

Paul E. Sampson

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EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Scranton, 2025-present.

Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Scranton, 2020-2025.

Interim Program Director of the Health Humanities Concentration, University of Scranton, 2024-2025.

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Writing Tutor, Department of History, Rutgers University, 2017-2018.

History and Humane Letters Teacher, Mesa Preparatory Academy, Mesa, AZ., 2011-2013.

EDUCATION

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, Ph.D. (2020)

Dissertation: “Ventilating the Empire: Environmental Machines in the British Atlantic World, 1700-1850”

Advisor: James Delbourgo

Committee: Jamie Pietruska, Alastair Bellany, Lynn Festa, Fredrik Albritton Jonsson (Univ. of Chicago)

Major Field: History of Science, Technology, Environment, and Health

Minor Field: Early Modern European History

Languages: French, Spanish (Moderate Proficiency)

University of Cambridge

Visiting Ph.D. student in History and Philosophy of Science Dept., Michaelmas and Lent Terms 2019-2020.

Visiting scholar in History and Philosophy of Science Dept., Easter Term 2022.

Marquette University, M.A. (2015)

Major Field: Early Modern European History

Minor Field: Early American History

University of Dallas, B.A. in History (2011) *cum laude*

PUBLICATIONS

2026 *Ventilating the Empire: British Science and the Origins of Climate Control*
Book manuscript under contract - De Gruyter Brill’s Technology and Change in History
book series.

Under Review “Artificial Climates: Greenhouses and the Urban Landscape, 1800-1850”
(article submitted to *British Journal for the History of Science*)

2024 “Ventilation and Public Health: A Fraught History” with Elaine LaFay, *American Journal for
Public Health*, 114, no. 8 (August 1, 2024): 798-804.

- 2023 “‘The Lungs of a Ship’: Ventilation, Acclimatization and Labor in the Maritime Environment, 1740-1800.” *History of Science* 61:2 (2023): 214-235.
- 2019 “The Cosmos in a Cabinet: Performance, Politics, and Mechanical Philosophy in Henry Bridges’ ‘Microcosm.’” *Endeavour* 43 (2019): 25-31.

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 “‘Sick and In Prison’: Airborne Disease and Prison Reform in the career of John Howard” *Books, Health, and History – The New York Academy of Medicine Library Blog*. Published Jan. 26.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2023 Pasi Väliäho, *Projecting Spirits: Speculation, Providence, and Early Modern Optical Media* (Stanford CA: Stanford University Press, 2022), reviewed for *H-NET*.
- 2022 Clare Hickman, *The Doctor’s Garden: Medicine, Science and Horticulture in Britain* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2021), reviewed for *Cultural and Social History*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “The Lungs of a Ship: Ventilation and Labor in the Royal Navy, 1740-1800” Society for the Social History of Medicine Biannual Conference, Glasgow, UK. July 16th.
- 2024 “Artificial Climates: Greenhouses and the Urban Landscape 1800-1850” International Nineteenth Century Studies Conference, Durham, UK. July 11th.
- 2023 “Artificial Climates: Greenhouses and the Urban Landscape 1800-1850” History of Science Society Annual Conference, Portland, OR. Nov. 11th.
- 2023 “Disease and Discipline: Airborne Disease and the Origins of Prison Reform” Research Event: Unruly Microbes - Epidemics, Infections, and Ecologies of Change in Historical Perspective, Durham University, Durham UK. June 22-23rd.
- 2022 Roundtable: “Ventilation, Breathing and Airborne Disease”, History of Science Society Annual Conference, Chicago, IL. Nov. 20th.
- 2021 “Quarantining the Empire: The Political Economy of Airborne Contagion in Britain, 1770-1820” History of Science Society Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA., Virtual, Nov. 19th.
- 2021 “The Lungs of a Ship: Ventilation and Labor in the Royal Navy, 1740-1800” British Society for the History of Science Annual Conference, Virtual, July 15th.
- 2019 “A Different Path to the Penitentiary: Airborne Contagion and Prison Reform in Britain, 1750-1800” History of Science Society Annual Conference, Utrecht, July 26th.
- 2019 “Disciplining the Environment: Ventilation and Prison Reform in Britain,” British Society for the History of Science Postgrad Conference, Cambridge, April 11th.
- 2018 “The Cosmos in a Cabinet: Performance, Politics, and Mechanical Philosophy”

American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, Orlando, March 23rd.

