

LAURA J. ARATA, PhD

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Education

PhD – Washington State University, 2014

Public History, American History, Modern East Asia

Dissertation: “Race and the Wild West: Sarah Bickford and the Construction of Historical Memory in Virginia City, Montana, 1870 – 1930”

Adviser: Dr. Robert Bauman

Master’s degree – Washington State University, 2009

Public History, American History

Thesis: “Embers of the Social City: Business, Consumption and Material Culture in Virginia City, Montana, 1863-1945”

Bachelor’s degree – University of Washington, 2005

American History, English, American Indian Studies (minor); Magna Cum Laude

Teaching

Oklahoma State University

Assistant Professor of History, 2014 – present

History 1103: Survey American History

History 3713: Women in the American West

History 3980: Honors Seminar: American Popular Culture

History 3980: Honors Seminar: Race and Gender in the Wild West

History 3980: Honors Seminar: Women in the American West

History 5033: Introduction to Public History

History 4063 / 5063: Introduction to Historic Preservation

History 4073 / 5073: Digital Methods in History

Washington State University

Graduate Teaching Assistant, 2007 – 2014

Courses Taught:

History 111: United States History since 1877

History 321: American Popular Culture 1930 – present

History 322: American Popular Culture, 1800 – 1930

History 398: History of Women in the American West

Teaching Assistant:

General Education 110: World Civilizations Through 1500

General Education 111: World Civilizations 1500—Present

History 395: Lesbian and Gay History: Culture, Politics, and Social Change in the United States, Early America – the Present

Publications

Race and the Wild West: Sarah Bickford and the Construction of Historical Memory in Virginia City, Montana, 1870 – 1930. Manuscript under revision.

- “Terror and Tourism: Lynching, Legend, and the Montana Vigilantes.” *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, forthcoming.
- Review: Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum, Oklahoma City, Okla. *Journal of American History*, Vol. 102, No. 3 (Dec., 2015), pp. 806 – 812.
- Review: Mark C. Dillon, *The Montana Vigilantes: Gold, Guns, and Gallows in The Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, Vol. 105, No. 2 (Spring 2014), p. 99.
- “Beyond the ‘Mongolian Muddle’: Reconsidering Virginia City, Montana’s China War of 1881.” *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*, Vol. 62, No. 2 (Spring, 2012), pp. 23 – 35
- Review: Martha Kohl, *I Do: A Cultural History of Montana Weddings in The Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, Vol. 103, No. 3 (Summer, 2012), p. 146
- Review: Steve Turner, *Amber Waves and Undertow: Peril, Hope, Sweat, and Downright Nonchalance in Dry Wheat Country in The Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, Vol. 100, No. 3 (Summer, 2009), pp. 51 – 52
- “Cultural Resource Assessment of Stones River National Battlefield,” Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in *Tennessee’s Civil War Battlefields*, National Parks Conservation Association, April 2008

Conference Presentations

- “Terror and Tourism: Popular Culture and the Montana Vigilantes.” Branding the American West Symposium, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, March 2015
- “‘We Became Hanford’: Citizenship and Patriotism Among Early Hanford Residents and Workers.” Pacific Northwest History Conference, Vancouver, Washington, April 2012
- “Terror and Tourism: Constructing Narratives of the Vigilante and Nez Perce Trails in Montana.” National Council on Public History Conference, Ottawa, Canada, April 2013
- “Race and the Wild West: Constructing Historical Memory in Virginia City, Montana, 1870 – 1930.” Pacific Northwest History Conference, Tacoma, Washington, October 2012
- “Building Freedom in the Territorial West: Sarah Bickford and the Color of Citizenship, 1850 – 1930.” American Historical Association – Pacific Coast Branch Conference, Seattle, Washington, August 2011
- “The Public History Field School: Virginia City, Montana, A Case Study.” American Association of State and Local History Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, August 2009
- “Creating Digital Archives for the Classroom: the Lucullus V. McWhorter Photograph Collection.” Pacific Northwest History Conference and Heritage Extravaganza, Portland, Oregon, April 2009
- “Images of the Nez Perce War: Digitizing the Lucullus Virgil McWhorter Collection.” William R. Wiley Exposition of Graduate and Professional Studies, Pullman, Washington, November 2008; invited second presentation at the Washington State University Academic Showcase, March 2009
- “Virginia City’s China War: Race, Religion and Violence in a Montana Mining Community, 1881.” Pacific Northwest History Conference, Corvallis, Oregon, April 2008

Invited Talks

- “Miko Kings.” Presentation and discussion leader for Oklahoma Humanities Council Let’s Talk About it Oklahoma Series, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City, OK, August 2015.
- “Race, Gender and the Wild West: African Americans in Virginia City, Montana.” Washington State University, guest lecture for History 498, Women in the West, October 2012
- “A Hard-Earned Victory: Stones River—the Civil War’s Forgotten Battle.” Washington State University, guest lecture for History 416, Civil War and Reconstruction, March 2008

Public History Experience

- Graduate Assistant and Co-Principal Investigator, Hanford Oral History Project, August 2013 – July 2014.
- Consulting Historian, Montana Heritage Commission, June 2010 – June 2011
- Historical Consultant, Peace Lutheran Church, Colfax, Washington, August 2008 – March 2010
- Archivist Intern, Lucullus V. McWhorter Collection, August 2008 – December 2008
- Research Assistant, University of Idaho School of Law Centennial Project, Moscow, Idaho, August 2008 – August 2009
- Primary research assistant to Dr. Rob McCoy for *To Develop Righteous Law and Promote Justice: The University of Idaho College of Law, 1909 – 2009* (Moscow: University of Idaho College of Law, 2013).
- Consulting Historian, National Parks Conservation Association, January 2008 – April 2008
- Natural History Interpreter, Alaska State Parks, Fort Abercrombie, Kodiak, Alaska, May 2007 – August 2007
- Participant, Washington State University Field School, Virginia City, Montana, May 2007

Honors and Awards

Grants

- Oklahoma State University Dean’s Incentive Grant for Research, 2015, 2016
- Charles Redd Center for Western Studies Research Grant, 2013
- National Trust for Historic Preservation Partnership in Scholarship Grant, 2009
- Washington State University Pettyjohn Travel Grant, 2008

Awards

- Student Travel Award, National Council on Public History, 2013
- Frederick Dumin Teaching Assistant Merit Award, Washington State University, 2011
- Graduate and Professional Student Association, Washington State University, 2009
- William R. Wiley Exposition of Graduate and Professional Studies, Washington State University, 2009

Graduate Scholarships

- Washington State University Department of History:
Pettyjohn Graduate Fellowship, 2012 – 2013, \$2500

Claudius O. And Mary W. Johnson Graduate Fellowship, 2012 – 2013, \$2000
Herman Deutsch Memorial Fellowship, 2011 – 2012, \$400
Wayne M. Stanford Scholarship, 2008 – 2009, \$1400.00, awarded for the most promising proposal for a Master's Thesis
Washington State University College of Liberal Arts:
John and Loella Kassebaum Scholarship, 2007 – 2008, \$500
Robert and Maude Cline Scholarship, 2007 – 2008, \$350

Professional Affiliations

Member: American Association of State and Local Historians, American Historical Association, National Council on Public History, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Northwest Oral History Association

Honor Societies and Honoraries: Mortar Board, Phi Alpha Theta (Gamma Psi Chapter), Phi Eta Sigma, Golden Key

Service

Oklahoma State University

Academic Integrity Facilitator, Technology and Libraries Committee, College of Arts and Sciences Student Technology Committee Representative