

## Seth Cotlar

Professor of History  
Willamette University  
900 State St.  
Salem, OR 97301

(503) 370-6297 (w)  
(503) 370-6944 (fax)  
(503) 391-5287 (h)  
scotlar@willamette.edu

### EDUCATION

Northwestern University, Ph.D. in History, December 2000.  
Brown University, B.A. in History, 1990.

### TEACHING POSITIONS

History Department, Willamette University, Fall 2000-present.

- Promoted to Professor, 2012
- Department chair 2009-11
- Awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor, 2006

Instructor, Department of History, Northwestern University, 1996-7, 2000.

High School History Teacher, Jakarta (Indonesia) International School, 1990-2.

### MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Richard Ellis and Seth Cotlar, eds., "The Historian in Chief: How Presidents Interpret the Past to Control the Future," collection of essays under contract with University of Virginia Press.

"The Cultural History of Nostalgia in Modernizing America, 1776-1860." Book project in research and preliminary writing stage.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Book

*Tom Paine's America: The Rise and Fall of Trans-Atlantic Radicalism in the Early Republic.*  
(Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2011. Paperback ed., 2014.)

- Awarded the 2012 James Broussard Best First Book Prize by the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR)

#### Articles

"Seeing Like an Antiquarian: Popular Nostalgia and the Rise of a Modern Historical Subjectivity," in Patrick Griffin, ed., *Experiencing Empire: Power, People, and Revolution in Early America* (Charlottesville, Va.: University of Virginia Press, 2017), 212-31.

"Languages of Democracy in America from the Revolution to the Election of 1800," in Mark Philp and Joanna Innes, eds., *Re-Imagining Democracy in the Age of Revolutions: America, France, Britain, Ireland 1750-1850* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013), 13-27.

"Thomas Paine in the Atlantic Historical Imagination," in Peter Onuf and Simon Newman, eds., *Tom Paine and the Revolutionary Atlantic* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2013), 277-96.

“Property for All: Robert Coram and the American Revolution’s Legacy of Economic Populism,” in Alfred Young, Gary Nash, and Ray Raphael, eds., *Revolutionary Founders: Rebels, Radicals, and Reformers in the Making of the Nation*. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2011), 339-55.

"Becoming Modern: Nostalgia reminds us of what we have lost in the wake of progress," *Oregon Humanities*, (Spring 2009), 15-21.

“Tom Paine’s Readers and the Making of Democratic Citizens in the Age of Revolutions,” in Ronald F. King and Elsie Begler, eds., *Thomas Paine: Common Sense for the Modern Era*. San Diego: San Diego State University Press (2007), 121-137.

“Reading the Foreign News, Imagining an American Public Sphere: The Democratic-Republican Societies in Trans-Atlantic Context, 1793-1798.” In Sharon Harris and Mark Kamrath, eds., *Periodical Literature in Eighteenth Century America*. Knoxville, Tn.: University of Tennessee Press (2004), 307-338.

“The Federalists’ Transatlantic Cultural Offensive of 1798 and the Moderation of American Democratic Discourse.” In Jeffrey Pasley, Andrew Robertson, and David Waldstreicher, eds., *Beyond the Founders: The New Political History of the Early American Republic*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press (2004), 274-299.

“Joseph Gales and the Making of the Jeffersonian Middle Class.” In James Horn, Jan Lewis, and Peter Onuf, eds., *The Revolution of 1800: Democracy, Race, and the New Republic*. Charlottesville, Va.: University of Virginia Press (2002), 331-359.

“Radical Conceptions of Economic Equality and Property Rights in the Early American Republic: The Trans-Atlantic Dimension.” *Explorations in Early American Culture* v. 4 (2000), 191-219.

## Book Reviews

Review of Janet Polasky, Revolutions Without Borders: The Call to Liberty in the Atlantic World. *Journal of the Early Republic* v. 36, no. 3 (Fall 2016): 561-563.

Review of Russ Castronovo, Propaganda 1776: Secrets, Lies, and Revolutionary Communications in Early America. *American Historical Review* v. 121, no. 1 (2016): 231-2.

“In Search of America’s Radically Democratic Founders,” review of Robert Martin, *Government by Dissent*, Common-Place, v. 14, no. 4, Summer 2014: <http://www.common-place.org/vol-14/no-04/reviews/cotlar.shtml>

Review of Thomas Chambers, Memories of War: Visiting Battlegrounds and Boneyards in the Early American Republic. *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* v. 121, no. 4 (2013): 387-89.

