

CURRICULUM VITAE

Robert Olwell
Department of History
University of Texas at Austin
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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS:

September 1999 to the present - Associate Professor of History,
University of Texas at Austin.
September 1993 to September 1999 - Assistant Professor of History,
University of Texas at Austin.
June 1990 to September 1993 - Assistant Professor of History, Mount
Saint Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Maryland.
January to June 1990 - Adjunct Professor of History, Loyola College of
Maryland, Baltimore.

EDUCATION/DEGREES:

Ph. D. (History) The Johns Hopkins University, 1991
M. A. (History) The Johns Hopkins University, 1987
M. A. (History) University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1985
B. A. (History) University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1983

EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS:

Research Affiliate, Swedish Institute for North American Studies
(SINAS), Uppsala University, Sweden, Spring 2014.
Research Fellowship, Huntington Library, San Marino, California,
Summer 2005.
American Council for Learned Societies Research Fellowship, 2003-
2004.
Andrew W. Mellon Research Fellowship, John Carter Brown Library,
Brown University, Spring 1999.
Frederick Douglass Book Prize Runner-Up, Gilder Lehrman Center
for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, Yale University,
1999
National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for College
Teachers: "Slavery and the Atlantic Plantation Complex, 1450-1890,"
The Johns Hopkins University, Summer 1991.
Albert J. Beveridge Research Grant, the American Historical
Association, 1987.
RTE Corporation Employee College Scholarship, 1979-1983.

INTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

History Department Nominee for Regent's Outstanding Teaching Award, 2019.

Fellow, Institute for Historical Studies, 2014-2015 and 2008-2009.

Faculty Research Assignment, Spring 2014.

Mentor, Rapoport-King Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Fall 2016

Mentor, Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program, Spring 2016

History Department nominee for Dads Teaching Award, 2015 and 2016

Liberal Arts Instructional Technology Grant to develop a digital archive for use in the early American Survey course, 2006-07

RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service, Academic Innovation Award, 2005-06

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

Envisioning Empire: The New British World, 1763-1773, co-edited with James Vaughn, (cloth and e-book; London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2020.)

Cultures and Identities in Colonial British America, co-edited, with Alan Tully, (cloth; Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006; revised paperback edition, 2015).

Masters, Slaves, and Subjects: The Culture of Power in the South Carolina Low Country, 1740-1790, (cloth and paper; Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998).

Articles & Chapters:

"Introduction: The Spirit of 1763," in Robert Olwell and James Vaughn, eds., Envisioning Empire: The New British World, 1763-1773, (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2019), 1-26.

"A Tale of Two Treaties: Negotiating with the Indians in Bengal and East Florida, 1765," in Robert Olwell and James Vaughn, eds., Envisioning Empire: The New British World, 1763-1773, (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2019), 149-172.

"Incidental Imperialist: John Bartram's Florida Travels, 1765-1766," in Joseph P. Ward, ed., European Empires in the American South, (Oxford: University of Mississippi Press, 2017), 188-217.

"Atlantic Histories," Reviews in American History, (March 2009), 6-12.

"The Creeks in the American Southeast: a review essay," Itinerario, (November 2005), 118-22.

"Introduction," in Robert Olwell and Alan Tully, eds., Cultures and Identities in Colonial British America, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006), 1-17.

"Seeds of Empire: Florida, Kew, and the British Imperial Meridian in the 1760s," Elizabeth Mancke and Carole Shammas, eds., The Creation of the British Atlantic World, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005), 263-82.

"The Long History of a Low Place: Slavery and Freedom on the South Carolina Coast, 1670-1870," in Winthrop Jordan and Kevin McCarthy, eds., Slavery and the American South, (Oxford: University of Mississippi Press, 2003), 117-39.

"`Practical Justice': The Justice of the Peace, the Slave Court, and the Creation of Authority in mid 18th-Century South Carolina," in Rosemary Brana-Shute, Jack P. Greene, and Randy Sparks, eds., Money, Trade, and Power: New Directions in the Study of the South Carolina Low Country, (Columbia: The University of South Carolina Press, 2001), 256-77.

