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Education

- Dec. 1999 Ph.D. in History, University of Wisconsin-Madison
dissertation title: Race, Recordings, and Rock'n'Roll: The American Federation of Musicians and the Popular Music Challenge, 1940-1970. Advisor: Paul Boyer
- Aug. 1992 M.A. in History, UW-Madison
thesis title: Strike Up The Band: The American Federation of Musicians' Recording Bans, 1942-1948. Advisor: David Zonderman
- May 1990 A.B. with Honors in History, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
thesis title: Collaborative Colonialism: Harry Bandholtz and the Philippine Constabulary, 1903-1913. Advisor: Bradford Perkins

Publications

- 2012 "Success from Scrap and Second-hand Goods: Jewish Business in the Midwest, 1890-1930," in Rebecca Kobrin, ed. Chosen Capital: The Jewish Experience with American Capitalism (in press)
- 2012 "Antisemitism" entry in Oxford Companion to the Social History of the United States (in press)
- 2011 "'Ovoutie Slanguage is Absolutely Kosher': Yiddish in Scat-Singing, Jazz Jargon, and Black Music," in Bruce Zuckerman, Josh Kun, and Lisa Ansell, eds. The Song is Not the Same: Jews and American Popular Music (The Jewish Role in American Life: An Annual Review, vol. 8) (Purdue University Press)
- 2008 "'Is This What We Have Among Us Here—A Jew?': The Hillel Review and Jewish Identity at the University of Wisconsin, 1925-1931," in Charles L. Cohen and Paul S. Boyer, eds. Religion and the Culture of Print in Modern America, (University of Wisconsin Press)
- 2007 "Who's Yehoodi? Scat, Jive, and Yiddish, 1938-1953," Guilt and Pleasure 6 (Fall)
- 2006 "Madison, Wisconsin" entry in Encyclopedia Judaica (Gale Group Publishing)
- 2004 Co-editor, The Voice of the People: Primary Sources on the History of American Labor, Industrial Relations, and Working-Class Culture (Harlan Davidson)
- 2003 "Six Degrees of Ben Sidran," review of Ben Sidran: A Life in the Music, August issue of Madison Magazine
- 2001 "Jewish Problems: Eastern and Western Jewish Identities in Conflict at the University of Wisconsin, 1919-1941," American Jewish History 89:2

- 2000 "Duke Ellington," "Ella Fitzgerald," Benny Goodman," entries, Oxford Companion to the History of the United States
- 1998 Margaret Bald, ed. Banned Books: Literature Suppressed on Religious Grounds (Facts on File)
Contributed essays on eight Anglo-American and recent European books censored under pressure from clergy.

Teaching experience

Aug. 1998-current

Instructor, Madison Area Technical College: History 211, 212, 214, 215, 225, 229, 238, and 240

I teach all of the U. S. history courses at this two-year college, including surveys to and since the Civil War, African-American, Native American, and Latino history courses, US history since 1945, Vietnam and America, 1945-Present, and twentieth-century world history. (4/4 load)

Jun.-Jul. 1998

Lecturer, UW-Madison: History 102, United States Since 1865

Created lectures and group exercises, and formulated exams, papers, and presentation assignments for intensive four-week summer class.

Jan.-May 1996, Jan.-May 1997

Lecturer, UW-Madison: History 201/Jewish Studies 699, American Jewish History

Wrote and delivered lectures, created exams, assisted students in finding workable paper topics, and used films and discussions to encourage student participation in the course.

Jan. 1992-Dec. 1997

Teaching Assistant, UW-Madison: History 398, United States Since 1945; History 102, United States Since 1865; History 302, American Thought, 1859-Present

Led discussion sections, helped create reading list, graded papers and exams, and guest-lectured. Taught students who had viewed lectures in traditional classrooms and on cable television.

Sept. -Dec. 1996

Tutor, McBurney Disability Resource Center, UW-Madison

Assisted a blind graduate student with dissertation research on pub culture in London's East End and studying for prelim exam in modern European social history.

Jun. 1991-May 1993

Project Assistant, UW-Madison: History 408, American Labor, 1900-Present; History 201, The American Jewish Pattern

Graded essay exams, guest-lectured, and helped formulate exam questions.