“The View from Mount Vernon versus The People Out of Doors: Context and Conflict in the Ratification Debates” and “Narrative, Interpretation, and *the People’s* Debate over the

Constitution,” contributions to a forum on Pauline Maier, Ratification in the *William and Mary Quarterly* 69, no. 2 (April 2012): 369-72 and 395-97.

Review of Sophia Rosenfeld, Common Sense: A Political History. *American Historical Review* 117, no. 2 (April 2012): 488-9.

Review of Nigel Little, Transoceanic Radical, William Duane. *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 136, no. 1 (January 2012): 96-7.

Review of Woody Holton, Unruly Americans and the Origins of the Constitution and Terry Bouton, Taming Democracy: The People, the Founders, and the Troubled Ending of the American Revolution. *Journal of Southern History* 76, no. 4 (November 2010), 971-3.

Review of Maurice J. Bric, Ireland, Philadelphia, and the Re-invention of America. *Journal of American History* 96, no. 1, (June 2009), 190-1.

Review of Gary Nash and Graham Hodges, Friends of Liberty: Thomas Jefferson, Tadeusz Kosciuszko, and Agrippa Hull. *William and Mary Quarterly*, vol. LXVI, no. 1 (January 2009), 195-98.

Review of Todd Estes, The Jay Treaty, Public Opinion, and the Evolution of Early American Political Culture, May 2008, H-Diplo, <http://www.h-net.org/~diplo/roundtables/PDF/JayTreatyDebate-Cotlar.pdf>

Review of William J. Watkins, Jr., Reclaiming the American Revolution: The Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions and their Legacy. *Journal of the Early Republic* 26.1 (2006), 167-9.

Review of Andrew Shankman, Crucible of American Democracy: The Struggle to Fuse Egalitarianism and Capitalism in Jeffersonian Pennsylvania. *Journal of American History* 91, no. 4 (March 2005), 1438-9.

Review of Kenneth R. Bowling and Donald R. Kennon, The House and Senate in the 1790s: Petitioning, Lobbying, and Institutional Development. *Journal of American History* 90, no. 1 (June 2003), 211-2.

"The American Revolution in the Atlantic World," a review essay on Stephen Conway, The British Isles and the War of American Independence and Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy, An Empire Divided: The American Revolution and the British Caribbean. *Reviews in American History* 30, no. 3 (September 2002), 381-88.

Review of Nina Reid-Maroney, Philadelphia's Enlightenment, 1740-1800: Kingdom of Christ, Empire of Reason. *William and Mary Quarterly*, LIX, no. 2 (April 2002), 518-22.

Review of David A. Wilson, United Irishmen, United States: Immigrant Radicals in the Early Republic. March 1999, H-SHEAR. <http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=6999922976130>

Review of Peter McNamara, Political Economy and Statesmanship: Smith, Hamilton and the Foundation of the Commercial Republic. *Journal of the Early Republic* 18 (1998): 546-548.

## Encyclopedia Entries

"Democratic-Republican Societies." In Mark Spenser, ed., Encyclopedia of the American Enlightenment. Bristol, UK: Thoemmes Press (Forthcoming 2011).

"Thomas Paine." In Eric Arnesen, ed., Encyclopedia of US Labor and Working Class History (New York: Routledge, 2006), 1059-61.

"Thomas Paine." In Paul Finkelman, ed., The Encyclopedia of the New American Nation (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2005).

## Newspaper Columns

"Thomas Paine on the Proper Role of the Government," *Salem Statesman Journal*, November 4, 2012 (Reprinted in the *East Oregonian*, *Battle Creek (MI) Enquirer*, *The [Nashville] Tennessean*, *Burlington (VT) Free Press*, *Hattiesburg (MS) American*, *Johnstown (PA) Tribune-Democrat*, and *Montgomery (AL) Advertiser*)

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Newberry Library, Jack Miller Center Fellowship, 2016.

American Antiquarian Society, Center for Historical American Visual Culture Fellow, 2015.

Lawrence D. Cress Award for Excellence in Faculty Scholarship, 2012.

Library Company of Philadelphia, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship, 2008.

