

Christine E. Sears, Ph.D.
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Chair, History Dept. 2021-

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

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

Courses Lower-level: First Year Experience, World History to 1500, United States History to 1877, Craft of History, Women in American History, Honors Gender History.

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

Graduate Courses: Recent Interpretations of Modern History, Studies in 19th Century, Studies in the 18th 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.

B.S. in English and Humanities Secondary Education from Wright State University, Ohio
May 1991. University Honors Scholar graduating magna cum laude.

Publications –Books

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

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

Publications--Chapters

"'Arab Speculators,' States and Ransom Slavery in the Western Sahara," in Mario Klarer, editor, *Piracy in the Mediterranean 1500-1810*, Routledge, 2018.

<https://www.routledge.com/Piracy-and-Captivity-in-the-Mediterranean-1550-1810/Klarer/p/book/9781138640276>

"'Tyranical Masters is the Turks': Comparative Context of Barbary Slavery," in *Slavery in the Islamic World: Its Characteristics and Commonality*, Mary Ann Fay (ed.), Palgrave Macmillan, 2018.

Publications—Peer-Reviewed Articles

“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.

Christine E. Sears and Jason O’Brien. “Victor or Villain: Werhner von Braun and the Space Race,” *The Social Studies* 102, no. 2 (Mach 2011): 59-64.

Publications—Invited

“Slave Regimes,” for Edward J. Blum et al. (eds.) *American in the World: 1776 to the Present: A Supplement to the Dictionary of American History*, 1st ed. Charles Scribner’s and Sons, 2016, pages 952-955.

http://www.cengage.com/search/productOverview.do?N=197+4294904579&Ntk=P_EPI&Ntt=512933345123558429614249163988483669&Ntx=mode%2Bmatchallpartial

Publications Submitted

“‘A great People who deserve to be Free’: National Character and Statelessness.” Submitted to *Journal of the Early Republic*, May 2022

In Progress

“‘Submit Like a Man’: Early Republic Manhood under Duress.”

Public History Project

Documenting Avalon Plantation, the plantation that occupies the land that UAH now sits upon. Commissioning historic markers with the input of various community and history groups; research on the site including commissioning ground penetrating radar to locate the burial round of the enslaved; meetings with descendants, Black and White; public talks; fundraising working with UAH Development; working on a campus tour app to share our history with the community.

Publications—Book Reviews

Review of Braund, Waselkov, and Christopher, *The Old Federal Road in Alabama*, in *The Alabama Review*, 75, no. 3 (July 2022): 256-258.

Review of Joan E. Cashin (Ed.), *War Matters: Material Culture in the Civil War Era* in the *Journal of Southern History*, 4 (Nov. 2019) 85, no. 914-916.

Review of John M. Murrin, *Rethinking America: From Empire to Republic* in *Studies in American Culture* 42.1 (October 2019):154-156.

Review of Nathan Perl-Rosenthal's *Citizen Sailor* in the *Journal of the Early Republic* (Winter 2017): 796-798.

Review of Emily Blanck's *Tyrannicide: Forging the American Law of Slavery in Revolutionary South Carolina and Massachusetts* in *The Journal of Southern History* 82, no. 2 (May 2016): 406-407.

Review of Matthew F.K. McDaniel's *Emigration to Liberia: From the Chattahoochee Valley of Georgia and Alabama, 1853-1903* for *The Alabama Review* vol. 69, no. 3 (July 2016): 254-255.

Review of Sylvia Diouf, *Slavery's Exiles* for *The Journal of American History* 102, no. 2 (Sept. 2015): 538-539.

"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): 890-892.

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>

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).

"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 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 Priscilla H. Roberts and Richard S. Roberts *Thomas Barclay (1728-1793): Consul in France, Diplomat in Barbary* (Lehigh University Press, 2008) in the *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*. Vol. 133, no. 3 (July 2009): 288-289.

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>

Review of Caryl Phillips, *The Atlantic Sound*, published in *Maryland Historical Magazine* vol. 96, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 260-261.