"Becoming Free: Manumission and the Genesis of a Free Black Community in South Carolina, 1740-1790," in Slavery & Abolition, XVII, (April 1996), 1-19. This issue of S&A was also published as a book, edited by Jane G. Landers: Against the Odds: Free Blacks in the Slave Societies of the Americas, (London: Frank Cass & Co. Ltd., 1996).

"`Loose, Idle and Disorderly': Slave Women in the Eighteenth-Century Charleston Marketplace," in David Barry Gaspar and Darlene Clark Hine, eds., More Than Chattel: Black Women and Slavery in the Americas, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996), 97-110.

"`A Reckoning of Accounts': Patriarchy, Market Relations and Control on Henry Laurens's Lowcountry Plantations, 1762-1785," in Larry E. Hudson, Jr., ed., Working Toward Freedom: Slave Society and Domestic Economy in the American South, (Rochester: University of Rochester Press, 1994), 33-52.

"Slavery and the American Revolution," in Richard L. Blanco, ed., The American Revolution, 1775-1783: An Encyclopedia, (2 vols.; New York: Garland Publishing, 1993), II, 1527-38.

"`Domestick Enemies': Slavery and Political Independence in South Carolina, May 1775 - March 1776," Journal of Southern History, LV, (February 1989), 21-48.

31 Book Reviews; Full list available on request

SCHOLARLY WORK IN PROGRESS:

Monograph:

Imaginary Empire: British Adventures in Florida on the Eve of the American Revolution (under contract with the University of Pennsylvania Press, final mss. to be submitted September 2021).

Article:

"New Bermuda in British East Florida: Population, Migration, and Colonization in the British-Atlantic, 1764-1766." (Expected completion, spring 2021).

PUBLIC HISTORY:

Publications:

National Geographic Society, Historical Consultant and Advisor for three volumes of the series: Voices from Colonial America, aimed at middle school students: books on Georgia (2005), Florida (2006), and South Carolina (2007).

Not Even Past.org (University of Texas at Austin, History Department Web-site), contributed numerous essays on teaching techniques, history themed popular history books and films, as well as appearances on the podcast: "15 Minute Histories."

Lectures and Consulting:

Humanities Texas, Presented a lecture and guided readings on early American history for Secondary School Teachers at seminars in August 2016, June 2010, and October 2013

Pflugerville Independent School District, Presented a lecture and guided reading on the Origins and Development of the American Presidency 1775-1835 at a seminar for teachers in July 2014.

Texas State Historical Association, Reviewed and evaluated exhibits (produced by high school students) for Texas State History Day in 2013 and 2016.

Sons and/or Daughters of the American Revolution, I have spoken on numerous occasions to the Austin area chapters.

Resident Scholar for a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for Secondary School Teachers Institute on the subject of Early Slave Cultures, Summer 2000.

Public Broadcasting, Consultant and Advisor for the WGBH/PBS series: "Africans in America" March 1993.

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS:

Invited talks/lectures

"Castles in the Sand: In Which an Eccentric British Aristocrat Tries to Stem the Tide of Change," pre-circulated paper presented to the Washington Area Early American Seminar and the Miller Center for Historical Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, December 2017.

"The 'Greek Scheme' in British East Florida: A Scottish Enlightenment Tragedy," paper presented to the History Seminar, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana., October 2016.

"TJ & Me: Thomas Jefferson's place in modern American popular culture," lecture presented at Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3, Lyon, France, June 2016.

"Incidental Imperialist: John Bartram's Florida Travels, 1765-1766," Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture Colloquium, Williamsburg, Virginia, February 2015.

"Sciences' Empire: Carl Linnaeus, John Bartram, and the British Colony of Florida," lecture presented to the Swedish Institute for North American Studies, Uppsala University, Sweden, March 2014.

"Incidental Imperialist: John Bartram's Expedition to Florida and the Intersection of Science and Empire in British-American Southeast of the 1760s," pre-circulated paper presented at the Porter L. Fortune, Jr., History Symposium at the University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi, February 2013.

