Building Free Labor Ideology: Black and White Servitude in the Antebellum Ohio River Valley,” Social Science History Association, Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting, November 6, 2014, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

“Carrying Free Men to Slavery: Reversing the Emancipation in Antebellum America,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting Philadelphia, July 19, 2014.

“‘A Likely Negro Girl’: Public Cultures of Slavery and Freedom,” C19: Society of Nineteenth Century Americanists, Third Bi-Annual Meeting, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, March 14, 2014.

“In A State of Slavery,” Washington Early American Seminar, February 24, 2013

“The Manner of Execution Cannot be too Cruel’: Slave Power and Imperial Authority in the Illinois Country,” The Long Struggle for the Ohio Valley, 1750-1815, Filson Historical Society, Louisville, October 17, 2012.

"The Sovereign’s Crisis: Amerindian Women, French Jesuits, and Colonial Power in North America," delivered at the French Colonial Historical Society, Thirty-Fourth Annual Meeting, Quebec City, May 8, 2008.

Comment on “Hemispheric Jamestown” delivered by Dr. Anna Brickhouse, Local Americanist Seminar, University of Maryland, December 12, 2007

Teaching and Advising:

University of Miami:

His 101: Survey of US History to 1877 (Fall 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2024)

His 302: History on Trial (Spring 2016, 2018, 2020, 2025)

His 383: Slavery and Cinema (Spring 2016, 2025, Fall 2021)

His 561: Slavery in Fact and Fiction (Fall 2019)

His 662: Slavery and Capitalism, 1650-1877 (Fall 2015)

His 669: Slavery and Freedom: A Global Perspective (Spring 2018, 2020)

His 702: Research Methods II (Fall 2024)

His 707: Readings on Empire and Settler Colonialism (Fall 2021)

His 721: Historiography (Fall 2020, 2021)

Graduate Advising:

Alison McCann, Dissertation topic: “Until Freedom be Done: African American community and Placemaking in Liberia, 1790-1880” (Ph.D. expected 2026).

Bo Rodgers, “Mobilizing Freedom: Black Politics in the U.S. and Cuba” (admitted fall 2025).

Service and Professional Affiliations:

University of Miami:

Advisory Committee, Hanley Center for the Study of Democracy, 2023-25.

Undergraduate Committee and Transfer Coordinator, 2024-25.

Co-Convener, Atlantic Studies Reading Group, 2017-22.

Hiring Committee for Diversity and Inclusion 2020-2022.

History Department Communications Director, 2016-2021

Graduate Committee, University of Miami, Department of History, 2019-21.

Advisory Committee, Center for the Humanities, University of Miami, 2019-20.

Co-Organizer, “The Many 14th Amendments” March 1-3, 2018.

Freshman Advisor, University of Miami, Department of History, 2015-2020, 2024-25.

Service for Professional Organizations:

Advisory Council, Program in Early American Economy and Society, Library Company of Philadelphia, 2024-2028.

Omohundro Institute Council, 2024-2025.

Peer Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities, Faculty Fellowship, 2024

Nomination Committee, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), 2021-24.

Program Committee, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), 2024.

Peer Reviewer, National Historic Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), Publishing Historical Records in Documentary Editions, grant years, 2018, 2019, 2023.

Fellowship Committee, American Historical Association, J. Franklin Jameson Award, 2021-24.

Scholarly Consultant, National Parks Service, St. Genevieve Historic Site, 2021.

Peer Reviewer, NEH Postdoctoral Fellowship, Library Company of Philadelphia, 2020.

Manuscript Reviewer, *American Historical Review*, *Journal of the Early Republic*, *Journal of Nineteenth Century American History*, *Ohio Valley History*, *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Southern Illinois University Press, Ohio University Press.

Membership Committee, Southern Historical Association (2016-18)

References:

Steven Hahn
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McCausland Professor of History
University of South Carolina
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McCabe Greer Professor of History
Penn State University
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