

Curriculum Vitae

Adam Laats, Ph.D.

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Binghamton University (State University of New York)
Department of Teaching, Learning, and Educational Leadership
PO Box 6000
Binghamton, NY 13902-6000

Current Position

Binghamton University (SUNY), Binghamton, New York
Assistant Professor, 2007-2013, Department of Teaching, Learning,
and Educational Leadership; courtesy title in Department of
History

Associate Professor, Fall 2013-2017

Professor, Fall 2017- present

Teaching responsibilities:

- Issues in American History
- History of American Education
- Foundations of Secondary Education
- Curriculum and Teaching in Social Studies

Associate Director (2007-2011); *Director* (2011-2013)

Center for the Teaching of American History

Administrative responsibilities:

- Securing grant funding
- Conducting history professional development workshops for area secondary teachers
- Managing budget and personnel
- Making connections with area historical societies, libraries, and museums

Academic Director, 2016-2018

Binghamton Summer College

- Coordinated faculty in campus high-school programs
- Supervised curriculum

Education

University of Wisconsin—Madison

Master of Arts, United States History, Spring 2003

Doctor of Philosophy, United States History, October 2006

Specialization: Educational History

Minor field: Educational Policy Studies

Advisor: William J. Reese

Washington University in St. Louis

Master of Arts in Teaching History, October 1997

Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois
Bachelor of Arts, English and American Literature, June 1993

Awards

Friend of Darwin Award, 2022, National Center for Science Education
Lois B. DeFleur Faculty Prize for Academic Achievement, 2022,
Binghamton University
History of Education Society, Outstanding Book Award, 2016, for *The
Other School Reformers: Conservative Activism in American
Education*
Bruce Mansfield Prize, best article in the *Journal of Religious History*,
From the Religious History Society (Australia), Fall 2013.
Blattberg Writing Award, Fall 2002
University of Wisconsin, Department of History
Hansen Excellence in Teaching Award, 2001
Marquette University High School

Grants and Fellowships

Historical Society of Pennsylvania, McNeil Fellowship, “The
System: Joseph Lancaster and the Roots of America’s Public
Schools, 1800-1838,” (\$2,000), Summer 2019
American Antiquarian Society, Alstott Morgan fellowship, “Toe the
Line: Joseph Lancaster and the Delusion of Early School
Reform,” (\$1,850), Summer 2018
University of Connecticut Humanities Institute, Humility and
Conviction in Public Life fellowship, Spring 2018, “Evolving from
Humble Roots,” (\$18,800), Spring 2018
Spencer Foundation Small Grant, “Fundamentalist U: Keeping the
Faith in American Higher Education” (\$50,000), 2014-2015
Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities, Faculty Fellowship,
Fall 2013, Binghamton University
National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship
(\$55,000) September 2009-June 2011
Binghamton Foundation mini-grant, Binghamton University (\$1000),
2008
Professional Development Grants, Marquette University High School
(\$500-\$1000), 2004, 2005, 2006
Vilas Travel Fellowship, Summer 2005
University of Wisconsin, Graduate Student Council
University Fellowship, 1996-97
Washington University in St. Louis

Publications

Books:

*Mr. Lancaster’s System: The Origin of America’s Public Schools, 1800-
1840.* Manuscript complete.

Creationism USA: Bridging the Impasse on Teaching Evolution. Oxford University Press, 2020.

Fundamentalist U: Keeping the Faith in American Higher Education. Oxford University Press, 2018.

With Harvey Siegel. *Teaching Evolution in a Creation Nation.* University of Chicago Press, 2016.

The Other School Reformers: Conservative Activism in American Education, Harvard University Press, 2015.

Winner of the History of Education Society's Outstanding Book Award, 2016

Fundamentalism and Education in the Scopes Era: God, Darwin, and the Roots of America's Culture Wars, Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

Book Chapters (Peer Reviewed* or Invited**):

**"Education in College and University," in *Oxford Handbook of Christian Fundamentalism*, invited by editors Andrew Atherstone and David Ceri Jones, (Oxford University Press), in press.

**"Higher (Power) Education: Student Life at Evangelical Institutions," in Marc VanOverbeke and Christine Ogren, eds., *Rethinking Campus Life: New Perspectives on the History of Being a College Student in the United States*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2018: 261-281.

**"Brave Sons and Daughters True: 1960s Protests at the 'Fundamentalist Harvard,'" in Roger Geiger, Nathan Sorber, and Christian Anderson, eds., *American Higher Education in the Postwar Era, 1945-1970*, Routledge, 2017: 146-169.

**"Religion," in A.J. Angulo, ed., *Miseducation: A History of Ignorance-Making in America and Abroad*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2016: 161-183.

**"Inside Out: Christian Day Schools and the Transformation of Conservative Protestant Educational Activism, 1962-1990," in Debra Meyers and Burke Miller, eds., *Inequity in Education: A Historical Perspective*, Lexington Books, Rowman and Littlefield Press, 2009: 183-209.

Academic Journal Articles (Peer Reviewed)

"Dissenters, Not Ignoramuses: A New Approach to Creationism in America's Public Schools," *Anthropology Now* 7:1 (April 2015): 80-88.

"The Missionary Supposition: Evolution Education and Creationist Culture," *Reports of the National Center for Science Education* 33:6

(November-December 2013):

<http://reports.ncse.com/index.php/rncse/article/view/201/392>
accessed November 24, 2013.

“Our Schools, Our Country: American Evangelicals, Public Schools, and the Supreme Court Decisions of 1962 and 1963,” *Journal of Religious History* (Australia), 36: 3 (September 2012): 319-334.

“Red Schoolhouse, Burning Cross: The Ku Klux Klan of the 1920s and Educational Reform,” *History of Education Quarterly* 52:3 (August 2012): 323-350.