"Tea Leaves: The Oriental Origins of the American Revolution," lecture presented to the sophomore class of Mount Saint Mary's University, Emmitsburg, Maryland, September 2008.

"A Portrait of the Slave Master as Revolutionary: White Liberty, Black Slavery, and the American Revolution in South Carolina, 1775-1783," pre-circulated paper presented at the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, November 2000.

"The Long History of a Low Place: Slavery and Freedom on the South Carolina Coast, 1670-1870," pre-circulated paper presented at the Porter L. Fortune Jr., History Symposium at the University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi, October 2000.

"Magical Kingdom: Setting the History of the 'lost' British Colony of East Florida into an Atlantic Context," paper presented at the Early American History Seminar at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, April 2000.

"Magic Kingdoms: Imagination, Speculation, and Empire in British East Florida, 1763-1775," lecture presented at the John Carter Brown Library lunch seminar, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, March 1999.

"The Influence of Black Majority on American History, and Vice-Versa," paper presented at a Forum held on the 25th-anniversary of the publication of Peter Wood's Black Majority: Negroes in Colonial South Carolina from 1670 to the Stono Rebellion, College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina, October 1998.

"Slavery and Power in Colonial South Carolina," lecture presented to undergraduate history majors at Hamilton College, Clinton, New York, March 1999.

"Black Voices - White Stories: Reading the Record of Conspiracy Slave Conspiracy Investigation in Mid-18th-Century South Carolina," paper presented at the Slavery in Early South Carolina conference, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, February 1999.

"The Culture of Power in a Colonial Slave Society," paper presented to the Departments of History and Afro-American Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, February 1996.

"Communion and Community: Slavery and the Established Church in Colonial South Carolina," paper presented at "New Approaches to Slavery in North America: A Workshop," the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, October 1993.

"`A Reckoning of Accounts': Patriarchy, Market Relations, and Control on Henry Laurens's Low Country Plantations, 1762-1785," paper presented at the conference: "Work and Culture: Early African-American Life and Labor," University of Rochester, Rochester, New York, April 1993.

Conference/workshop/seminar papers:

"Beware of Scots bearing Greeks: Viewing the New Smyrna colony in British East Florida as an Enlightenment Tragedy," paper presented at the bi-annual meeting of the Mediterranean Society for Enlightenment Studies, Zakynthos, Greece, May 2019.

"`Time is but the Stream I go a-fishing in': Thoreau's Historical Skepticism and the Memory of the American Revolution in early 19th-century America," paper presented at the Thoreau Society's Annual Gathering, Concord, Massachusetts, July 2016.

"Sowing Dragon's Teeth: Enlightenment Demography and Early Schemes for Settling British East Florida," pre-circulated paper presented at the Early Americanists in Texas seminar, Rice University, Houston, Texas, May 2016.

"The Turner Antithesis: The Significance of the Frontier in the Creation of Early Modern Atlantic Maroon Societies," comment presented at the conference: "Marronage and Maroonage in Culture, History, and Society," College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina, February 2016.

"The Scottish Origins of the 'Greek Scheme' in British East Florida," paper presented at the annual meeting of the British Group of Early American History, Edinburgh, Scotland, September 2014.

"Building Castles in the Sand: A Reactionary Proposal for the Post-1763 Empire and Its Metropolitan Context," paper presented at the annual meeting of the North American Conference on British Studies, Portland, Oregon, November 2013.

"'Rollestown' in East Florida: A Case Study in Master-Servant law in England and Colonial America on the Eve of the American Revolution," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies, the Huntington Library, San Marino, California, March 2012.

"The Eye of the Beholder: Advertising, Promotion, and Self-Fashioning in the Peripatetic Career of a Mid-Eighteenth-Century "Occulist" and Colonial Author," paper presented at the conference: "Before Madison Avenue: Advertising in Early America," held at the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts, November 2011.

