

Christine E. Sears, Ph.D.

In my research and teaching, I focus on the Early American republic and antebellum periods, particularly working with American slavery, comparative slavery, and the maritime world. I also have a special interests in gender history and public history.

Associate Professor of History at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, August 2013

Assistant Professor at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, August 2007

Courses Taught: World History to 1500, United States History to 1877, Historical Methods, Women in American History, Honors Gender History, Honors Tricksters

Upper level: Early American Republic, Atlantic World, Comparative Slavery, Public History and Memory: Slavery

Graduate Courses: Recent Interpretations of Modern History, Studies in 19th Century

Ph.D. in American History from the University of Delaware, May 2007

Minor Field: The Ottoman Empire and North Africa, with an emphasis on slavery

Dissertation: "A Different Kind of Slavery: American Captives in Barbary"

Advisor: Peter Kolchin, Committee: Cathy Matson, Owen White, Gillian Weiss

M.A. in American History from the University of Delaware, May 2000

Master's Thesis, "Submit Like a Man: Self-Representation of Masculinity in Barbary Narratives," analyzed captivity narratives of enslaved Americans and letters surrounding the Tripolitan War to explore masculinity in the early republic.

Publications

Forthcoming, Co-editor, *New Directions in Slavery Studies: Commodification, Community, and Comparison*, Louisiana State University Press. Co-author of introduction, and author of chapter, "In Algiers, the City of Bondage': Comparative Slavery in the Urban Context." Fall 2015.

American Slaves and African Masters: Algiers and the Western Sahara, 1776-1830. Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

"Slavery as Social Mobility? Western Slaves in Late-Eighteenth Century Algiers," in Silvia Marzagalli, James R. Sofka, and John McCusker (eds.), *Rough Waters: The United States Involvement in the Mediterranean, 18th and 19th Centuries*, *Research in Maritime History* no. 44 (March 2011): 207-220.

Publications—Book Reviews

"No Magnolias or Mint Juleps," Review of *Slave Breeding* by Gregory D. Smithers, for H-Civil War, March 2015, <https://networks.h-net.org/node/4113/reviews/64746/sears-smithers-slave-breeding-sex-violence-and-memory-african-american>

Review of *Slavery Before Race* by Katherine Hayes (NYU press, 2013) for the *Journal of American Ethnic History* 34, no. 1 (Fall 2014): 113-115.

Review of James Walvin, *The Zong: A Massacre, the Law and the End of Slavery* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011) for the *Journal of World History* vol. 24, no.4 (2013).

Review of Walter Johnson, *River of Dark Dreams: Slavery and Empire in the Cotton Kingdom*, in *The Civil War Monitor*, posted 7/10/2013. <http://www.civilwarmonitor.com/book-shelf/johnson-river-of-dark-dreams-2013>

“Early American Manhood: Worlds Gained, Worlds Lost,” Review of John Gilbert McCurdy’s *Citizen Bachelor: Manhood and the Creation of the United States* (Cornell University Press, 2009) and Richard Godbeer’s *The Overflowing of Friendship: Love Between Men and the Creation of the American Republic* (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009) for *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 45, no. 3 (Spring 2012): 443-447.

“Captive Knowledge.” Review of *Horrors of Slavery, or the American Tars in Tripoli* by William Ray ed. Hester Blum (Rutgers University Press, 2008), and Lisa Voigt, *Writing Captivity in the Early Modern Atlantic: Circulations of Knowledge and Authority in the Iberian and English Imperial Worlds* (The University of North Carolina Press, 2008) for *History: Reviews of New Books* 38, no. 3 (2010): 77-79.

Review of Martha B. Katz-Hyman and Kym S. Rice (eds.), *World of a Slave: Encyclopedia of the Material Life of Slaves in the United States* (ABC-CLIO/Greenwood, 2011) for *Winterthur Portfolio*, vol. 47, no. 1 (Spring 2013).

Review of Lawrence Peskin’s *Captives and Countrymen: Barbary Slavery and the American Public, 1785-1816* (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009) in *Maryland Historical Magazine* vol. 104, no. 3 (Fall 2009): 335-337.

Review of Frank Lambert’s *The Barbary Wars* for H-Atlantic , H-Net Reviews, March 2008, <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=220101206468665>

Conference Presentations

“‘Tyrannical Masters is the Turks’: The Mediterranean and Ottoman Context of Barbary Captivity,” for a Middle East Studies Association’s Annual Meeting panel entitled “Engaging Orlando Patterson’s Social Death of Slaves or What is Islamic about Slavery in Muslim Societies?” Washington, DC, November 2015.

“‘Git You at Liberty’: How ‘the People’ Understood State and Citizens’ Obligations” at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) Annual Meeting, July 2014.