Millicent C. McIntosh Fellowship for Recently Tenured Faculty, Woodrow Wilson Foundation, 2007-9

Hewlett Foundation Grant for Summer Undergraduate Collaborative Research Project, 2007

Willamette University Study Time Award (two course reduction), Fall 2006

Hewlett Foundation Grant for the purchase of the Early American Newspaper Database, 2006

Hewlett Foundation Grant for Course Development, Willamette University, 2004

Atkinson Faculty Development Award, Willamette University, 2004

Junior Faculty Research Leave, Willamette University, spring 2003.

Award for Excellence in Scholarship, Willamette University, spring 2002.

Huntington Library, Huntington Postdoctoral Fellow 2002-3 (declined).

Invited participant in the Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World, Harvard University, 2000.

David Library of the American Revolution, Research Fellow, 1999.

Huntington Library, Robert L. Middlekauf Fellow, 1999.

American Antiquarian Society, Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Fellow, 1998.

McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Dissertation Fellow, 1997-98.

American Philosophical Society, Mellon Research Fellow, 1997.

English Speaking Union, Grant for Dissertation Research in the United Kingdom, 1997.

Northwestern University, Mellon Fellow, Seminar in Early Modern Anglo-American Political Thought, 1997.

Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies, Research Associate, 1996.

Library Company of Philadelphia, Mellon Foundation Fellowship, 1996

Northwestern University, Named Best Teaching Assistant/Graduate Instructor in the College of Arts and Sciences, 1996.

The North Caroliniana Society, Archie K. Davis Research Fellowship, 1996.

## CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

“Teaching the History of American Conservatism at a Liberal Arts College: Before and After November 8, 2016,” *American Historical Association Annual Meeting*, Washington, D.C., January 2018.

Commentator, “Changing Interpretations of Democracy in the Early American Republic,” *The Ninth Annual Meeting of the Society for US Intellectual History*. Dallas, Tx, October 2017.

Commentator, “Creating the Past in the Early Republic: Critical Perspectives on the Cultural Production of History and Memory,” *Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, Pa., July 2017.

Panelist, “Book Panel: Moral Minorities and the Making of American Democracy,” Policy History Conference, Nashville, Tn, June 2016.

Commentator, “Civilizing America: Reforming the World from and in the Nineteenth-Century United States,” American Historical Association—Pacific Coast Branch Meeting, Portland, August 2014.

Commentator, “The French Revolution and the Problem of Democracy,” Omohundro Institute for Early American History Annual Conference, Baltimore, June 2013.

Commentator, “French and American Approaches to Revolutionary-Era Transatlantic Republicanism,” Society of Early Americanists, Savannah, Ga., March 2013.

“When I was Your Age...: Nostalgic Representations of the Recent Past in the American Children’s Literature of the 1830s and 1840s.” *Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Meeting*, Baltimore, Md., July 2012 (an earlier version was presented at *Home, School, Play, Work: The Visual and Textual Worlds of Children*, a conference organized by The Center for Historic American Visual Culture and The Program in the History of the Book in American Culture. Princeton University, February 13-14, 2009.)

“‘They would speculate on the prospects they had of being separated:’ The Emotional Economy of Speculation and Nostalgia in the Era of Indian Removal and the Internal Slave Trade,” *Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture Annual Conference*, Pasadena, Ca., June 2012.

Commentator, “The History of History in the Early Republic,” *Society for the Historians of the Early American Republic Conference*, Rochester, NY, July 2010.

“The Language of Democracy in America,” *Two Eras of Democracy 1789-1848 Conference*, Oxford University, UK, June 2010.

“‘Americans who Love the Olden Times:’ Nostalgia, Modernization, and Historical

Consciousness in the 1820s," *Antiquities and Ruins in the Long Nineteenth Century*, Huntington Library, Los Angeles, March 12-3, 2010 and a revised version presented at the European Early American Studies Conference, Paris, December 2010.

"The Cultural History of Nostalgia in Modernizing America, 1776-1860," McNeil Center for Early American Studies Brown Bag series, Philadelphia, November 2008.

Commentator, "Patricide and American Public Opinion about the French Revolution," *Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Conference*, Philadelphia, Pa., July 2008.

Invited Symposium Participant, "Re-imagining Democracy, 1750-1850," Oxford University, UK, June 2008.

Commentator, "The French Connection," *Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Conference*, Worcester, Ma., July 2007.

Commentator, "Freethought and Religious Dissent in the Early American Republic," *Organization of American Historians*, Minneapolis, Mn., March 2007.