“Monkeys, Bibles, and the Little Red Schoolhouse: Atlanta’s School Battles in the Scopes Era,” *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 95:3 (Fall 2011): 335-355.

“Many Educational Pasts: Conservative Visions and Revisions of the History of American Education,” *Teachers College Record* 114; 3 (2012): 1-25.

“Forging a Fundamentalist ‘One Best System:’ Struggles over Curriculum and Educational Philosophy for Christian Day Schools, 1970-1989,” *History of Education Quarterly* 50 (February 2010): 55-83.

“The Quiet Crusade: The Moody Bible Institute's Outreach to Public Schools and the Mainstreaming of Appalachia, 1921-1966,” *Church History* 75:3 (September 2006): 565-593.

Articles (Non-Peer reviewed/Media):

“Conservatives Want to Control What Kids Learn, but It May Backfire,” *Washington Post*, 7 February 2023.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/made-by-history/2023/02/07/desantis-history-education/>

“No, Ron DeSantis Wasn’t Really Behind the College Board Course Changes; Here’s How I Know,” *The Grade (Kappan)*, 4 February 2023.

<https://kappanonline.org/laats-how-i-know-that-desantis-wasnt-really-behind-the-college-board-course-changes-russo/>

“Ron DeSantis’s New College Coup Is Doomed to Fail,” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 11 January 2023.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/ron-desantiss-new-college-coup-is-doomed-to-fail>

“2022 Saw Conservative Gains on Education Issues. But They May Be Short-lived,” *Washington Post*, 30 December 2022.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/made-by->

[history/2022/12/30/2022-saw-conservative-gains-education-issues-they-may-be-short-lived/](#)

“How Conservative Colleges Win the Culture Wars,” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 24 October 2022.

[https://www.chronicle.com/article/how-conservative-colleges-win-the-culture-wars](#)

“The Right Has Long Tried to Impose Its Vision on American Education,” *Washington Post*, 30 August 2022.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/made-by-history/2022/08/29/right-has-long-tried-impose-its-vision-american-education/](#)

“The Supreme Court Has Ushered in a New Era of Religion in School,” *The Atlantic*, 15 July 2022.

[https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/07/supreme-court-religion-schools-prayer-kennedy-carson/661365/](#)

“Conservatives Long Ago Lost the War Over America’s Public Schools,” *Washington Post*, 24 May 2022.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2022/05/24/conservative-s-long-ago-lost-war-over-americas-public-schools/](#)

“University Culture Wars over Race Theory Recall 1920s Fight to Teach Evolution,” *Nature*, 12 April 2022.

[https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-00922-w](#)

“Leaders May Try to Blame Teachers for Pandemic School Problems. That’s a Mistake,” *Washington Post*, 31 January 2022.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2022/01/31/leaders-may-try-blame-teachers-pandemic-school-problems-thats-mistake/](#)

“How Picking on Teachers Became an American Tradition,” *Slate*, 28 January 2022. [https://slate.com/human-interest/2022/01/history-of-spying-on-teachers.html](#)

“The Conservative War on Education that Failed,” *The Atlantic*, 23 November 2021.

[https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/11/failed-school-ban-evolution-conservatives/620779/](#)

“Will the University of Austin Succeed?” *Slate*, 11 November 2021.

[https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2021/11/university-of-austin-history-of-conservative-colleges.html](#)

“School Board Meetings Used to be Boring. Why Have They Become War Zones?” *Washington Post*, 29 September 2021.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2021/09/29/school-board-meetings-used-be-boring-why-have-they-become-war-zones/>

“Will Fewer Black Students Come Back to School this Fall?”

Washington Post, 30 July 2021.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2021/07/30/will-black-students-come-back-school-this-fall/>

with Gillian Frank, “This Critical Race Theory Panic Is a Chip Off the Old Block,” *Slate*, 18 June 2021. <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2021/06/critical-race-theory-curriculum-panics-history.html>

with Victoria Cain, “It’s Tempting to Replace Teachers with Technology, but It Would Be a Mistake,” *Washington Post*, 24 March 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2021/03/24/its-tempting-replace-teachers-with-technology-it-would-be-mistake/>

with Victoria Cain, “A History of Technological Hype,” *Kappan*, 22 February 2021. [A history of technological hype - kappanonline.org](http://kappanonline.org/a-history-of-technological-hype)

“Creationism USA: An Interview with Adam Laats,” *Righting America*, 12 February 2021. <https://rightingamerica.net/creationism-u-s-a-an-interview-with-adam-laats/>

“The commonality between Biden’s education secretary and Betsy DeVos is a warning,” *Washington Post*, 3 February 2021.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2021/02/03/commonality-between-bidens-education-secretary-betsy-devos-is-warning/>

“Adam Laats Recommends *The Creationists*,” *Kappan*, 25 January 2021. <https://kappanonline.org/adam-laats-recommends-the-creationists/>

“An Eternal Monkey War? Evolution and Creationism in US Schools,” *Kappan*, 25 January 2021. <https://kappanonline.org/eternal-monkey-trial-evolution-creationism-u-s-schools-laats/>

“Betsy DeVos and the politics of fear: A not-so-fond farewell to Trump’s education secretary,” *Salon*, 24 January 2021.

<https://www.salon.com/2021/01/24/betsy-devos-and-the-politics-of-fear-a-not-so-fond-farewell-to-trumps-education-secretary/>

“The Persistence of Creationism Shows Losing Could Make Trumpism More Extreme,” *Washington Post*, 9 December 2020.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/12/09/persistence-creationism-shows-losing-could-make-trumpism-more-extreme/>

“Schools Are Not Just for Job Training,” *New York Times*, 25

November 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/25/opinion/letters/meghan-miscarriage.html>

with Marybeth Gasman, “Two Visions of Higher Education Illuminate the Chasm between Harris and Pence,” *Washington Post*, 8 October 2020. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/10/08/two-visions-higher-education-illuminate-chasm-between-harris-pence/>

“Creationism USA,” *Patheos: Anxious Bench*, 8 October 2020.