Invited Presentations

Alabama Historical Association for their "Future of Alabama History," Fall 2020 with Drew Adan and Vaughn Bocchino. <https://www.alabamahistory.net/futureofalabamahistory>
Recording here: <https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaHistory/videos/805129320266467/>

Invited interview with Steve Johnson for WHNT on the [state of history education. Fall 2020.](#)

Invited & paid to do training for Bayou Bend/Museum of Fine Arts Houston docents April 2018, including a presentation on Atlantic & US Slavery for over 100 people and a three hour, hands on workshop on interpreting slavery for the public with 21 participants.

"Araba Speculators, States, and Slaves: Barbary Narratives and Slave Ransoming in the Western Sahara," Keynote speaker at the "Piracy and Captivity in the Mediterranean, 1530-1810" conference as part of the ESCAPE: Barbary Coast Captivity Narratives at the University of Innsbruck. <https://www.uibk.ac.at/projects/escape/partners/> June 2016.

History Consultant & co-leader for Alabama Bicentennial 4-day teacher workshop for elementary social studies teachers, Summer 2018.

Paid consultant and presenter of a day-long training session on classroom technology for secondary social science teachers of the Southern Union Seventh Day Adventists Schools, February 2015.

"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 Department of 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.](#) 2011

"U.S. Women's History and Suffrage" for the Office of International Programs and Services Study of the U.S. Institute (SUSI), 2009, for South Asian students and, 2011, for Azerbaijani students

Conference Presentations

“But Do They Respect the Flag?: Commerce, Citizenship, and National Standing,” a pre-circulated paper discussed at the British American Nineteenth Century Historians (BrANCH) Annual Conference, October 2020 via Zoom.

“Islam and Politics in the Early National Period” at the Religion and Politics in Early America conference sponsored by the Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, The Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, St. Louis University and Washington University in St. Louis, in St. Louis, March 2018.

Participant in the inaugural Second Book Workshop Group at the Society for the Historians of the Early American Republic’s annual meeting July 2017.

“‘Individuals of Different Nations’: Urban Enslavement and Identities in Algiers” at the Urban Slavery conference sponsored by the University of Leiden, June 2017.

“‘Submit Like a Man’: Negotiating (White) Manhood in Barbary Captivity,” at the Society for the Historians of the Early American Republic, July 2016

“‘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.

“Appearing ‘Exceedingly Stupid’: Troubling Explanations of Race and Class” part of a panel on “Stupidity in Early America” at the Society of Early Americanists Meeting, February 2009.

“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.

“‘More Than a Man: Negotiating Legitimate Leadership in the Early Republic,’” as part of a panel that I organized on “Gender Ideals and Reality in the Early American Republic,” for the Consortium of the Revolutionary Era’s Annual Meeting, February 2008.

“Myth-Understandings: Addressing Common Myths of American History” teacher workshop for continuing education credit and as a workshop for museum professionals at Winterthur Museum. Participants used primary sources, both documents and objects, to explore historical myths, particularly the idea that people were shorter in the past. Winterthur, Delaware, July 2007.

“‘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.

“‘American Livestock, Now Slaves in Algiers’: Western Slave Elites in Algiers,” part of panel “Experiences and Challenges of Enslavement” at the Middle East Studies Association 2006.

“Battling Euro-centrism in World History,” presented as part of a roundtable discussion entitled “Why Should I Care about Anything Else but American History? Euro-centrism, Travel, and the Question of What to Omit,” at the World History Association’s Annual Conference, June 2006.

“‘We Set No Great Value Upon Money’: Enslaved Americans in the Algerian Economy,” presented on a panel “Slaves in the City: Urban Slavery in Comparative Perspective” at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), July 2005.

“‘Respected as a great People who deserve to be Free’: Rhetoric versus Reality in the Tripolitan War,” presented as part of a panel entitled “Language of Foreign Relations” at the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) 2005 Conference, June 2005.

“Myth Understandings: Myths as Learning Tools,” presented at the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums with Jennifer Hammond, Delaware, 2001.

“Submit Like a Man: Self-Representation of Masculinity in Barbary Narratives” presented at “New Frontiers in Graduate History” Conference at York University, Toronto, 1999.