Panelist, "The Republican Mother Turns 30: Reflections on an Article and a Concept," *American Studies Association Annual Meeting*, Oakland, Ca., October 2006.

"Toward a History of Nostalgia in the Early American Republic," *Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Conference*, Montreal, July 2006.

"Tom Paine's Readers and the Making of Democratic Citizens in the Age of Revolutions," *Thomas Paine Symposium*, San Diego State University, October 2005.

Commentator, "Anxious Democrats: The Problem of Republican Governance in the Early Republic," *Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Conference*, Philadelphia, July 2005.

"Imagining a Nation of Reader-Citizens: American Democratic Newspapers and the Construction of Trans-National Political Subjectivities in the 1790s," *Geographies of Trans-National Networks*, Conference sponsored by the Geography Department at the University of Liverpool, May 2005.

Commentator, "Gender, Rights and the Reaction to the American Revolution," *Organization of American Historians*, Boston, Ma., March 2004.

Panelist, "Forum: The American Revolution: Old Questions, New Perspectives," *Organization of American Historians*, Memphis, Tn., April 2003.

Commentator, "America, France and Britain: Transatlantic Perspectives on Political Culture in the Age of Revolution," *Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Conference*, Berkeley, Ca., July 2002.

“Have You Read the News? Rethinking the Republic Through the Popular Press,” *Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference*, College Park, Md., June 2002.

“Reconceiving Community in the Commercial Empire: The Sandemanian Controversy of the 1760s in New England,” *Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference*, Glasgow, UK, July 2001.

Commentator, “New Worlds in a New World: Culture, Community, and Creation in the Early Republic,” *Society for Early Americanists*, Norfolk, Va., March 2001.

“Re-Contextualizing the Alien and Sedition Acts as a Trans-Atlantic Event.” *Organization of American Historians*, Toronto, March 1999; and *Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Conference*, Baltimore, July 2001.

“Reading the Foreign News, Imagining an American Public Sphere: The Democratic-Republican Societies in Trans-Atlantic Context, 1793-1796.” *American Historical Association*, Washington, DC, January 1999 and an expanded version presented at the *Harvard Seminar in the History of the Atlantic World (The Circulation of Ideas)*, August 2000.

“Radical Conceptions of Property Rights and Economic Equality in the Early American Republic: The Trans-Atlantic Dimension.” *McNeil Center for Early American Studies*, Philadelphia, November, 1998.

“The Rise and Demise of Popular Cosmopolitanism, 1790-1800.” *Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Conference*, Harpers Ferry, July 1998.

“‘The general will is always good, but by what sign shall we know it?’: The Debate Over the Role of ‘the Public’ in the Early American Republic, 1789-1804.” *Organization of American Historians*, Indianapolis, April 1998.

“‘Governing All by All:’ Radical Theories of Political Representation in Late-Eighteenth Century Britain.” *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies East-Central Division Conference*, Washington, DC, November 1996.

“Toward a Historical Understanding of American Liberalism: Two Case Studies in 1790’s Trans-Atlantic Radicalism.” *Society for Historians of the Early Republic Conference*, Nashville, July 1996.

## INVITED LECTURES

“‘Americans who Love the Olden Times:’ Nostalgia, Modernization, and Historical Consciousness in the 1820s.” University of Minnesota’s Center for Early Modern Studies, Minneapolis, February 2013.

"Our Progressive Founders?: Assessing the Accuracy of Tea Party Claims about Early American History," UThink Program sponsored by Willamette University, Browne's Town Lounge, Salem, Or., September 2011.

"Why did the democrats of the 1790s hate Alexander Hamilton so much," Linfield College Library, McMinnville, Or., April 2008.

"Thomas Paine and the Question of Democracy in the Early American Republic." Center for History and Social Change, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, October 2004.

"The Many Meanings of Liberty in the Age of the American Revolution," Presentation at the Northeast Wisconsin Teaching American History Workshop in Green Bay, October 2004.

"Declarations of Independence in American History," Presentation at the Oregon Historical Society Community Dialogues Program in Commemoration of the Declaration of Independence Exhibit, September 2003.

"The Implications of the Lewis and Clark Expedition for African Americans in the Early Republic," Presentation at *Unveiling the World in 1800*, a public symposium on the legacy of the Lewis & Clark Expedition at Lewis & Clark College, September 2003.

"Why Only Six People Came to Thomas Paine's Funeral: The Rise and Fall of Trans-Atlantic Radicalism in the Early American Republic," Indiana University of Pennsylvania, December 2002.

