

Emma Wathen

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RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Disability History; Disability Studies; History of Medicine; Gender History; United States History; Reproduction; Disability and Health Activism; American Medicine and Public Health; Global Health

EDUCATION

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| expected
June 2026 | Joint Ph.D. in History & History of Science, Medicine, and Technology ,
University of Wisconsin–Madison
<u>Concentration</u> : Program in Gender and Women’s History
<u>Dissertation</u> : “Willing and Disabled: Disability, Parenting, and Activism in the
Postwar United States”
<u>Committee</u> : Judith A. Houck, Susan E. Lederer, Sami Schalk, Marla A. Ramírez |
| 2021 | M.A. in History of Science, Medicine, and Technology , University of
Wisconsin–Madison
<u>Thesis</u> : “Known to Be Harmless, Harmed to Be Known: Medical Experimentation
on Pregnant Women and Infants in 1930s America” |
| 2017 | B.A. in History (honors) and Communication Arts (Radio/TV/Film, with
distinction) and Certificate in Entrepreneurship , University of Wisconsin–
Madison |

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

- “These ‘Children Won’t Become Women’: Depo-Provera, Intellectual Disability, and the Indian Health Service,” *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* (in press).
- “In Sickness and In Health?: Wisconsin’s Eugenic Marriage Law, 1913–1981,” *ARCHIVE: An Undergraduate Journal of History* 21 (May 2018): 61–85.
- “Women, Good People, and Bad People: Women in Early Shanghai Cinema,” *ARCHIVE: An Undergraduate Journal of History* 19 (May 2016): 73–86.

Book Reviews

- Review of Christin L. Hancock, *Unmentionable Madness: Gender, Disability, and Shame in the Malarial Treatment of Neurosyphilis*, in *H-Net Network on Science, Medicine, and Technology* (forthcoming).
- Review of Sara Matthiesen, *Reproduction Reconceived: Family Making and the Limits of Choice after Roe v. Wade*, in *Resources for Gender and Women’s Studies: A Feminist Review* 45, no. 3–4 (2024): 17–18.
- Review of Akemi Nishida, *Just Care: Messy Entanglements of Disability, Dependency and Desire*, in *Resources for Gender and Women’s Studies: A Feminist Review* 45, no. 1–2 (2024): 7–8.
- Review of Jacqueline Rose, *On Violence and On Violence Against Women*, in *Resources for Gender and Women’s Studies: A Feminist Review* 44, no. 3–4 (2023): 21.

Review of Rebecka Taves Sheffield, *Documenting Rebellions: A Study of Four Lesbian and Gay Archives in Queer Times*, in *Resources for Gender and Women's Studies: A Feminist Review* 44, no. 1–2 (2023): 9–10.

Public Engagement

Cohost, *Disability History Association Podcast*, interviews with Sandra M. Sufian, Doug Crandell, Nora O'Neill, Andrew J. Hogan, Tulika Singh, Miriam Rich, Maria Cristina Galmarini, and Janet Weston, January 2023–present

Guest Host, *Disability History Association Podcast*, interview with Sami Schalk, January 2023

“Access Denied: Brigid McGuire vs. the University of Wisconsin–Madison,” *Public History Project Blog*, April 1, 2020. <<https://publichistoryproject.wisc.edu/access-denied-brigid-mcguire-vs-the-university-of-wisconsin-madison/>>

PRIZES AND HONORS

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| 2025 | Shryock Medal, American Association for the History of Medicine
<i>Awarded for the best unpublished essay by a graduate student on any topic in the history of medicine</i> |
| 2024 | Alida Boorn Disability Studies and Disabled Scholar Award, Western History Association |
| 2023 | Campus-Wide Early Excellence in Teaching Award, UW–Madison
<i>One of the 21 best teaching assistants out of 2,300 at UW–Madison</i> |
| 2023 | Deborah A. Hobbins Graduate Student Award in Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice, Center for Research on Gender and Women |
| 2022 | Early Excellence in Teaching Award, Department of History, UW–Madison |
| 2018 | Andrew Bergman Prize, Department of History, UW–Madison
<i>Awarded for the best undergraduate paper written for a history course</i> |
| 2018 | Fred Harvey Harrington Prize, Department of History, UW–Madison
<i>Awarded for the best undergraduate thesis by a history major</i> |
| 2014 | Charles M. Hart Jr. Writers of Promise Award, 1st Place
<i>Awarded for the best poetry and fiction by students enrolled in introductory creative writing course</i> |

FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

External

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| 2024 | Madeleine L'Engle Travel Research Fellowship, Smith College Special Collections |
| 2024 | Schlesinger Library Dissertation Support Grant, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University |

University of Wisconsin–Madison

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| 2026 | Maurice L. Richardson Fellowship |
| 2024–25 | Dissertation Research Travel Award, Department of History |
| 2024–25 | John A. Neu Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in the History of Science |
| 2021–22 | Graduate Student Summer Funding Scholarship, Department of History |
| 2016–17 | Trewartha Undergraduate Honors Research Grant, L&S Honors Program |

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

2020 “Disability History at UW,” #UWCelebratesADA30, University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Panels Organized

- 2025 Constructions of Illness and Disability, Impacts on Family and Public Life, and Responses through Activism and Kinship, New Directions in Disability Studies, University of Cincinnati.
- 2024 Reimagining Feminist Social Movements with Feminist of Color Disability Studies, National Women’s Studies Association, Detroit, MI.
- 2024 (Dis)Possessing Reproductive Bodies, Western History Association, Kansas City, MO.