Fellowships and Awards

2021-22 UAH Honors Faculty Fellow

2020-21 UAH Honors Faculty Fellow

2018 UAH Collaborative Learning Fellow

2017 UAH Collaborative Learning Fellow

2016 UAH Dean’s Faculty Development Award

2015 UAH Humanities Center Faculty Research Grant for research in the New York National Archives and Records Administration, \$3,000.00

2014 UAH Individual Investigator Distinguished Research Grant, \$10,547.00

2014 UAH Humanities Center Faculty Research Grant for research in the New-York Historical

- Society, \$3000.00
- 2013 UAH Humanities Center Faculty Research Grant for research at the Waltham (MA) National Archives and Records Administration, \$2991.00
- 2011 UAH Junior Faculty Distinguished Research Grant, \$10,459
- 2008 UAH Mini-Research Grant, \$7000.00
- 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
- 2000 Fall Stewart Fellowship at the University of Delaware

Professional Experience

Instructor at the University of Delaware, 2001-2007

I taught Women in American History (HIST300), United States History to 1877 (HIST205), World History I (HIST103), and the U.S. in the Early National Period (HIST307). Students liked that I “explained why things happened, not just that they did,” and made them “think for yourself.” Others enjoyed that I kept “all 100 students involved in her lectures,” and that “coming to class” was “a pleasure and not an obligation.” While at UD, I also supervised several graduate students assigned to me as teaching assistants for HIST103.

Research Assistant for Brock Jobe, Professor in Academic Programs at Winterthur Museum, 2001-2003. I assisted Professor Jobe with his research and courses in the Winterthur Program of Early American Culture. This included arranging visits to museums and artisans’ workshops and lecturing to Professor Jobe’s class each semester.

Teaching Assistant in the History Department of the University of Delaware, 1998-2001
I led weekly discussion sections, met with students, and graded exams and papers.

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

I planned and implemented the Spring Tour entitled “Tea and Thee,” including choosing objects, delineating interpretive goals, and training guides for the tour.

Guide Specialist at Winterthur Museum in Winterthur, Delaware, 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 Services Assistant and Guide Specialist. I interpreted the collection for visitors, and developed and implemented school programs, both on-site and off-site, for grades Pre-K through college. Since I returned to school, I have continued as a part-time School Services Guide.

Adjunct Instructor at Delaware Technical and Community College, 1994-1997

I planned and taught composition, public speaking, and reading and study skills.

Secondary Teacher at Woodbury High School in Woodbury, New Jersey, and then at St. Mary’s Hall in Burlington, New Jersey. 1991-1993. I taught primarily English to grades 6 to 11.

Student Projects Directed

Adjunct Mentor with Drew Adan of the UAH Archives, Campus History Mobile Application, with computer science major Danial Ahari, 2022.

Project Director, UAH Research & Creative Experience for Undergraduates with Emily Therrell and Mt. Paran Campground & Cemetery, 2019.

Project Director, UAH Research & Creative Experience for Undergraduates (RCEU) with Brooke Barber, 2017

Project Director, UAH RCEU with Jake Nelson, 2016

Awarded UAH RCEU with Aaron McNully 2015, but Mr. McNully unable to participate.

Internships Directed

Jacob Winton, Limestone County Archives, Summer 2022

Jennifer Wright, HY595, Smith Family Cemetery, Harvest, AL, with TVAR, Spring 2022

Emily Therrell with Chauncey Robinson on Huntsville African American businesses 19th century-1970s, 2022

David Hatfield at Russell Cave, 2016

Katie Bargas at the Alabama Dept. of Archives and History, 2016

Sarah Stott at Limestone County Archives, Fall 2016

Megan Anders at Burritt on the Mountain, Fall 2016

Danyelle Ledesma at Pond Springs, the Joe Wheeler House, Summer 2017

Shawna Thigpen, Veterans Memorial Museum, Summer 2019

Will Morris, Sloss Furnace in Birmingham, 2019

Directed Honor's Thesis for Sean Cota-Robles, 2014

Master's Theses Advised

2022 Kim Straub, "Jury Nullification: An Extralegal History"

2017 Jessica Brodt, "Anglo-American Christian Missionaries' Participation in and Support of African-American Slavery in the Cherokee Nation, 1791-1839."

2016 Whitney Andrews, "'We Dare Defend Our Rights': Southern Exceptionalism in the Alabama Suffrage Debate." 2016

2014 Megan Melvin, "Invoking America: representation, Revolution, and Republican Motherhood in Eighteenth-Century American Iconography."