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/anxiousbench/2020/10/adam-laats-creationism-usa/>

“Religious Animus Did Not Drive the Laws the Supreme Court Just Overturned,” *Washington Post*, 1 July 2020.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/07/01/religious-animus-did-not-drive-laws-supreme-court-just-overturned/>

“Trump Is Not Fighting Science, He’s Stealing Its Authority,” *History News Network*, 26 April 2020.

<https://historynewsnetwork.org/article/175180>

“An Authoritarian Power Structure Brought Coronavirus to Liberty University,” *Washington Post*, 31 March 2020.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/03/31/an-authoritarian-power-structure-brought-coronavirus-liberty-university/>

“Democrats Are Asking the Wrong Questions to Protect Charter School Students,” *Washington Post*, 26 February 2020.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/02/26/democrats-are-asking-wrong-questions-protect-charter-school-students/>

“The Case for Historians Being More Engaged in Politics, not Less,” *Washington Post*, 24 December 2019

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/12/24/case-historians-being-more-engaged-public-affairs-not-less/#comments-wrapper>

“Child Soldiers in the Creation/Evolution War,” *Righting America*, 3 September 2019, <https://rightingamerica.net/child-soldiers-in-the-creation-evolution-war/>

“Betsy DeVos Wants to Resurrect an Old—and Failed—Model of Public Education,” *Washington Post*, 16 May 2019,

https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/05/16/betsy-devos-wants-resurrect-an-old-failed-model-public-education/?utm_term=.e153ee0ea215

“Teacher Pay, Presidential Politics, and New York’s Modest Proposal of 1818,” *History News Network*, 14 April 2019, <http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/171717>

“Ignorance, Humility, and the Creationism Culture Wars,” *Humility & Conviction in Public Life*, February 2019, <https://humilityandconviction.uconn.edu/hc-the-blog/#collapsepanel-3549-1-1-00>

“Karen Pence and her Defenders Can’t Claim They’re Standing for Christian Beliefs,” *Washington Post*, 21 January 2019, https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/01/21/karen-pence-her-defenders-cant-claim-theyre-standing-christian-beliefs/?utm_term=.49570e88e796

“The Dangers of Dunking on Dinesh D’Souza,” *History News Network*, 25 November 2018, <https://historynewsnetwork.org/article/170521>

“The Notre Dame and Harvard of the Christian World?” *History News Network*, 11 June 2018, <https://historynewsnetwork.org/article/169072>

“Why This Conservative Bastion Chose a Liberal Evangelical Icon for Its Commencement Speech,” *The Conversation*, 25 April 2018, <https://theconversation.com/why-this-conservative-bastion-chose-a-liberal-evangelical-icon-for-its-commencement-speech-94161>

“The T-Word in Evangelical Higher Education,” *Righting America at the Creation Museum*, 9 April 2018, <https://rightingamerica.net/the-t-word-in-evangelical-higher-education/>

“Making College Great Again: Evangelical Outsiders in the Age of Trump,” *Religion Dispatches*, 19 February 2018, <http://religiondispatches.org/making-college-great-again-evangelical-outsiders-in-the-age-of-trump/>

“Why Are So Many People Angry about History?” *History News Network*, 2 November 2017, <http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/167371>

“Why Campus Free Speech Laws Won’t Free Campus Speech,” *History News Network*, 3 September 2017, <http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/166621>

“Safety Schools: Part I,” *Righting America at the Creation Museum*, 9 May 2017, <https://rightingamerica.net/safety-schools-part-1/>

“Trump Thinks He’s Giving Conservatives the School Policy They Want. He’s Wrong,” *Newsweek*, 9 May 2017, <http://www.newsweek.com/do-conservatives-really-want-local-control-schools-606042>

“Trump’s Gift to his Fundamentalist Base,” *History News Network*, 9 February 2017, <http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/165156>

“Do Evangelical Colleges Explain Why So Many Evangelicals Voted for Trump?” *The Way of Improvement Leads Home*, 8 December 2016, <https://thewayofimprovement.com/2016/12/08/do-evangelical-colleges-explain-why-so-many-evangelicals-voted-for-trump-adam-laats-responds/>

“What Were White Evangelicals Thinking?” *History News Network*, 4 December 2016, <http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/164534>

“The Educational Conundrum of the Faithful Creationist Parent,” *Righting America at the Creation Museum*, 6 June 2016. <https://rightingamerica.net/the-educational-conundrum-of-the-faithful-creationist-parent/>

“Teaching Evolution Is Not About Changing Beliefs,” with Harvey Siegel, *Education Week*, 20 April 2016, 28. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2016/04/20/teaching-evolution-isnt-about-changing-beliefs.html>

“Surprised by Wheaton’s Decision to Terminate Dissident Professor? Don’t Be!” *Chicago Sun-Times*, 8 January 2016, <http://chicago.suntimes.com/opinion/elite-wheaton-college-still-a-school-of-a-different-sort/>

“GOP Candidates and the Educational F-Word,” *History News Network*, *Time Magazine*, 6 April 2015, <http://time.com/3772680/conservative-education-department-history/>.