"Factual Fictions: Poetic License and the Historic Record in Barry Unsworth's Sacred Hunger, paper presented at the annual meeting of Society of Early Americanists, St. Augustine, Florida, May 2010.

"New Bermuda in East Florida: Population, Migration, and Colonization in the British-Atlantic, 1764-1766," Annual meeting of the Society of Early Americanists, Hamilton, Bermuda, March 2009.

"Casualty of War: Florida in the 'Press-War' of 1762," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Conference for British Studies, New Orleans, Louisiana., October 2008.

"Britain's New Indian Subjects (East and West) in the 1760s," paper presented at the annual meeting of the North American Conference for British Studies, Cincinnati, Ohio, October 2008.

"The Imperial Quadrille: Defining and Performing British and Seminole Identities in Florida, 1764-1768," paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Ethnohistory, Williamsburg, Virginia, November 2006.

"Imagined Community or Company Town: The History of the 'Village of Rolle' in British East Florida, 1765-1784," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society, Palm Beach, Florida, May 2005.

"'A Swamp of an Investment': Eighteenth-Century (Mis)Information Technology and the Failure of British Florida," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society, Melbourne, Florida, April 2004.

"Fantasyland: British Dreams and Schemes for Building a New (Old) World in Florida, 1763-1775," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association, Baltimore, November 2002.

"'Spectre of Albion!': The Life of Banastre Tarleton and the Strange Career of British Slavery and Anti-Slavery, 1754-1833" paper presented at the Banastre Tarleton Symposium, Camden, South Carolina, April 2002.

"Beware of Scots bearing Greeks: The Rise and Fall of the New Smyrna Colony in British East-Florida, 1763-1777," paper presented at the Allen Morris Conference on the History of Florida and the Atlantic World, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, February 2002.

"King George's Sandbox: Playing at Politics Science and Empire in the Royal Gardens at Kew, 1759-1768," paper presented at the annual conference of the Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture, Toronto, Canada, June 2000.

"Going to School at 'Muskettoe University' and 'Grant College': Learning Plantation Agriculture in British East Florida, 1764-1771," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society, Daytona Beach, Florida, April 1999.

"Magic Kingdoms: Imagination, Speculation, and Empire in British East Florida, 1763-1775," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association, Birmingham, Alabama, November 1998.

"`The King's People Are Coming!:' Lowcountry Slaves' War for Independence, 1778-1782," paper presented at the conference, "From Revolution to Revolution: the South Carolina Lowcountry, 1775-1860," the College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina, May 1996.

"The Political Economy of Colonial Lowcountry Plantations," paper presented at the conference: "The South Carolina Lowcountry in the Colonial Period," held at the College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina, May 1995.

"Black Acts: The Slave Code of Colonial South Carolina and 18th-century Anglo-American Jurisprudence," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, held at the University of California at Irvine, Irvine, California, February 1995.

"`To Speak the Real Truth': Slaves, Masters, and the Creation of the Documentary Record in the Cooper River Conspiracy of 1749," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Chicago, Illinois, April 1992.

"The World Turned Upside Down: Slave Women in the Charleston Marketplace," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Louisville, Kentucky, April 1991.

"Slavery and Wage Labor in Colonial South Carolina," paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association, New York, New York, December 1990.

Talks Presented at the University of Texas:

"Teaching the American Revolution Through Student Role Playing" a presentation made to a pedagogical workshop, Department of History, March 2019.

"Incidental Imperialist: John Bartram's Florida Travels, 1765-66," Institute for Historical Studies, February 2015.

"The Other Empire-Builders: New Agents and Networks," Response for the symposium: "Entangled Histories of the Early Modern British and Iberian Empires and Their Successor Republics," Department of History, November 2014.

"Autobiography in Brick and Plaster: 'Reading' the Presidents' Homes from Washington to Jackson," LAMP program, October 2011.

"A Tale of Two Treaties: Negotiating with Britain's New Indian Subjects in 1765," at the Conference: "1763 & All That: Temptations of Empire in the British World during the Decade after the Seven Years War," February 2010.

