

JESSE GANT

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EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin—Madison

Ph.D., Department of History, Anticipated Summer 2019

Dissertation: "At Freedom's Edge: Black Activists and the Political Antislavery Parties in the American West"

Advisors: Stephen Kantrowitz and William P. Jones (co-chairs); Susan Lee Johnson, William Cronon

Research and Teaching Fields: 19th Century U.S. History, African American History, Western History, the Ages of Revolution and Emancipation, and Public History

New York University

M.A. in the John W. Draper Program in Humanities and Social Thought, September 2007

Thesis: "'Freemen to the Rescue': Wisconsin Commemorates the Underground Railroad"

Advisor: Jennifer Morgan, American Studies Department

Carroll University

B.A. in History and Political Science, May 2003

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Wheel Fever: How Wisconsin Became a Great Bicycling State Madison: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2013. (With Nicholas J. Hoffman)

Awards

Winner, Award of Merit, *American Association for State and Local History*, 2014

Jon Gjerde Prize, *Midwestern History Association*, Finalist, 2014

Norbert Blei/August Derleth Nonfiction Book Award, *Council for Wisconsin Writers*, Honorable Mention, 2013

IndieFab Award, *Foreword Reviews*, Regional Category, Bronze, 2013

Midwest Book Award, *Midwest Independent Publishers Association*, History and Recreation/Sports Categories, Finalist, 2013

Museum Exhibits Based on Book

"Catch Wheel Fever" Old World Wisconsin, Opened June 2014

"Shifting Gears: A Cyclical History of Badger Bicycling" Wisconsin Historical Society Museum, Madison, February 2015.

"Shifting Gears: A Cyclical History of Badger Bicycling" The History Museum at the Castle, Appleton, Wisconsin, November 2015.

Articles

"'Younger and More Irreconcilable': James Albert Woodburn's Undergraduate Orations at Indiana University, 1875-1876" *Indiana Magazine of History* 108, no. 2. June 2012. Peer reviewed.

"'Patriotism is Above Political Consideration': A Look Back at the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Civil War in Wisconsin" *Wisconsin Magazine of History* 94, no. 3. Spring 2011.

Book Reviews

A review of Bob Luke and John David Smith, *Soldiering for Freedom: How the Union Army Recruited, Trained, and Deployed the U.S. Colored Troops* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 2013) in the *Journal of African American History*, Vol. 101, No. 3, Summer 2016.

A review of Evan Friss, *The Cycling City: Bicycles and Urban America in the 1890s* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015) in *Winterthur Portfolio*, Vol. 50, No. 2/3, Summer/Autumn 2016.

A review of Lorenz J. Finison, *Boston's Cycling Craze, 1880-1900: A Story of Race, Sport, and Society* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2014) in the *Journal of Sport History* 42, no. 3. Fall 2015.

A review of R. Gregory Nokes, *Breaking Chains: Slavery on Trial in the Oregon Territory* (Oregon State University Press, 2013) in *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 104, no. 4. Fall 2013.

Documentary Film Reviews (Peer Reviewed)

A review of "As Goes Janesville," (2012) for the *Middle West Review*, Vol. 3, No. 1. Fall 2016. Peer Reviewed.

Encyclopedia and Biography Entries

"Bicycling." *The Encyclopedia of Milwaukee*. DeKalb, Illinois: Northern Illinois University Press, 2017. Peer Reviewed.

"James Albert Woodburn." In Linda C. Gugin and James E. St. Clair, ed. *Indiana's 200: The People Who Shaped the Hoosier State* Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society Press, 2015.

Web

Chapter Editor, "The Sectional Crisis," *American Yawp*, 2014-

"An African American Waiter and the Bullet-Shredded Spotsylvania Stump," *O Say Can You See*, Smithsonian National Museum of American History Blog, 2014

"Whites on Bikes: Racial Exclusivity in Early Cycling," *U.S. History Scene*, 2014

"Paranormal, U.S.A: Ghost Tourism and Historical Memory at Alton, Illinois," *Humanities NOW*, University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for the Humanities, 2013

"Lincoln Slept Here," *Humanities NOW*, University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for the Humanities, 2012

"John Brown's Dream," *History News Network*, 2009

"Doing Environmental History: Manuscripts and What Are the Documents," Learning to Do Historical Research, *William Cronon's Webpage*, 2008