Member, Masters' Theses Committee

Chris Paysinger 2007/8

Kayleigh Last, "The Process of Creating a "Southern People": Women and the UDC in North Alabama," 2015-2016

Joshua Riddle, "Philosophizing about God and Science: Isaac Newton," Spring 2016

Ashley Coates, "Rape & Sabine Women's Influence on Roman State and Women's Roles," Spring 2017

Matt Johnson, 2018

Derek Kohl, 2019

UAH Service

Worked with the “Diverse Voices” committee to arrange Dr. Deirdre Cooper Owens presentation
Fall 2021.

Solicited funding and planned campus visits of speakers, including:

Dr. Blake Bell “The Importance of Being Wishy Washy: Charlie Brown and Modern
America,” 2022

Brian Coffey of the National Park Service, Public History, 2008

Stephanie McCurry, University of Pennsylvania, antebellum Southern history, 2009
Received a Distinguished Speaker Award to fund Dr. McCurry’s visit

Rachel Jean-Baptiste, University of Chicago, modern African history, 2010
Humanities Public Programming Grant

Richard Godbeer, University of Miami, 2012, Humanities Public Programming Grant

Hilary Green, University of Alabama, Feb. 2017, with Office of Diversity and
Humanities Center Public Programming Funds with Dr. Nicole Pacino

UAH Humanities Center Steering Committee, 2014-2019

PTAC, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, & 2019-2020

Women and Gender Studies Program Advisory Committee, August 2010-2016

Kathryn L. Harris Annual Women’s Studies Paper Contest reader and judge, 2008-Spring 2013

Student Conduct Board (formerly University Judicial Board), Fall 2011-2013, 2015-2017

Honors Council, Fall 2011-Spring 2013

Faculty Senate, Fall 2012-2014 and Fall 2015-2017

Chair, Faculty Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee 2016-2017

Appointed to the search committee for the Director of the Library, Fall 2012

Member, search committee for the CAHS dean, 2017-2018

Appointed PAO for faculty grievance case, 2019

Member, UAH LEAD program “Rees class” Fall 2015 for academic year

Member, Review Committee for UAH IIDR awards 2017

Professional Activities and Service

Attended the American Historical Association’s Chairs Workshop, Summer 2022

Manuscript reviewer for *Journal of World History*, 2022

Manuscript reader and reviewer for *Early American Studies* May 2017

Manuscript reader and reviewer for the *Journal of Early Republic* 2014

Manuscript reader and reviewer for Brill manuscript, “Sweden and Slavery in the Early Modern
Mediterranean,” 2019

Grant reviewer for Documentary Editions Program of the National Historical Publications and
Records Commission, Reviewer for 4 grants for Documentary Editions program. Dec 2015-Jan
2016. Invited

Appointed to the College Board's College-Level Examination (CLEP-AP) History of the US I & II Test Development Committee, June 2018- June 2023

H-Atlantic editor, August 2013-2020

Board of Directors of the Friends of the Alabama Archives & Department of History, 2010-2015
Secretary, Fall 2011-Fall 2015
Fellowship Committee, Spring 2012

Alabama Historical Association

Panel moderator April 2016 & April 2018
Coley Book Prize Committee, 2014
Chair, Sulzby Book Prize Committee, 2016-2017
Member, Program Committee, Annual Conference 2012 & 2018
Chair, Program Committee for the Annual Conference, 2018-2019
Board of Directors, April 2016 -2019

Southern Historical Association,

Member, William F. Holmes Award Committee, 2014
Membership Committee, 2017-2018
Committee on Women, Gender and Sexuality, 2017- 2020
Chair, Committee on Women, Gender and Sexuality, 2019

Society for Historians of the Early American Republic

Program Committee 2017-2018
James Boussard First Book Prize Committee, 2019-2022
Chair of Boussard Firt Book Prize Committee, 2022

Southern Historical Association

Member, William F. Holmes Award Committee, best graduate student paper, 2014
Member, Membership Committee, 2017-2018
Committee on Women, Gender and Sexuality, 2017-2020
Chair of Committee, 2019-2020

Southern Association of Women Historians

Panel Chair & Panel Moderator, 2018
Member Professional Development Committee, 2017-2021
Chair of Committee, 2019-2020