“Free-Market Vision of Education,” *Albany Times-Union*, 21 September 2014, <http://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/Free-market-view-of-education-5771037.php>

“Kids Are Learning to Be Leftists in Public Schools by Historians with an Ax to Grind?” *History News Network*, 14 July 2014, <http://hnn.us/article/156217>

“Saving Progressive Education from Itself,” *Education Week*, Vol. 33, Issue 23, 4 March 2014, pp. 20-21; <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2014/03/05/23laats.h33.html?t>

[kn=YUZFHVJCQ%2FBuZ%2BTngBeVetO9eA%2F%2Fk9rl0qAf&cmp=clp-edweek](http://www.historynewsnetwork.com/?p=154748)

“Why Do Conservative Southerners Loudly Insist that Kids Be Taught Lies about the Civil War?” *History News Network*, 17 February 2014, <http://hnn.us/article/154748>

“Our Fundamentalist Neighbours,” *Leaving Fundamentalism*, 9 July 2013, <http://leavingfundamentalism.wordpress.com/2013/07/09/our-fundamentalist-neighbours/#comment-5280>

“To Teach Evolution, You Have to Understand Creationists,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 19 November 2012, <http://chronicle.com/article/To-Teach-Evolution-You-Have/135832/>

“The Real Wall of Separation in Public Schools,” *Washington Post’s* education blog, *The Answer Sheet*, 6 September 2012, http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/the-real-wall-of-separation-in-public-schools/2012/09/05/aaf3d766-f6b7-11e1-8253-3f495ae70650_blog.html#pagebreak accessed 6

“Does David Barton’s Flameout Make This a Scopes Moment for American History?” *History News Network*, 20 August 2012 <http://hnn.us/articles/does-david-bartons-flameout-make-scopes-moment-american-history>

Digital Publishing:

Founder/Contributing Editor: *I Love You but You’re Going to Hell: Awkward Conversations about School and Society*, <http://iloveyoubutyouregoingtohell.org>, a blog devoted to exploring news and ideas related to history, education, and culture in the United States, 2011-2020.

Book Reviews and Encyclopedia Articles:

The Dominance of Evangelicalism: The Age of Spurgeon and Moody, by David Bebbington, Intersity Press, 2005. *Church History* 75:4 (December 2006): 956-957.

Bill Bright & Campus Crusade for Christ: The Renewal of Evangelicalism in Postwar America, by John G. Turner, University of North Carolina Press, 2008. *American Studies Journal* 48:4 (Winter 2007): 180-181.

Religious Liberty in America: The First Amendment in Historical and Contemporary Perspective, by Bruce T. Murray, University of Massachusetts Press, 2008. *History of Education Quarterly* 49 (August 2009): 403-407.

Education for Liberation: The American Missionary Association and African Americans, 1890 to the Civil Rights Movement, by Joe Martin Richardson and Maxine Deloris Jones, University of Alabama Press, 2009. *H-Net Book Reviews*, 2010.

“Lutheran Schools” & “Episcopal Schools,” *Encyclopedia of Educational Reform and Dissent*, edited by Thomas Hunt, James Carper, Thomas J. Lasley, C. Daniel Raisch, Sage Publications, 2010.

Dirty Words: The Rhetoric of Public Sex Education, 1870-1924, by Robin E. Jensen, University of Illinois Press, 2010. *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 11 (July 2012): 451-454.

A Religious Orgy in Tennessee: A Reporter’s Account of the Scopes Monkey Trial, by H.L. Mencken, Melville House, 2006. *H-Net Book Reviews*, 2011:

<https://www.hnet.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=32241>

In the Beginning: Fundamentalism, The Scopes Trial, and the Making of the Antievolution Movement, by Michael Lienesch, University of North Carolina Press, 2007. *H-Net Book Reviews*, 2011: <https://www.hnet.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=33585>

American Genesis: The Evolution Controversies from Scopes to Creation Science, by Jeffrey Moran, Oxford University Press, 2012. *Reports of the National Center for Science Education*, 32:5 (2012):

<http://reports.ncse.com/index.php/rncse/article/view/118/197>

Teaching Children Science: Hands-On Nature Study in North America, 1890-1930, by Sally Gregory Kohlstedt, University of Chicago Press, 2010. *Journal of American History* 100 (March 2014): 1237-1238.

Trying Biology: The Scopes Trial, Textbooks, and the Antievolution Movement in American Schools, by Adam R. Shapiro, University of Chicago Press, 2013. *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Volume 112, number 1 (Winter 2014): 168-170.

A War for the Soul of America: A History of the Culture Wars, by Andrew Hartman, University of Chicago Press, 2015. *History of Education Quarterly* 55 (August 2015): 384-387.

After the Monkey Trial: Evangelical Scientists and a New Creationism, by Christopher M. Rios, Fordham University Press, 2014. *Church History and Religious Culture* 95 (2015), 122-124.

The History of American Higher Education: Learning and Culture from the Founding to World War II, by Roger L. Geiger, Princeton University

Press, 2014. *Teachers College Record*, 2015, <http://www.tcrecord.org>
ID Number: 18035.

Process and Providence: The Evolution Question at Princeton, 1845-1929, by Bradley J. Gundlach, Eerdmans Publishing, 2013. *History: Reviews of New Books* 44 (June 2016), 67.

Challenge and Change: Right-Wing Women, Grassroots Activism & The Baby Boom Generation, by June Melby Benowitz, University Press of Florida, 2015. *History of Education Quarterly* 56 (May 2016): 382-385.

Judicial Review and American Conservatism: Christianity, Public Education, and the Federal Courts in the Reagan Era, by Robert Daniel Rubin, Cambridge University Press, 2017. *American Historical Review* 123: 1 (February 2018): 265-266.

Civil Rights, Culture Wars: The Fight over a Mississippi Textbook, by Charles W. Eagles, University of North Carolina Press, 2017. *Journal of American History* (March 2018): 110.

Ku Klux Kulture: America and the Klan in the 1920s, by Felix Harcourt, University of Chicago Press, 2017. *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, forthcoming.