"Newspaper Reading and Trans-Atlantic Radicalism in the 1790s." *Seminar in the History of Material Texts*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, April 1998.

"Telling National Stories in a County History: Thoughts on Designing a Local History Curriculum for the Students of Central Cambria High School." Talk delivered to the Cambria County Historical Society, Loretto, Pennsylvania, June 1994.

## **COURSES DESIGNED AND TAUGHT (partial listing)**

### *Hamilton and History*

The American Revolution (5 times)

The Abolition of Slavery (2 times)

History Workshop: Hearing the Voices of the Enslaved (1 time)

The Early American Republic (4 times)

Seminar in Historiography (5 times)

U.S. History Survey, 1607-1865 (5 times)

American Intellectual History, 1607-1920 (5 times)

History of American Radicalism (3 times)

History of American Conservatism (3 times)

African-American History, 1619-1865 (5 times)

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**



Chair of Faculty Council (2016-18)  
 Admissions Committee (2014-present)  
 Institutional Marketing Committee (2014-present)  
 MLK Celebration Committee (2012-present)  
 Director of Mellon-funded Liberal Arts Research Collaborative (2010-2013)  
 Elected member of the Budget Advisory Committee (2012-14)  
 Chair of History Department (spring 2009-fall 2011)  
 Elected member of Faculty Council (fall 2009-spring 2011)  
 Faculty Resources Committee (spring 2009)  
 Council on Diversity and Social Justice (2006-2009)  
 Writing Program Advisory Committee (2006, 2011)  
 Residential Commons Committee. (2004-2006)  
 First-year seminar task force member, summer 2005.  
 Campus Sexual Assault Advisor (2004-ongoing)  
 American Ethnic Studies Program Committee. (2004-ongoing)  
 University representative at Conference on Undergraduate Research in La Crosse, Wisconsin, Summer 2004.  
 University representative at ILACA (Independent Liberal Arts Colleges Abroad) conference in Seattle dedicated to revising London study abroad program, May 2004.  
 American Ethnic Studies Search Committee. (2001, 2004)  
 Campus Life Committee. (2003-4)  
 Undergraduate Grants and Awards Committee. (2001-3)  
 Multiple University Search Committees.

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Co-organizer of “Historians-In-Chief: Presidents as Historians,” a conference sponsored by the Center for Presidential Studies at Southern Methodist University, October 2016.

Co-Chair (with Carolyn Eastman of Virginia Commonwealth University) of the Program Committee for the 2016 meeting of the Society for Historians of the Early Republic in Philadelphia.

Elected member of the Advisory Council for the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (2015-18).

External reviewer for NEH full-year Fellowship program. 2015.

Invited participant in Council of Independent Colleges/Gilder-Lehrman Institute seminar on Slave Narratives at Yale University, May 2015. Prof. David Blight, convener.

Manuscript reviewer for the *William and Mary Quarterly*, *Journal of Southern History*, *Journal of the Early Republic*, *North Carolina Historical Review*, *Early American Studies*, *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*, *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, *Journal of British Studies*, *History Compass*, University of Virginia Press, and Oxford University Press.

External reviewer for tenure and promotion cases at Grinnell College, Goucher College, and Kalamazoo College.

Member of the Program Committee, Society for the Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Conference, 2004, 2014, & 2015.

Elected to the Nominating Committee of the Society for the Historians of the Early American Republic (2011-2014).

Served on the 2014-15 NEH post-doctoral fellowship selection committee for the Library Company of Philadelphia.

Faculty leader of Willamette University's study abroad program at the National University of Ireland-Galway, spring 2012.

Served on the 2009-10 John Hench Post-Doctoral Fellowship Selection Committee for the American Antiquarian Society.

Faculty leader of a one-semester study abroad program in London, UK, spring 2006. Taught one course on Tom Paine and the Age of Democratic Revolutions.

Invited participant in Council of Independent Colleges/Gilder-Lehrman Institute seminar on the Political History of the Early Republic at Columbia University, June 2003. Prof. Joyce Appleby, convener.

Co-Organizer of "Speaking in Signs: Cultures of Communication in the Early Modern Americas," a graduate student conference sponsored by the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Sept. 24-5, 1999.

Curriculum Designer, Central Cambria High School, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania. Wrote a textbook and designed classroom activities for an eight-week course on local history, 1994.