- 2017 “Dogs and Orreries: Nature, Mechanical Philosophy, and Animal Cruelty in Eighteenth-Century Cosmology” Rutgers 18th Century Atlantic Studies Group, Oct. 16.
- 2017 “The Cosmology of Blood and Air: Stephen Hales and the Improvement of Providence” Materialized Cosmologies Concept Lab, Columbia University, Sept. 28.
- 2016 “The Political Agnosticism of Early American Geology,” Warren Susman Graduate Conference, Rutgers University, April 7-8.
- 2015 “Embarking on a Sea of Uncertainty: The Founding of American Geology 1802-1833,” Marquette University Humanities Conference, April 25.
- 2014 “The Forgotten Frontier of Empire: The Hudson’s Bay Company in Western Canada,” Northern Illinois University Graduate Student History Conference, Nov. 7.

PODCAST INTERVIEWS

- 2025 *American Journal of Public Health Podcast* – Panel interview with Dr. David Mitchell and Dr. Jonathan Samet on the history of ventilation and air quality regulation. Published Jan. 6.
- 2024 *Forging Radical Hope* – American Journal of Public Health podcast series. Interview with Dr. Elaine LaFay about “Ventilation: A Fraught History”. Published Aug. 20.

INVITED TALKS

- 2024 “How Green Were the Nazis?” Guest Lecture, Earth Day Faculty Research Seminar, University of Scranton, Scranton PA, April 19.
- 2024 “The Surfer or the Wave? How to Think About Turning Points in History” Keynote Speech, National History Day Regional Contest, Scranton PA, March 2.
- 2023 “How Do You Teach the History of Science?” NSF Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program Workshop, Scranton PA, September 27.
- 2023 “Ventilating the Empire: Environmental Machines in Britain, 1700-1850” University of Scranton, Slattery Center for the Humanities, Scranton PA, April 20.
- 2023 “Evolution Anxiety! Darwin and Society” Guest Lecture, Darwin Day Faculty Research Seminar, February 24.
- 2022 “Disease and Discipline: Airborne Disease and the Origins of Prison Reform” History of Medicine Speaker Series, Cedars-Sinai Hospital, Los Angeles, CA, June 9.
- 2022 “Sick and In Prison”: Airborne Disease, Self-Management And Prison Reform In Britain” Helfand Fellow Presentation, The New York Academy of Medicine, New York, NY, Jan. 12.
- 2021 “Trust the Science? A Political History of Science” (Evening course offered in six sessions) The Schemel Forum for Community Education – Scranton, PA, Sept.-October.
- 2019 “The Lungs of a Ship: Labor, Medicine and the Maritime Environment, 1740-1800,”

Cabinet of Natural History Seminar, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge University, October 21st.

2017 “The Cosmology of Blood and Air: Stephen Hales and Providential Improvement,”
Brown Bag Lecture, Science History Institute, Philadelphia, PA, December 4th.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

2022 Roundtable Organizer, *Ventilation, Breathing and Airborne Disease*, History of Science Society annual meeting, Chicago, IL, November 17-20.

2022 Panel Chair, *Catholicism in Early Modern Europe*, American Catholic History Association Spring meeting, Scranton, PA, April 22-23.

2019 Panel Organizer, *Manipulating Airs*, History of Science Society annual meeting, Utrecht.

2016-17 Conference Chair, *Thinking With Empire*, 39th Annual Susman Graduate Conference, New Brunswick, NJ, March 31.