Public vs. Private: The Early History of School Choice in America, by Robert N. Gross, Oxford University Press, 2018. *History of Education (UK)*, 2019. DOI: [10.1080/0046760X.2019.1618502](https://doi.org/10.1080/0046760X.2019.1618502).

Chaired Doctoral Dissertations:

Lizabeth Cain, October 9, 2015, Binghamton University. "Good Teaching Under Fire: Democratic Practices, Classroom Observations, and Teacher Protests, 1927-1953"

Cary Shaw, December 2, 2015, Binghamton University. "National Trends and a Local Response: A History of the Conservative Evangelical Twin Tiers Christian Academy"

Karen Heffernan, April 2, 2019, Binghamton University. "Rural Resistance to Education Reform: A Case Study of Common Schools in Conklin, New York, During the Early Twentieth Century"

Val Widdall, November 11, 2019, Binghamton University. "Representations of Women in New York State English Language Arts K-2 United States History Content: What Our Youngest Are Learning"

Past Teaching Experience:

Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Instructor, Graduate Seminar: History of American Education, Fall 2003

University of Wisconsin, Madison

Teaching Assistant, History Department, Fall 2001 to Spring 2003
Taught U.S. History survey courses, History of American Education

Marquette University High School, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Teacher, August 1998 to Spring 2007

Awarded Hansen Excellence in Teaching Award, 2001

Department Chairperson, 2005 to 2007

- Revised Social Studies Department curriculum
- Developed department research and writing curriculum
- Initiated academic assistance program for at-risk students
- Wrote curricula for survey classes
- Supervised, evaluated, and managed ten social studies teachers
- Served on curriculum and strategic planning committees
- Managed department budget
- Served as a mentor teacher

Nativity Jesuit Middle School, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Volunteer Teacher, Central City Teaching Partnership, August 1997 to
May 1998

Keynote Addresses

“Institutionalizing Dissenting Science: American Creationism and Conservative Colleges,” Keynote address, *The Pursuit of Science in Conservative Religious Settings since 1945*, Workshop at the a.r.t.e.s. Graduate School for the Humanities, Cologne (Germany), July 21, 2022.

“Can We Have Dialogue When We Disagree? Exploring the Roots of our Educational Culture Wars,” keynote address, University of Florida annual research symposium, March 30, 2017.

“Teaching or Preaching? Controversial Issues and Citizenship Education, Lessons from History and Practice,” keynote address, Rochester City School District Teachers’ Conference, April 5, 2014.

Invited Presentations

“The Other School Reformers,” University of Hawaii-Manoa [web presentation], April 24, 2023.

“American Culture Wars in Historical Perspective,” Royal Dutch Institute of Rome, May 19, 2023.

“Sectarianism and Schools in the Early US Republic,” Stanford University [web presentation], April 19, 2023.

“Evolution and All That: Why America Can’t Stop Fighting about Creationism,” State University of New York at Cortland, April 12, 2023.

“Evolution and All That: Why America Can’t Stop Fighting about Creationism,” Washington State University [web presentation], March 20, 2023.

“Race, Religion, and Education: American History Textbooks in Historical Perspective,” Columbia University [web presentation], February 16, 2023.

“Evolution and All That,” Lyceum, Binghamton University, September 13, 2022.

“Teachers Under Fire: How Picking on Teachers Became an American Tradition,” Academy for Human Rights, Buffalo, New York [web presentation], April 19, 2022.

“The Other School Reformers,” University of Hawaii-Manoa [web presentation], April 18, 2022.

“Teaching Evolution in a Creation Nation,” University of Pennsylvania [web presentation], February 8, 2022.

“Joseph Lancaster and the ‘Delusion’ of School Reform in the USA, 1800-1838,” Humboldt University of Berlin [web presentation due to coronavirus], May 20, 2021.

“Scam or Savior? Joseph Lancaster and the ‘Delusion’ of Public Schools, 1818-1838,” New York State Library [web presentation due to coronavirus], Albany, New York, April 28, 2021.

“The Other School Reformers: Conservatism and America’s Schools,” University of Hawaii-Manoa [web presentation], March 31, 2021.

“Tracking the History of Anti-Science Science,” Washington State University [web presentation due to coronavirus], March 10, 2021.

“Teaching Evolution in a Creation Nation,” University of Pennsylvania [web presentation due to coronavirus], February 15, 2021.

“Conservatives and School Reform: A Roundtable,” University of Groningen [web presentation due to coronavirus], January 25, 2021.

“Safety Schools: Conservative Education Reform in Twentieth-century America,” University of Zurich [web presentation due to coronavirus], December 8, 2020.

“Scam or Savior? Joseph Lancaster and the ‘Delusion’ of Public Schools, 1818-1838,” Erie Canal Museum [web presentation due to coronavirus], Syracuse, New York, September 22, 2020.

“Joseph Lancaster and the ‘Delusion’ of Public Schools, 1818-1838,” Library Company of Philadelphia [web presentation due to coronavirus], Philadelphia, May 7, 2020.

“Fundamentalist U,” University of Pennsylvania [web presentation—in-person talk canceled due to coronavirus] Philadelphia, March 31, 2020.

“The Other School Reformers: Conservatism and America’s Schools,” University of Hawaii-Manoa [web presentation], November 18, 2019.

“How Conservatives Won Their Fight with the Public Schools,” University of Wisconsin—Madison, October 14, 2019.

“The System: Joseph Lancaster and the Roots of America’s Public Schools, 1800-1838,” Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, June 27, 2019.

“Teaching Evolution in a Creation Nation,” University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, Philadelphia, October 1, 2018.

“Fundamentalist U,” Wheaton College [web presentation], August 13, 2018.

