

## **Kendra Smith-Howard**

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### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., History, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2007  
Dissertation: "Perfecting Nature's Food: An Environmental History of Milk"

M.A., History, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2002

B.A., American Studies, St. Olaf College, 1999  
Interdisciplinary concentration: "Nature and Culture."

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Fall 2014- present      **Associate Professor**, Department of History, University at Albany, College of Arts and Sciences, State University of New York

Fall 2007-Summer 2014      **Assistant Professor**, Department of History, University at Albany, College of Arts and Sciences, State University of New York

Fall 2016      A Lindsay O'Connor **Associate Professor of History**, Colgate University, Hamilton, New York

Spring 2007      Merle Curti **Lecturer**, Department of History, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Spring 2004      **Visiting Instructor**, Departments of History and Environmental Studies, Saint Olaf College

2001-2003      **Research Assistant**, for Judith Walzer Leavitt, Department of Medical History and Bioethics, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

1999-2006      **Teaching Assistant**, Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison

1996-1999      **Research Assistant**, for James J. Farrell. Department of History and American Studies, Saint Olaf College.

### **OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Summers 1997-2002      **Park Ranger**, National Park Service, Glacier National Park, St. Mary, Montana

1997 **English Teacher**, Satya Wacana Christian University,  
Salatiga, Java, Indonesia

### HONORS AND AWARDS

Leopold-Hidy Prize, American Society for Environmental History, for the best article in the 2021 volume of the journal *Environmental History*.

Co-PI, National Endowment for the Humanities, Humanities Connections Grant, 2021-2022.

Common Problem Project Curricular Design Grant, 2019.

Bell Travel Grant, Forest History Society, Durham, NC, 2017.

Lemelson Center Research Grant, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, 2017.

National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Stipend, 2016.

J.W. Scott Regional Research Fellowship, Center for Pacific Northwest Studies, Western Washington University, 2016.

Faculty Research Award Program A, College of Arts & Sciences, University at Albany, State University of New York, 2016.

Exploratory Research Grant, Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, DE, 2015.

Travel Grant, Chemical Heritage Foundation, Philadelphia, PA, 2015.

Vernon Carstensen Memorial Award, Agricultural History Society, for best essay in *Agricultural History*, 2010.

Nuala McGann Drescher Affirmative Action/Diversity Leave Award, New York State United University Professions, Joint Labor-Management Committee, Fall 2010-Spring 2011.

Faculty Research Award Program B, College of Arts and Sciences, University at Albany, State University of New York, Summer 2010.

Mellon Fellow, Virginia Historical Society, spring 2009.

Runner-up, Allan Nevins Prize (awarded by the Society of American Historians for best-written dissertation on an American subject), spring 2008.

Travel Grant, College of Arts and Sciences, University at Albany, Spring 2008, Spring 2010.

Nelson Institute Culture, Nature, and the Environment Award, Fall 2006.

Alfred D. Chandler Travel Grant Award, Business History Society, June 2006.

Minna Grotophorst Willis Dissertator Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Fall 2005.

Pre-doctoral Fellowship, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution,

Washington, DC. January-May 2005, with curators Pete Daniel and Jeffrey Stine.

Short-term Grant-in-Aid, Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Delaware. June 2004.

Society for History of Technology Travel Grant. Fall 2001.

Agnes Larson Scholarship Recipient, Saint Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota. 1996-1999.

Appointed to Phi Beta Kappa, Senior Women's Honor Society, and Phi Alpha Theta, 1999

## SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

### Books

Under contract, submitted, and positive reader reports received. *The Dirty Environmental History of Cleaning Up*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, expected 2026.

*Pure and Modern Milk: An Environmental History since 1900*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

#### Related publicity and reviews:

Reviewed in *American Historical Review*, *Agricultural History*, *Annals of Iowa*, *Environmental History*, *Endeavour*, *H-Net*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of American Culture*, *Nature*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *Technology and Culture*, *H-Net Roundtable*.

BBC News, Food Chains, "Man vs. Milk," January 19, 2015.

The Author's Corner on National Public Radio, May 2014.

Backstory with the American History Guys Podcast, March 2014.

"Five Things You Didn't Know about Milk," *Publisher's Weekly*, November 2013.