Conference Papers

- 2025 “‘I Am an Iron-Lung Mother’: Polio Mothers, Iron-Lung Births, and Disability Activism in the Postwar United States,” 27th International Congress of History of Science & Technology, Dunedin, New Zealand.
- 2025 “These ‘Children Won’t Become Women’: Depo-Provera, Intellectual Disability, and the Indian Health Service,” American Association for the History of Medicine, Boston, MA.
- 2023 “‘Fresh Specimens’: Obstetrical Experimentation in the United States, 1910–40,” American Association for the History of Medicine, University of Michigan.
- 2022 “The Girls at Taycheedah: Labor and Political Organization in the Wisconsin Industrial Home for Women,” UW Reproductive History Graduate Symposium, University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- 2022 “The Girls at Taycheedah: Labor and Political Organization in the Wisconsin Industrial Home for Women,” Women’s and Gender History Symposium, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
- 2021 “Creating Vulnerable Populations: Medical Experimentation on Pregnant Women and Infants in 1930s America,” Midwest Junto, Iowa State University.
- 2017 “In Sickness and In Health?: Wisconsin’s Eugenic Marriage Law, 1913–1981,” Senior Honors Thesis Symposium, University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Lightning Rounds

- 2025 Graduate Student Research Lightning Round, Organization of American Historians Conference on American History, Chicago, IL.
- 2024 SouthxWest Exchanges, Southern Historical Association Graduate Council and Western Historical Association Graduate Caucus.
- 2022 “‘I Still Make a Shadow’: A Case File from Waupun State Prison,” Notes from the Archive Roundtable, History of Science, Medicine, and Technology Brown Bag, University of Wisconsin–Madison.

FURTHER EDUCATION

- 2025 Teaching Disability History with Laurel Daen (University of Notre Dame), Organization of American Historians Conference on American History, Chicago, IL.
- 2022 Discussion Project, Wisconsin Center for Education Research.
- 2022 Humanities Grant Writing Camp, UW–Madison Writing Center.
- 2020 Oral History Workshop with Troy Reeves, UW–Madison Archives.

TEACHING

Guest Lectures

“The Road to Reproductive Justice,” lecture for HIST SCI 212: Bodies, Diseases, and Healers, taught by Dr. Nicholas Jacobson, University of Wisconsin–Madison, May 2023.

Instructor of Record

HIST SCI 212: Bodies, Diseases, and Healers: An Introduction to the History of Medicine
(Summer 2023, Summer 2024 & Summer 2025)

Teaching Assistant

HIST SCI 212: Bodies, Diseases, and Healers: An Introduction to the History of Medicine	2023
HIST 101: American History to the Civil War Era: The Origin & Growth of the U.S.	2022
MED HIST 553: International Health and Global Society	2021
HIST SCI 133: Biology and Society, 1950–Today	2021

Wisconsin Prison Humanities Project

A History of Disease, Difference, and the Body (course designer and instructor)	2024
Money, Materialism, and Power in the Gilded Age (instructor)	2023
Animals and Human History (instructor)	2022

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

University of Wisconsin–Madison, Department of History

2024	Graduate Student Advisory Committee for the Allan H. Selig Assistant Professorship Job Search, Student Representative
2023–24	Graduate Student-Faculty Liaison Committee, Student Representative
2023	Teaching STEM Undergraduates Interest Group, Mentor
2023	Graduate Program Manager Job Search, Graduate Student Session Leader
2022–24	Joint Committee on Teaching Assistants, Student Representative
2022–23	Teaching Assistant Preview Experience Program, Mentor
2021–22	Pedagogy Subcommittee, Student Representative
2020–22	Graduate Council, Student Representative

University of Wisconsin–Madison, External Departments

2025–26	Collaborative for Reproductive Equity, Lab Member
2025	Collective for Humanism, Arts & Storytelling in Medicine, History of Eugenics Docent
2020	Genetics Department Reading Group on Scientific Accountability, Discussion Leader

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistance (University of Wisconsin–Madison)

Susan Lederer, Department of Medical History and Bioethics, Summer 2020 & Fall 2025
Judith Houck, Department of Gender and Women’s Studies, Fall 2020, Summer 2021 & Fall 2022
Nicole Nelson, Department of Medical History and Bioethics, Fall 2023
Kacie Lucchini Butcher, Public History Project, Fall 2019

Administrative Assistance

History of Science, Medicine, and Technology Program, Department of History,
Brown Bag & Colloquium Project Assistant, 2022–24
UW Reproductive History Graduate Symposium, Program in Gender and Women’s History,
Organizer and Panel Chair, 2021–22

Academic Editing

History of Pharmacy and Pharmaceuticals Journal, American Institute of the History of Pharmacy,
Editorial Assistant, Fall 2023

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Association for the History of Medicine
Disability History Association
Organization of American Historians
Reproductive Health Histories (Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine)

LANGUAGES

English (native), French (reading proficiency), American Sign Language (beginner)
Quantitative Methods Concentration: biostatistics, epidemiology, beginner-level R