“Joseph Lancaster and the Roots of America’s Public School Systems, 1800-1840,” American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts, June 18, 2018.

“Making College Great Again: Evangelical Higher Education from Darwin to Trump,” University of Dayton, April 11, 2018.

“The Other School Reformers: Conservatism and America’s Schools,” University of Hawaii-Manoa [web presentation], April 9, 2018.

“Fundamentalist U,” University of Pennsylvania, March 20, 2018.

“The Other School Reformers: Conservatism and Educational History,” Teachers College Columbia University [web presentation], February 21, 2017.

“The Other School Reformers: Conservatism and Educational History,” University of Florida [web presentation], November 16, 2016.

“Teaching Evolution in a Creation Nation,” Casenovia College, November 10, 2016.

“The Other School Reformers: Who Cares about Conservatism in Education?” History of Education Society Annual Meeting, Providence, Rhode Island, November 4, 2016.

“Teaching Evolution in a Creation Nation: Schooling and Intellectual Controversy,” University of Pennsylvania, October 3, 2016.

“The Other School Reformers: Conservative Activism in American Education,” RiverRead Books, Binghamton, New York, April 21, 2015.

“Defining American Fundamentalism: Evangelical Higher Education in the 1930s,” Dean’s Speaker Series: The Study of Religion in the Modern University, Binghamton University, February 23, 2015.

“Why Are We Still Fighting about Evolution?” Cazenovia College, November 14, 2014.

“The Long Game: Texas’ Ongoing Battle for the Direction of the Classroom,” organized and moderated radio documentary listening session and panel discussion featuring documentarian Trey Kay, historian Jonathan Zimmerman, and English-education scholar Matt McConn, February 27, 2014, Binghamton University.

“Fundamentalism and Education: The View from 1925,” RiverRead Books, Binghamton, New York, September 20, 2012.

“‘Surely You’re Joking, Mr. Huckabee,’ Creationism in Historical Perspective,” The Institute for Evolutionary Studies, Binghamton University, November 7, 2011.

“School and Culture War,” School of Education Advisory Council Meeting, Binghamton University, October 25, 2010.

“Roots of the Culture Wars: Protestant Fundamentalists and American Education in the 1920s,” at National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellows Annual Retreat, Washington, DC, February 19, 2010.

“Of Schools and Slinkies: Why America Keeps Fighting the Same Battles over Education,” Owego, New York, Rotary Club, November 17, 2009.

“The Quiet Crusade: The Moody Bible Institute’s Outreach to Appalachian Public Schools, 1921-1951;” Center for Print Culture colloquium, Madison, Wisconsin, November 12, 2003.

Conference Presentations

Invited roundtable participant, “The State of Academic Freedom,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, California, March 31, 2023.

Whose America? Culture Wars in the Public Schools, 20th Anniversary edition, book panel participant, History of Education Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, November 5, 2022.

Schools and Screens: A Watchful History, book panel chair and participant, History of Education Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, November 5, 2022.

“Realer than Real: Visions of Scientific Modernity in Lancasterian School Reform,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, (invited panel), Boston, Massachusetts, March 31, 2022.

Religion and Education, panel chair and discussant, History of Education Society Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, November 5, 2021.

“Realer than Real: Visions of Scientific Modernity in Lancasterian School Reform,” History of Education Society Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, November 4, 2021.

“Set for Life: Joseph Lancaster’s Selfish Quest to Help the Poor,” Society for the History of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) Biography Workshop, July 12, 2021.

The Soul of the American University: From Protestant Establishment to Established Nonbelief, book panel participant, History of Education Annual Meeting, Columbus, Ohio, November 3, 2019.

In the Shadow of Authoritarianism: American Education in the Twentieth Century, book panel participant, History of Education Annual Meeting, Columbus, Ohio, November 1, 2019.

“Fundamentalist U,” Book panel, History of Education Society Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico, November 5, 2018.

“The Color of Mind,” Chair, book panel, History of Education Society Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico, November 5, 2018.

“Religion and American Public Education,” Panel discussion participant, American Educational Research Association annual meeting, San Antonio, April 30, 2017.

“The Other Other Sixties: Campus Rebellion at Conservative Evangelical Colleges,” History of Education Society Annual Meeting, Providence, November 4, 2016.

“Are the Culture Wars History? New Comments on an Old Concept,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, January 7, 2016.

“The Culture Wars in History and Historiography,” History of Education Society Annual Meeting, St. Louis, November 6, 2015.

“Babel and the British Colonies: Occluded Knowledge and Christian-School Textbooks,” at Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, November 6, 2014.

“Teaching Evolution in a Creation Nation,” with Harvey Siegel, History and Philosophy of Education Conference, The Humanities Initiative, New York University, March 7, 2014.

“Bloggers: Public Intellectuals or Public Consultants?” at History of Education Society Annual Meeting, Nashville, Tennessee, November 2, 2013.

“Darwin Goes to School,” with Harvey Siegel, History and Philosophy of Education Conference, The Humanities Initiative, New York University, November 30, 2012.

“Cheer Leaders for America: The Daughters of the American Revolution and Conservative Maternalism, 1919-1939;” at US Intellectual History Conference, New York, New York, November 17-18, 2011.

“Public Schools as a ‘Mission Field’ for Protestant Evangelicals, 1962-2000;” at American Educational Research Association annual meeting, Denver, Colorado, May 1, 2010.

“Red Schoolhouse, Burning Cross: The Educational Agenda of the 1920s Ku Klux Klan;” at History of Education Society conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 24, 2009.

“Student Learning and Faculty Thinking;” Institute for Student-Centered Learning, Binghamton University, May 18, 2009.

“Inside Out: The Transformation of Conservative Protestant Educational Activism, 1962-1990;” at History of Education Society conference, St. Petersburg, Florida, November 6-9, 2008.