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

The Smithsonian National Museum of American History

Committee for Institutional Cooperation Smithsonian Institution Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, 2013-2014. Competitive yearlong residential fellowship at the National Museum of American History, Library of Congress, and National Portrait Gallery

University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for the Humanities

Public Humanities Fellow, Wisconsin Humanities Council and University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for the Humanities, 2014-2015; supported by funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities
Public Humanities Exchange Grant, 2013 [declined]

University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of History

Dissertation Research Travel Grant, 2012
B. Ruth Barton Department Fellowship, 2011
University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of History Fellowship, 2009
Futures of American Studies Travel Grant, Dartmouth College, 2009

University of Wisconsin-Madison Chancellor's Office

Chancellor's Borderlands Fellowship, 2011

University of Wisconsin-Madison Center For Culture, History, and Environment

Research and Travel Grant, 2011

Visiting Research Fellowships

Everett Helm Visiting Research Fellowship, Lilly Library, Indiana University, 2010
Jacob Price Visiting Fellow, Clements Library, University of Michigan, 2009

Undergraduate

Carroll University Presidential Scholarship, Department of History, 1999-2003
George F. Kennan Fellow, Carroll University, 1999-2003
Best Scholarly Paper in the Humanities, Carroll University, 2003
Outstanding History Department Graduate, Carroll University, 2003

TEACHING

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Instructor | History 102: American History from the Civil War Era to the Present, Spring 2018
Instructor | History 227: The Black Abolitionists in History and Memory, Summer 2018 [Online]

Teaching Assistant | History 344: The Era of the American Revolution, Spring 2016
Teaching Assistant | History 393: Slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction, Spring 2010
Teaching Assistant | History 393: The Civil War Era, Spring 2009

Tutor | History Department Writing Lab, Spring 2016
Instructor | Communication Arts 100, Fall 2010

University of Wisconsin-Madison Divisions of Independent Learning and Continuing Studies

Instructor | History 393: The Civil War Era, Division of Independent Learning (Online) [2017-Ongoing]

Lecturer | Ulysses S. Grant: History, Memory, and Biography, Fall 2018
Lecturer | Death and the American Civil War, Fall 2017
Lecturer | The Civil War and Emancipation in the American Midwest, Spring 2017
Lecturer | Reconstruction, Fall 2016
Lecturer | Wisconsin and the Antislavery Movement to 1854, Spring 2016
Lecturer | Abraham Lincoln and the Upper Mississippi Valley in the Civil War Era, Fall 2015
Lecturer | Bicycling: Past, Present, and Future, Spring 2015

University of Missouri-Saint Louis

Instructor | The Civil War Era, History 2004, Fall 2018

Fontbonne University, Saint Louis, Missouri

Instructor | History 106, American History Since the Civil War, Summer 2018
Instructor | History 102, American History since the Civil War, Fall 2018
Instructor | History 430, American Social History, Fall 2018

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Teaching Assistant | History 105: U.S. History 1877-Present, Spring 2006
Teaching Assistant | Race, Science, and Medicine in the U.S. (Honors), Fall 2005

PUBLIC HISTORY

Paid Exhibit Research, Writing, and Consultation

"Mapping Decline: Saint Louis and the Fate of the American City" *Missouri History Museum*, Saint Louis, Summer 2016-Spring 2017.

"A Stone of Hope: Black Experiences in the Fox Cities." *The History Museum at the Castle*, Appleton, WI, 2014

Winner, Award of Merit. *American Association For State and Local History*, 2015

"250 in 250: 50 People, 50 Places, 50 Images, 50 Moments, 50 Objects" *Missouri History Museum*, Saint Louis, 2013

Publishing

Editorial Assistant, Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2008-2013

Archives and Libraries

Archival Assistant, *Tamiment Labor Archive*, New York University, 2007

Collections Processed: Spanish Refugee Aid, Inc.

Archival Assistant, *University of Milwaukee Golda-Meir Library*, 2004-2006

Collections Processed: Brady East STD Clinic Records, 1972-2004; Juan Alvarez Cuauhtémoc Photographs, *El Movimiento* in Milwaukee, 1968-1971; Midwest Archives Conference Records, 1972-Ongoing; Milwaukee Journal Stations Records, 1922-1997; Pabst Brewing Company Records, 1873-1940; Willis and Lillian Leenhouts Architects Records, 1936-1990

SERVICE

Alliance for Higher Education in Prison (AHEP)

Administrative Assistant to Interim Director Mary Gould, 2017-

Speakers Series Administration

Project Assistant, "Emancipations," Assistant to Professor Stephen Kantrowitz, 2012-2013

"Emancipations," a one-year speakers' series commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, sponsored in part through the University of Wisconsin's Center for the Humanities. Included Jim Downs (Connecticut College), Steven Hahn (University of Pennsylvania), Eddie Glaude, Jr. (Princeton University), Thavolia Glymph (Duke University), Tiya Miles (University of Michigan), and Heather Ann Thompson (University of Michigan).