“‘Arab Speculators’: Arab Masters and Slave Ransoming in the Late Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries” at the Perspectives on Historical and Contemporary Ransoming Practices at York University, sponsored by the Harriet Tubman Institute for Research. April 2014.

“Pirate’s Lackey to Hero: William Bainbridge and National Identity,” as part of a panel entitled “Founding Villains: Liars, Scoundrels, and Thieves in the Making of Early America,” that I organized for the American Historical Association’s Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Jan. 2013.

“‘Most Obedient and Loving Subjects’: Impressed Seamen and the Rhetoric of Citizenship,” presented at the University of Western Brittany’s “The Americas in 1812” conference June 2012.

“‘All Humble Mariners’: Sailors and Democratic Discourse in the Early American Republic” as part of the panel that I organized “From the Bottom Up: Sailors and Democracy” at the Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., April 2010.

“Slavery as Social Mobility? Western Slaves in Late Eighteenth-Century Algiers” presented at

conference “Rough Waters: The United States’ Involvement in the Mediterranean during the Late Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Century” organized by the Centre de la Méditerranée Moderne et Contemporaine, University of Nice, France, October 2008.

“‘Capable of Anything’: Conflict Among Slaves” presented on a panel that I organized, entitled “Re-Visiting the Slave Community: Hidden Aspects of Slave Agency” at the Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, March 2008.

“‘Not Degrading to yourself or the Flag of the U States’: Early Republic Struggles on the World Stage,” presented on a panel entitled “Gendered and Sexed Identities in U.S. Discourse: Ethnicity, Manliness, and International Relations” at the American Historical Association’s Annual Meeting, January 2007.

Other Presentations

“Slavery in the Atlantic World” at the SUPER Teacher Institute on “Slavery in Alabama: Public Amnesia and Historic Memory” sponsored by the Alabama Humanities Foundation and the Alabama Archives and Department of History, July 2009

“The Barbary Pirates: Letters to Tripoli” on the Best Practices: Examples of Historical Thinking site for the National History Education Clearinghouse website. NHEC is a collaboration between George Mason University’s Center for History and New Media and Stanford University’s School of Education. My 20-minute video supports K-12 teachers’ work.

<http://teachinghistory.org/best-practices/examples-of-historical-thinking/24298>

Fellowships and Awards

- 2014 UAH Individual Investigator Distinguished Research Grant
- 2014 UAH Humanities Center Faculty Research Grant
- 2011 UAH Junior Faculty Distinguished Research Grant
- 2008 UAH Mini-Research Grant
- 2007 John A. Munroe Memorial Award for Excellent Teaching for the development of an outstanding course and exceptional teaching.
- 2007 Office of Graduate Studies Graduate Travel Fund Award
- 2006 Colonial Dames of America District 10 Award in American History
- 2006 Office of Graduate Studies Graduate Travel Fund Award
- 2004 Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Fellowship
- 2002 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship at the Library Company of Philadelphia and Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Professional Experience

Research Assistant to Brock Jobe, Professor in Academic Programs at Winterthur Museum, 2001-2003. I assisted Professor Jobe with course for the Winterthur Program of Early American Culture Program at the University of Delaware.

Intern at the Historic Houses of Odessa in Odessa, Delaware, 1998.

I planned and implemented the spring tour, “Tea and Thee,” including choosing objects, delineating interpretive goals, and training guides to give the tour.

Guide Specialist and School Services Assistant at Winterthur Museum, 1991-2007.

I started as a part-time guide interpreting the collection of American decorative arts. In 1994, I was promoted to full-time School Service Assistant. I interpreted the collection for visitors and developed and implanted on and off site school programs for grades Pre-K through college. I trained as a Guide Specialist in Interpretation, after which I was part of team that did training for Winterthur guides and guides at other regional museums.

Secondary Teacher at Woodbury High Scholl and then at St. Mary's Hall, 1991-1993, teaching primarily English classes to grades 6 through 11.

Selected Service

H-Atlantic editor, August 2013-present

Member, Mentoring Committee for the Southern Association of Women Historians, 2015-2016

Member, Alabama Early Americanists

Reader for the *Journal of Early Republic* 2014

Southern Historical Association's Holmes Award Committee, 2014

Alabama Historical Association's Program Committee, 2012

Coley Book Prize Committee, 2014

Sulzby Book Prize Committee, 2014-15

UAH Humanities Center Steering Committee, Fall 2014-present

Faculty Senate, Fall 2012-2014, 2015-present

Student Conduct Board, 2011-2013, 2015-present

Women's Studies Program Advisory Committee, August 2010-present

Board of Directors of Friends of the Alabama Archives and Department of History, 2010-present

Secretary, Fall 2011-present, Fellowship Committee, Spring 2012-present