2016 Conference Committee, W.H.E.A.T.S. Conference, New Brunswick, NJ, October 1-2.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2024 The Royal Society (London, U.K.) - Lisa Jardine Award.

2023 University of Scranton – Faculty Internal Research Grant

2022 The Huntington Library – Travel grant for research in the U.K.

2022 University of Scranton – Faculty Development Grant for Summer Research.

2022 University of Scranton – Slattery Humanities Center Fellowship (1 semester).

2021 British Society for the History of Science – Research Grant.

2021 National Science Foundation – Travel Grant to attend HSS Annual Meeting.

2021 University of Scranton – Information Literacy Development Grant.

2021 Science History Institute – Haas Summer Research Fellowship.

2020-21 Science History Institute – Nine-Month Dissertation Fellowship (declined).

2020 New York Academy of Medicine – Helfand Fellowship in History of Medicine.

2019 National Science Foundation – Travel Grant to attend HSS Annual Meeting.

2019 The Huntington Library – Dibner Research Fellowship in the History of Science.

2018-9 Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry - New Scholar Award (x2).

2017-8 Science History Institute - Ulliot Scholarship.

2018 Rutgers School of Graduate Studies - Off-Campus Dissertation Development Grant.

2017-8 Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences - Mellon Summer Study Grant.

2017-8 Rutgers History Department - Professional Development Fund Award (x2).

2017-9 Rutgers History Department - Neal Ira Rosenthal History Travel Award (x3).

2016-17 Graduate Fellow, Mellon Sawyer Seminar on Ethical Subjects: “Moralities, Laws, Histories,” Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis.

TEACHING

Temple University Japan – Kyoto

HIST 1702 – World History Modern

University of Scranton

HIST 250 – History of Science and Society.

HIST 250J – Science and Society (Honors Course).

HIST 251 – History of Medicine.

HIST 351 – Global Environmental History.

HIST 110 – History of U.S. to 1877.

HIST 131 – World History II: 1500-Present.

HIST 295 – Britain: Past and Present (Travel Course)

HIST 385H – Independent Study in Veterinary History.

HIST 385H – Independent Study in History of the Mind.

HIST 385H – Independent Study in Medicine, Forensics and Art.

HIST 385H – Independent Study in the History of Pseudo-Psychology.

HIST 385H – Independent Study in the History of South Asian Science.

HIST 385H – Independent Study in the History of Vital Minimums.

HIST 385H – Independent Study in the History of Scranton, Pennsylvania.

HIST 385H – Independent Study in the History of Medicine and Surgery.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2021 (Fall) Faculty Senate Member for College of Arts and Sciences

2021-Present Secondary Education Program Content Supervisor – History

2021-Present Teacher Education Committee - Member

2021-Present Royals’ Historical Society - Faculty Moderator

2024-Present Health Humanities Concentration – Program Director

2024-Present Faculty Development Board – Humanities Representative

2024-Present Library Advisory Committee – History Department Representative

2023-Present Environmental Studies Steering Committee – Humanities Representative

2022-Present Academic Advisor for History Students

2021-2022 Search Committee Member – Open Rank Professor of African American History

2022 (Spring) Health Professionals Evaluation Committee – Evaluator for Pre-Med Students.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

History of Science Society

British Society for the History of Science

American Society for Environmental History

REFERENCES

Dr. James Delbourgo, Professor of History, Rutgers University - jdelbourgo@history.rutgers.edu

Dr. Fredrik Albritton Jonsson, Professor of History, University of Chicago – fljonsson@uchicago.edu

Dr. Dániel Margócsy, Professor in the History of Science, Cambridge University - dm753@cam.ac.uk.

Dr. David Dzurec, Assistant Dean of CAS, University of Scranton – david.dzurec@scranton.edu.

Dr. Billie Tadros, Associate Professor of English, University of Scranton – billie.tadros@scranton.edu.