Public Humanities Project Administration

Project Lead, *Working Lives*, Wisconsin Humanities Council, 2014-2016

ShopTalk Speaker: "Abraham Lincoln and the Rise of Free Labor in Wisconsin";
"The Commute"

Graduate Student Leadership

Elected Member, Graduate Student/Faculty Liaison Committee, 2014-2015

Treasurer, Center for Culture, History and Environment, UW-Madison, 2010

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

Invited Lectures

"Wisconsin's Underground Railroad in History and Memory." Wisconsin Historical Society,
History Sandwiched In, August 2015

"Wheel Fever." Beloit College, March 23, 2014

"The Places of History in Janesville, Wisconsin." Keynote, *Rock County Historical Society 65th
Annual Membership Banquet*, April 23, 2014

"La Crosse and the Early Bicycling Boom." Keynote for University of La Crosse Department of
History, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, March 27, 2014

"Lincoln Slept Here: The Republican Party Through Slavery, War, and Reconstruction."
Smithsonian National Museum of American History Colloquium, March 11, 2014

"'We Opposed Bad Men Everywhere': Manhood, Memory, and the Abolitionists," Keynote,
University of Wisconsin-Madison Program in Gender and Women's History Spring
Program, March 25, 2009

Conference Presentations

"Gender and the College Literary Society in the Civil War Years," University of Wisconsin-
Madison, Gendered Borders and Queer Frontiers, Graduate Student Conference, March
16-17, 2012

"My Countrymen: Race, Midwestern Manhood, and the Civil War Semi-Centennial," University
of Wisconsin-Madison Graduate Student Symposium on North American Landscapes,
Regions, and Peoples, May 8, 2010

"From Rails to Trails: A History of Bicycling and Bicycling Culture in Wisconsin," University
of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Culture, History, and Environment Graduate Student
Symposium, April 10, 2010

"Milwaukee's Underground Railroad Murals and Problems of Urban Memory," Dartmouth
College, Futures of American Studies Institute, June 2009

"John Brown's Body: Remembering Anti-Slavery at North Elba, New York." State University of
New York, Plattsburgh, June 2009 [Paper accepted]

"Freemen to the Rescue! Wisconsin Commemorates the Underground Railroad." New York
University, John W. Draper Program Spring Graduate Student Colloquium, April 2007

"Cold Mountain: Torture, Violence, and the Return of Lost Causes." New York University, New
York University Cinema and Media Studies Conference, February 2007

"The Underground Railroad in History and Memory." University of Memphis, From Slavery to
Freedom: The African American Experience, September 2006

"Lake Baikal: A Case Study in Environmental Ethics." Kokshetau State University, Kazakhstan, May 2001

Radio

"Wheel Fever." *University of the Air*, Wisconsin Public Radio, March 1, 2015

"Edith Shuler: Wisconsin's 19th Century Bicycling Ambassador, 1869" *Wisconsin Life*, Wisconsin Public Radio, November 24, 2014

"Wheel Fever." *Newsmakers*, Wisconsin Public Radio, April 10, 2014

"Wisconsin Legend: Walter Sanger." *Central Time*, Wisconsin Public Radio, March 27, 2014

"Wheel Fever." *Central Time*, Wisconsin Public Radio. September 13, 2013

"African American Cycling in Saint Louis." *Here's History*, KDHX FM Saint Louis, September 2013

"Bicycling Past and Present." *45 North*, Wisconsin Public Radio, May 10, 2013

Television

"Wheel Fever." *University Place Presents with Norman Gilliland*, Wisconsin Public Television, March 27, 2014

MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

Midwestern History Association

Organization of American Historians

The Society of Civil War Historians

Society for Historians of the Early American Republic

Western History Association

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Stephen Kantrowitz

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1141 Heller Hall

Minneapolis, MN 55455

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Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison

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