

Alexander E. Taft

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Curriculum Vitae

Education

- May 2023 (expected) Ph.D. in History, University of Texas at Austin
Dissertation: “‘He Did Evil with His Body:’ Vulnerability, Violence, and Violation in Early Modern French Sodomy Trials”
- December 2019 M.A. in History, UT Austin
Thesis (Outstanding Masters Prize): “‘Had He Not Been Abused Against Nature?’ Priests, Italians, and Children in French Sodomy Trials, 1540-1670”
- Summer 2017 Intensive Language Program, the Betty Ashbury MA ’86 School of French, Middlebury College, VT
- May 2017 B.A. in History and Political Science, *Summa Cum Laude*, West Virginia University
Thesis, “Power and Gender in the Memoirs of Hortense Mancini”
- Spring 2016 Semester at Birkbeck College, University of London
- Fall 2015 Semester at the École de Management de Strasbourg, France

Publications

- February 2018 “Historians on Marriage and Sexuality in the United States,” *Not Even Past*,
<https://notevenpast.org/historians-on-marriage-and-sexuality-in-the-united-states/>

Conferences/Presentations/Meetings

- February 2020 “‘Dared Never Speak of This:’ Sound and Sodomy in France, 1540-1670,” UT Symposium on Gender & Sexuality, Austin, TX
- October 2019 “Questioning Children and Abuse in French Sodomy Trials,” Texas Tech. Gender & Sexual Identities Colloquium, Lubbock, TX
- August 2019 “‘Abused Against Nature:’ Children and Reputation in French Sodomy Trials, 1540-1670,” American Historical Association-Pacific Coast Branch Annual Conference, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV
- November 2018 “Cosmopolitan Crimes: Priests, Teachers and ‘Italians’ in Paris Sodomy Trials, 1580-1670,” graduate conference, Institute for Historical Studies, UT Austin, TX
- May 2018 “Marie Antoinette’s Body: Sex, Pornography, and Politics in the Ancien Régime,” Transatlantic Feminisms Graduate Conference, UT Austin, TX
- April 2018 State of Early Modern/Modern French History in America Conference, Institute of Napoleon and the French Revolution, Florida State University

March 2015 “Power and Gender in the Memoirs of Hortense Mancini,” Phi Alpha Theta PA-Western Conference, Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA

Grants, Fellowships, Awards

April 2020 Outstanding Master’s Thesis/Report, Graduate School, UT Austin and attached prize

December 2019 Perry Prize, Best Master’s Thesis/Report, History Department, UT Austin and attached fellowship

August 2019 Graduate Travel Award, American Historical Association, Pacific Coast Branch Annual Conference, University of Nevada Las Vegas

April 2017 UT Austin History Department Fellowship and funding support for five years including “signing bonus”

May 2017 Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society

May 2017 Outstanding Graduate Award in Political Science, Class of 2017

2013-2017 WVU Dean’s List

2016-2017 Officer of the Laurel Chapter of the Mortar Board Honorary Society

September 2016 John Ransel Romine ‘44 Award for outstanding undergraduate research

April 2015 Best paper in panel award, Phi Alpha Theta PA-Western Conference

May 2015 James A. Malcomb Endowed Scholarship

May 2013 West Virginia Promise Scholarship

Teaching Experience

Spring 2020 Teaching Assistant (with crisis response online learning), *The United States, 1492-1865*, Professor Rachel Ozanne

Fall 2019 Teaching Assistant, *The Premodern World*, Professor Cynthia Talbot, including solo lecture, “Europe, 500-1500: Exchanges and Conquests”

Spring 2019 Teaching Assistant, *Witches, Workers, and Wives*, Professor Julie Hardwick, including solo lecture, “Sexuality in a Changing World”

Fall 2018 Teaching Assistant, *The United States, 1492-1865*, Professor Neil Kamil

Other Relevant Experience

October 2020-now	Research Assistant, Dr. Danna Agmon, Virginia Tech: Transcription of eighteenth-century trial records originating in Pondicherry
June 2018-now	Graduate Research Assistant, Dr. Julie Hardwick, UT Austin: Data management and eighteenth-century manuscript transcription
September 2018-2020	UT Austin History Graduate Student Council, Co-President: Restructured organization and institutionalized graduate student activism
July-December 2018	Research Assistant, Dr. Meghan Roberts, Bowdoin College: Transcription of 1725 trial manuscript from the Archive Départemental de Reims, France
May-August 2016	Judicial Assistant, West Virginia Circuit Courts, Martinsburg, WV
January-April 2016	Intern, US-UK Fulbright Commission, London, UK

Languages

English – native speaker
French – advanced reading, writing, and oral skills
Italian – beginner

Professional Society Membership

Student Member, American Historical Association, Pacific-Coast Branch
Member, Society for French Historical Studies
Member, Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History

Community Service

2015-2016 Volunteer, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Harpers Ferry, WV & Washington, DC