Academic Presentations

Mar., 2010 Moderated "Works Concluded and In Progress: Jewish Oral History in Wisconsin" panel at Wisconsin Oral History Day, Milwaukee

Oct., 2009 "Crime, Reflective Citizenship, and Memory: Madison's Greenbush Neighborhood, 1900-2000," Community College Humanities Association National Conference, Chicago

Mar., 2008 "Machers on the Margins: Scrap Dealers and American Jewish Communities, 1890-1990," Jews and American Capitalism, New York University & Columbia University

- Sept. 2004 “Patterns of Reconstructionist Jewish Practice in the Wisconsin Hillel Review,” Religion and the Culture of Print in America, University of Wisconsin—Madison
- Oct. 2002 “Where the Borscht Belt Meets the Corn Belt: My Life as a Midwestern Klezmer,” presentation at Central Division annual meeting of the Community College Humanities Association
- Oct. 1999 Moderated panel on international exchange programs at two-year colleges, Community College Humanities Association National Conference, Chicago
- June 1998 “The New York Students Are the Root of the Problem: The Formation of a Midwestern Jewish Identity at the University of Wisconsin, 1919-1940,” Scholars’ Conference in American Jewish History, Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati
- Mar. 1998 “Opportunities and Obligations: Ending Segregation in California Musicians’ Locals, 1946-1960,” Black History Workshop, University of Houston
- Oct. 1995 “Washboards, Whiteness, and World War Two: The American Federation of Musicians and ‘The Hillbilly Problem,’” International Association for the Study of Popular Music-U. S. A. Annual Conference, Vanderbilt University
- Oct. 1993 “The American Federation of Musicians’ Recording Ban, 1942-1944,” Social History Conference, University of Cincinnati

Awards and Honors

- May 2008 MATC Fellow, Institute for Research in the Humanities, UW-Madison (current)
- Apr. 2008 Project director, Life During Wartime, funded through the Teaching American History program of the US Department of Education
- Sept. 2007 Honorary Fellow, Institute for Research in the Humanities, UW-Madison
- Apr. 2007 Sabbatical recipient (for Fall, 2007), MATC Educational Funding Committee
- Nov. 2006 Miriam Singer Sulman Young Leadership Award, Madison Jewish Community Council
- Apr. 2003 MATC Foundation Grant recipient for MATC History Project
- Aug. 2002 NEH grant extension recipient for Faces of Madison’s Jewish Community
- Aug. 2000 National Endowment for the Humanities grant recipient for Faces of America
- Oct. 1997 Second place, Michigan Historical Review Student Essay Competition
- May 1997 Mellon Political Culture Fellow, History Department, UW-Madison
- May 1995 Departmental Travel Grant, History Department, UW-Madison
- Dec. 1993 Graduate School Domestic Research Travel Grant, UW-Madison
- May 1990 Departmental Honors in History, UM-Ann Arbor
- May 1989 Michael Bernstein Junior Research Award, UM-Ann Arbor

Multimedia projects

- 2007 Built on Scrap (Lapinsky & Sons/Ambrose Media film): producer, director, writer, narrator
- 2004 Ruach! A Musical Tribute to Camp Shalom (privately released music CD): producer
- 2001 Yid Vicious, Forverts (Knitting Factory Records KFW 308): drums, liner notes
- 1998 Yid Vicious, Klez, Kez, Goy Mit Fez (Uvulittle Records UVU 101): drums

Representative sample of public presentations

- May 1999-current
Popular culture expert, Wisconsin Ideas Network

Four to eight times a year, I serve as a guest on Wisconsin Public Radio talk-radio programs, discussing the social significance of popular films, songs, and television shows.

- July 2011 Presented "Madison's Jewish Central Committee: 1915-1922" for a luncheon of major donors to the Jewish Federation of Madison
- May 2011 Appearances as Madison College's "popular culture expert" on three local network affiliates, discussing the historical importance of the Prince Harry-Kate Middleton wedding
- May 2011 For Kiwanis Club of Downtown Madison, gave a talk entitled, "Elias Tobenkin in Madison, 1899-1906: Immigration and Insights"
- May 2010 Introduced and facilitated discussion of "Wisconsin Vietnam War Stories," presentation at Verona Public Library
- Apr. 2009 "Jewish Academic Networks from Central Wisconsin to the University of Wisconsin," presentation at Portage County Public Library, Stevens Point, Wisconsin
- Oct. 2007 Presented "The Gates of Heaven and Madison's Jewish/Unitarian Tradition" to the Friends of the Meeting House annual meeting.
- July 2005 For the Greenfield Summer Institute, delivered a talk on the early Jewish experience at the University of Wisconsin and led a bus tour of Jewish sites in the Madison area.
- Oct. 2001-May 2003 Six presentations on Madison's Jewish history, to audiences at the University of Wisconsin, Madison Rotary, Temple Beth El, and Beth Israel Center. Two presentations supported by NEH Faces of America project.
- July 2001 Moderated "Faces of Westmorland" oral history project, where residents of a suburban Madison neighborhood told the area's history through family snapshots, part of NEH-sponsored Faces of America program, Westmorland Park, Madison
- June 1997 "Labor's Impact on American Jews," evening lecture for Statesider Elderhostel program, Madison.
- Dec. 1995 "Jews in the Labor Movement," part of American Jewish History lecture series, Temple Beth El, Madison.
- June 1992 "Drive-In Blues," film presentation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin Museum
- Aug. 1988 "Cheap 'n' Good: The Films of Roger Corman," film presentation, Library of Congress

Public history experience

July 2008-current

Project Director, Life During Wartime

I am the principal investigator on a three-year, \$940,000 grant that brings together college faculty, museum professionals, and 35 teachers in grades 4-12 to develop new approaches to teaching the history of twentieth-century American wars.