“The New Minority: Evangelicals, Education, and the Supreme Court School Decisions of 1962-63;” at Politics, Activism, and the History of America’s Public Schools conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 12, 2008.

"College Controversies: Protestant Fundamentalists and American Higher Education, 1920-1930;" History of Education Society conference, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, October 26, 2006.

"Social Studies Methods That Work;" Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies Conference, Madison, Wisconsin, March 21, 2006.

“The Quiet Crusade: The Moody Bible Institute’s Outreach to Appalachian Public Schools, 1921-1951;” History of Education Society conference, Evanston, Illinois, October 31, 2003.

“Bibles to the Backwoods: Moody Literature Mission, 1889-1980;” Religion and Print Culture Conference, Madison, Wisconsin, September 11, 2004.

Media Interviews

Interviewed by Glenn Branch, National Center for Science Education, “Random Samples with Adam Laats,” *Reports of the National Center for Science Education* 43:2 (April 17, 2023).
<https://ncse.ngo/random-samples-adam-laats>

Interviewed by Rob Ferrett, “Revising Published Books,” *Central Time*, Wisconsin Public Radio, March 3, 2023.
<https://www.wpr.org/should-classic-books-get-updated-sensitivity>

Interviewed by Soledad O’Brien, “Education Historian Draws Parallels Between Modern-Day Conversations About Race to Past Controversies,” *Matter of Fact*, February 19, 2023.
<https://www.matteroffact.tv/education-historian-draws-parallels-between-modern-day-conversations-about-race-to-past-controversies/>

Interviewed by Scott Jaschik, “African American History (Revised),” *Inside Higher Ed*, February 2, 2023.
<https://www.insidehighered.com/admissions/article/2023/02/02/college-board-releases-revised-ap-course-african-american-studies>

Interviewed by Jenn White, “Ron DeSantis and the Battle over Black History,” *National Public Radio 1A*, February 1, 2023.
<https://the1a.org/segments/ron-desantis-and-the-battle-over-black-history/>

Interviewed by Audie Cornish, “Meet the Parents Taking Over School Boards,” CNN Audio: *The Assignment with Audie Cornish*, 17

November 2022. <https://www.cnn.com/audio/podcasts/the-assignment/episodes/b590d874-12bb-4b45-bfae-af4d01024b0f>

Interviewed by Laura Bult, “Critical Race Theory and School Boards,” *Vox.com*, 23 June 2022.

Interviewed by Meg Oliver, “CBS This Morning,” April 28, 2022.

Interviewed by Diane Rehm, “Book Bans Then and Now,” *National Public Radio On My Mind* podcast, April 22, 2022.
<https://dianerehm.org/shows/2022-04-23/book-bans-then-and-now>

Interviewed by Jenn White, “The Fight for America’s School Boards,” *National Public Radio 1A*, September 16, 2021.
<https://the1a.org/segments/school-board-politics-mask/>

Interview on *National Public Radio Code Switch* podcast, “The Folk Devil Made Me Do It,” September 1, 2021.
<https://www.npr.org/2021/08/20/1029775224/the-folk-devil-made-me-do-it>

Interview by Sam Sanders, “It’s Been a Minute with Sam Sanders,” *National Public Radio* podcast, June 25, 2021.
<https://www.npr.org/2021/06/25/1010253490/culture-wars-then-and-now-plus-the-creators-of-hacks>

Featured author interview: “Fundamentalist Education, Beyond Doctrine,” Peter Monaghan, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, March 25, 2018. <https://www.chronicle.com/article/Fundamentalist-Education/242902?cid=wcontentlist>

“Uncommon Core,” Author interview, *National Review*, John J. Miller, March 2, 2015.
<http://www2.nationalreview.com/corner/414686/uncommon-core-john-j-miller>

Selected Media Appearances

Quoted by Anna Claire Vollers, “Meet Moms For Liberty: The Rising Conservative Group Shaking Up School Districts Nationwide,” *Reckon*, 26 April 2022. <https://www.reckon.news/news/2023/04/meet-moms-for-liberty-the-powerful-rising-conservative-group-shaking-up-school-districts-nationwide.html>

Quoted by Cory Smith, “State Politics, Laws Impacting How Students Choose a College,” *The National Desk*, 22 April 2023.
<https://thenationaldesk.com/news/americas-news-now/state-politics-laws-impacting-how-students-choose-a-college-higher->

[education-abortion-reproductive-rights-lgbtq-policies-racial-equality-youth-universities-democrats-republicans-conservative-liberal](#)

Quoted by David Jesse, “‘These Are Not Normal Times’: Leadership Schism Throws a Christian College’s Future Into Disarray,” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 13 April 2023.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/these-are-not-normal-times-leadership-schism-throws-a-christian-colleges-future-into-disarray>

Quoted by Sarah Schwartz, “Will Restrictions on Teaching ‘Controversial’ Issues Target Science Classes?” *EdWeek*, 15 February 2023. <https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/will-restrictions-on-teaching-controversial-issues-target-science-classes/2023/02>

Quoted by Wilfred Chan, “‘Cowering to Politics’: How AP African American Studies Became the Most Controversial Course in the US,” *The Guardian*, 13 February 2023.

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2023/feb/13/ap-african-american-studies-florida-ron-desantis>

Quoted by Janelle Davis, “Dynamite and Picket Lines: The Great Textbook Debate That Forever Changed US School Boards,” *CNN*, 17 November 2022. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/11/17/us/school-boards-historian-assignment-podcast/index.html>

Quoted by Charlotte Plantive, “Full-Scale Noah’s Ark: A Showcase for US Creationists,” *Agence France-Presse*, 19 October 2022. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-11330405/Full-scale-Noahs-Ark--showcase-US-creationists.html>

Quoted by Marc Ramirez and Kathryn Varn, “‘We Are War Moms’: Moms for Liberty Dominates School Board Politics across US,” *USA Today*, 16 August 2022.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/08/16/conservative-moms-liberty-takes-school-boards-across-us/10255129002/?gnt-cfr=1>

Quoted by Janie Har, “Slave Reparations Advocates Hail Historic California Report,” *Associated Press*, 1 June 2022.