"Playing Chess at Monticello: Considering Thomas Jefferson at the Start of the 21st Century" Odyssey Lecture Series, November 2008.

"First Impressions: Perceiving Florida in British Print Culture, 1762-1763," Institute for Historical Studies, University of Texas at Austin, September 2008.

"Fantasyland: British Dreams and Schemes for Building a New (Old) World in Florida, 1763-1775," British Studies Seminar, Spring 2003.

"Magic Kingdoms: Imagination, Speculation, and Empire in British East Florida, 1763-1775," British Studies Seminar, Fall 1998.

Participant in a round-table discussion on the Irish Insurrection of 1798, British Studies Seminar, Fall 1998.

"Magic Kingdoms: Imagination, Speculation, and Empire in British East Florida, 1763-1775," at the symposium "Markets, Cultures, and the Cultures of Markets," University of Texas at Austin, October 1998.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Conferences organized:

Founder and Co-Organizer of Early Americanists in Texas, a consortium between the University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M College Station, Rice University, and Southern Methodist University that holds a bi-annual symposium (at each institution in rotation), 2015-present.

"1763 & All That: Temptations of Empire in the British World during the Decade after the Seven Years' War," sponsored by the Institute for Historical Studies, University of Texas

"Lost Colonies: Failed European Colonial Enterprises, 1450-1850," (With Alison Games), sponsored by the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, March 2004.

Symposium: "Investigating a slave conspiracy in Mid-Eighteenth Century South Carolina," funded by the College of Charleston and the South Carolina Humanities Council, Charleston, February 1999.

Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture's annual Conference held at the University of Texas in June 1999.

Program committee: Southern Historical Association's Annual Conference (New Orleans in November 2001).

Reviews of scholarship:

I have reviewed numerous book manuscripts for Oxford, Yale, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee University presses, and many article manuscripts for the Journal of American History, Journal of Southern History, William and Mary Quarterly, and Slavery and Abolition.

I have served as the external reviewer in promotion cases for History Departments at Tulane University, Rutgers University, the State University of New York at New Paltz, and Dalhousie University.

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

College and University level

Liberal Arts Elected Representative, University Faculty Council, 2016-2018.

Faculty Council Representative, Admissions Committee, 2017-2018.

Faculty Council Representative, Building Advisory Committee, 2016-2017.

College of Liberal Arts Committee for Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program, Member, 2016-2018.

School of Undergraduate Graduate Studies, Committee for Assessment of the Core Curriculum, History Component, 2016-2017

History Department

Faculty American Area Committee, chair (multiple two-year terms)
Scholarly Activities Grants Committee, member and chair
(multiple two year terms)
Search Committee, member and chair (multiple times)
Littlefield Lecture Committee, member (multiple times)
Department Executive Council, member (three two-year terms)
Graduate Admission Committee, member (one two-year term)
Atlantic Speaker Series, chair (multiple times)
Tenure Mentor (two times)

GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Dissertations Directed:

Bradley Dixon, 2018 (with Jorge Canizares-Esguerra), currently Assistant Professor at the University of Memphis, [External funding included the Social Science Research Council Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, John Carter Brown Library Fellowship]; Dissertation Title: "Law, Politics, and Empire in the Native American Southeast, 1585-1715."

Laurie Wood, 2013 (with Julie Hardwick), currently Associate Professor at Florida State University, [External funding included fellowships at the John Carter Brown Library, the Huntington Library and a post-doctoral Fellowship at UW-Madison]; Dissertation Title: "Iles de France: Law and Empire in the French Atlantic and Indian Oceans, 1680-1780."

I have served on many dissertation committees and have guided reading fields for many students. A full list is available upon request.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:

Senior Honors Theses Directed (most recent only):

Mitchell Fellows, 2018, Thesis Title: "An Empire Dissolved: The Royal Governors of New Hampshire and New Jersey on the eve of the American Revolution."

Kathleen Telling, 2017, Thesis Title: "Among Friends: Philadelphian Quaker Women's Discourse in the Revolutionary Era."