Feb.-Oct., 2009

Scholar-consultant, Soul of a People

I worked with the Verona (Wis.) Public Library on a public celebration of the Federal Writers' Project of the 1930s. I gave two public lectures, on oral histories of former slaves who settled in Wisconsin, and on the history of Verona through Writers' Project interviews.

Aug. 2003-July 2004

MATC History Project Coordinator

Researched a history of MATC, with support from the MATC Foundation, to commemorate the college's ninetieth birthday.

Oct. 2001-Jan. 2003

Consultant, Unpacking on the Prairie: Jewish Women in the Upper Midwest

Provided ideas for local history angles and gave a lecture localizing national touring exhibit at Wisconsin State Historical Museum.

Aug. 2000-June 2003

MATC Coordinator, Faces of America Project

Served as one of two local organizers for a nationally-coordinated project that brought members of Madison-area communities together to discuss local history through the use of family photographs. Photos and text from the exhibition were displayed publicly and will appear in my history of Madison's Jewish community.

Sept. 1990-Aug. 1993

Senior Film Collections Assistant, Visual/Sound Archives, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Handled research requests. Processed collections of home movies, industrial films, and documentaries. Helped compile a guide to Madison news footage. Supervised volunteers and work-study students.

May-Aug. 1988

Intern, Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division, Library of Congress

Processed the Syd Cassyd collection of television promotional materials. Researched National Press Club Collection background. Assisted researchers.

Community service, departmental service, and union experience

Sept. 2010-present

Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning International Education Fellow

Work with faculty members to internationalize the college's curriculum. Serve on International Education committee, evaluating new courses with significant international content. Work with faculty members and employers to create the most appropriate international-education activities for programs.

Sept. 2008-July 2011

Chair, Humanities Department

Managed budget for department of five full-time and roughly twenty-five part-time faculty members. Served on hiring committees for adjunct History instructors.

Mentored new adjuncts. Worked on strategic plan for Arts & Sciences division.

Sept. 2006-July 2009

Chair, Camp Shalom Committee

For a summer-long day camp serving 1,000 campers, I oversaw raising roughly \$100,000 from corporate and individual donors to fund day-camp scholarships. I coordinated snack donations from area grocers, wholesalers, and farmers. I served on hiring committees for camp directors.

Aug. 2004-Jul. 2006

Lead Teacher, Social Science and History Department

Oversaw the reorganization of a 25-member department into three smaller departments. Served on hiring committees for four full-time and two part-time instructors. Managed departmental budgets.

May 2000-May 2005

Local 243 Forum, MATC

Served as a union steward for MATC Teachers' Union, Local 243, American Federation of Teachers.

Jan. 2002-May, 2004

Academic Advising Steering Committee, MATC

Served as Arts & Sciences delegate to cross-campus committee that coordinates academic advising efforts.

Mar. 2002-May, 2003

Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee, MATC

Served as Social Science/History representative to division-wide committee that authorizes and funds new courses.

Oct.-Dec. 2002

Curriculum and Learning Outcomes Assessment Committee, MATC

Served as Arts & Sciences delegate to campus-wide committee on assessment of learning outcomes.

Feb. 2001-May 2002

Professional Development Committee, Arts and Sciences Division, MATC

Served as one of six faculty members on committee to determine definitions of "professional development" under new workload arrangement.

January 1999-May 2000

Faculty Library Committee, MATC

Meeting several times each semester, I advise library staff of important text and database acquisitions as well as books to preserve.

Sept. 1994-May 1995

Teaching Assistant Evaluation Committee, Department of History, UW-Madison

Administered students' evaluation of teaching assistants' classroom performance.

Worked with faculty members to prioritize faculty evaluation of teaching assistants.

Sept. 1994-May 1995

Vice President, Teaching Assistants' Association, Local 3220, American Federation of Teachers

Oversaw relations with other graduate employee unions. Served as TAA liaison to county labor federation. Wrote monthly newsletter column on union benefits.

Addressed questions and concerns of membership.

Aug. 1993-May 1994

Legislative Coordinator, Teaching Assistants' Association

Headed campaign to win a full tuition waiver for 2,400-member teaching and project assistants' union. Served as media contact. Met regularly with UW committees to present the TAA's stand on University issues. Supervised volunteers for lobby days.

Professional affiliations

American Historical Association

American Jewish Historical Society

Community College Humanities Association

Organization of American Historians

References

Available upon request.