<https://apnews.com/article/california-race-and-ethnicity-san-francisco-voter-registration-0cb66f61c4b9f0136c43a17408720d98>

Quoted by Kelly Field, “Teachers, Deputized to Fight the Culture Wars, Are Often Reluctant to Serve,” *Hechinger Report*, 23 May 2022.

<https://hechingerreport.org/teachers-deputized-to-fight-the-culture-wars-are-often-reluctant-to-serve/>

Quoted by Aki Naganuma, “米教育現場で広がる「禁書」、分断の火種に” *Nikkei* (Japan), 27 April 2022.

<https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXZQOQN13EAH0T10C22A4000000/>

Quoted by Constance Grady, “How the New Banned Books Panic Fits into America’s History of School Censorship, *Vox*, 17 February 2022.
<https://www.vox.com/culture/22918344/banned-books-history-maus-school-censorship-texas-harold-rugg-beloved-huck-finn-dr-seuss>

Quoted by Hannah Natanson, “Youngkin Takes Office with Immediate Focus on Education, Thrilling Some and Terrifying Others,” *Washington Post*, 16 January 2022.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2022/01/16/virginia-glenn-youngkin-education/>

Quoted by Mary Retta, “School Board Fights Will Be an Issue in 2022 Midterms,” *Teen Vogue*, 2 December 2021.
<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/school-board-fights-2022>

Quoted by Erin Richards, “Conservative School Boards Use Critical Race Theory to Gain Power,” *USA Today*, October 20, 2021.
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2021/10/20/critical-race-theory-catalyst-rise-conservative-school-boards/8442122002/?gnt-cfr=1>

Quoted by Ruth Graham, “Christian Schools Boom in a Revolt against Curriculum and Pandemic Rules,” *New York Times*, 19 October 2021.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/19/us/christian-schools-growth.html>

Quoted by Margaret Talbot, “The Increasingly Wild World of School Board Meetings, *The New Yorker*, 8 October 2021.
<https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/the-increasingly-wild-world-of-school-board-meetings>

Quoted by Olivia Waxman, “Critical Race Theory Is Simply the Latest Bogeyman.’ Inside the Fight Over What Kids Learn About America’s History, *TIME Magazine*, 24 June 2021.
<https://time.com/6075193/critical-race-theory-debate/>

Quoted by Julia Carrie Wong, “The Fight to Whitewash US history: ‘A Drop of Poison Is All You Need,’” *The Guardian*, May 25, 2021.
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/may/25/critical-race-theory-us-history-1619-project?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

Quoted by Jennifer Schuessler, “The Ideas Behind Trump’s 1776 Commission Report,” *New York Times*, January 19, 2021.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/19/arts/1776-commission-claims-trump.html>

Quoted by Michael McDonald, "God a Click Away as Web Courses Fuel Falwell's College," Bloomberg.com, February 27, 2013.

<<<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-02-27/god-a-click-away-as-web-courses-fuel-falwell-s-college.html>>>

Professional Activities

History of Education Society:

- Member, Eisenmann Prize Committee, 2019-2023
- Editorial board, *History of Education Quarterly*, 2018-2021
- Proposal review for History of Education Society annual meetings, 2015-2022.
- Manuscript review for *History of Education Quarterly*, beginning Fall 2008.

National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation

- Selection Committee for the NAEd/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, 2023-2026
- Senior discussant, Fall Fellows' Retreat, Washington, DC, November 16-18, 2022
- Mentor, Fall Fellows' Retreat, Washington, DC, November 14-15, 2018
- Application review for dissertation and postdoctoral fellowships, annually 2014-present

Book manuscript review:

- Johns Hopkins University Press;
- University of Virginia Press;
- Cambridge University Press;
- MIT Press;
- University of Alabama Press;
- University of Chicago Press;
- Palgrave Macmillan;
- SUNY Press.

Journal article manuscript review:

- *American Journal of Education*;
- *Journal of Curriculum Studies*;
- *The Good Society*;
- *Historical Studies in Education*;
- *Science & Education*;
- *Educational Researcher*;
- *Journal of American History*;
- *Georgia Historical Quarterly*;
- *Church History*;

- *New York History*;
- *Journal of Educational Media, Memory, and Society* (Germany);
- *Paedagogica Historica*;
- *History of Education Quarterly*;
- *Cultural Studies of Science Education*.

Selected History Education Workshops

“My Uncle’s Not a Murderer:’ Textbooks, Teaching, and the Vietnam War,” Rochester School District Professional Development workshop, April 5, 2014.

“Teaching with Primary Sources: Using the Library of Congress website,” Broome-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), Binghamton, New York, October 20, December 8, 2009, April 21, November 17, 2010, April 19, 2011, December 15, 2011.

Professional Associations

Member of the Organization of American Historians, 2021

Member of US Intellectual History Society, 2011

Member of the American Educational Research Association, 2009

Member of the American Historical Association, Fall 2005

Member of the American Society of Church History, Fall 2003

Member of the History of Education Society, Fall 2003

Teaching Certification

Missouri certification for teaching High School Social Studies;

Awarded June, 1998; Certificate number: 0173731

Professional Experience

Anchorage Daily News, Anchorage, Alaska

Editorial Assistant, Classified Department, May-Nov. 1994