### Journal Articles

Ryan Irwin, Mitchitake Aso, Alexander Dawson, Maeve Kane, Christopher Pastore, **Kendra Smith-Howard**, "Flight of the Do-Dos: History Curriculum at a Large Public University," *Journal of American History* (March 2024): 746-758.

"An Invitation to Dance," part of the Roundtable: Should Agricultural Historians Care about the New Materialism, in *Agricultural History*, v. 96, issue 1-2 (May 1, 2022): 231-236.

"Absorbing Waste, Displacing Labor: Family, Environment, and the Disposable Diaper in the 1970s," 26 *Environmental History* (April 2021): 207-230.

"Healing Animals in an Antibiotic Age: Veterinary Drugs and the Professionalism Crisis," *Technology and Culture* (July 2017): 722-748.

"Antibiotics and Agricultural Change: Purifying Milk and Protecting Health in the Postwar Era," *Agricultural History* (summer 2010): 327-351.

"American Studies and Environmental History: Provoking Thought and Practice," *American Studies* (Lawrence, KS) 46 (Spring/Summer 2005): 5-22.

### Book Chapters

"Consumers, Producers, and the Shifting Logic of Food Safety," in *A Companion to American Agricultural History*, edited by Douglas Hurt. Wiley-Blackwell, 2022.

"Soldiers of the Soil: Agriculture and World War II," in *American Environments in the Second World War*, edited by Nick Breyfogle, Tom Robertson, and Richard Tucker, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020.

"The Built Environment of the Midwestern Farmstead: Ecology, Technology, Labor," in *The Rural Midwest Since 1945*, edited by J.L. Anderson. Dekalb, IL: Northern Illinois University Press, 2014.

### Manuscripts Submitted, In Press, or Under Review

*The Dirty Environmental History of Cleaning Up*, book under contract with University of Washington Press, manuscript submitted and (positive) reader reports received. Expected publication 2026.

“Animal” for *Common Places: Keywords for a More than Human World*, edited by Susan Johnson and Karl Jacoby. Under review with Oxford University Press, 2025.

“Using History of Consumption to Address Climate Change,” for *A Historian’s Handbook to Saving the World: Responding to the Climate Change Emergency*, edited by Alix Hui and Emily Pawley. In press with MIT Press, 2025.

#### *Encyclopedia Entries:*

“Veterinary Medicine” and “Booker T. Washington.” In *Encyclopedia of American Environmental History*, edited by Kathleen Brosnan. New York: Facts on File, 2011.

#### *Book Reviews:*

Review of Elizabeth Grennan Browning, *Nature’s Laboratory: Environmental Thought and Labor Radicalism in Chicago, 1886-1937* in *Isis*, June 2024.

Review of Pam Riney Kehrberg, *When a Dream Dies: Agriculture, Iowa, and the Farm Crisis of the 1980s*. *Western Historical Quarterly* 54 (2023): 273-274.

Review of Alan Marcus, *The Land of Milk and Money: The Creation of the Southern Dairy Industry* for *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 53 (2022): 547-459.

Review of Sarah Jensen Carr, *The Topography of Wellness* for *H-Environment*. April 2022.

Review of Benjamin Cohen, *Pure Adulteration* for *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*, 2021.

Review of Joshua Specht, *Red Meat Republic: A Hoof to Table History of How Beef Changed America*, for *Journal of the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era* 19 (June 2020).

Review of Wilson Warren, *Meat Makes People Powerful: A Global History of the Modern Era* for *Journal of American History*, (December 2019).

Review of Jonathan Rees, *Before the Refrigerator* for *Technology and Culture*, 60 (October 2019).

Review of Domnic Pacgya, *Slaughterhouse: Chicago’s Union Stockyard and the World it Made* for *Technology and Culture* 60 (January 2019): 321-322.

Review of Nicholas Bauch, “A Geography of Digestion: Biotechnology and the Kellogg Cereal Enterprise” for *Winterthur Portfolio*, 52 (Spring 2018), 79-80.

Comparative review - “Minding the Natural: Cultural Roots of Back-To-Nature Movements,” *Reviews in American History*, June 2017.

Review of Sean Patrick Adams, *Home Fires: How Americans Kept Warm in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*, for *Technology and Culture*, October 2015.

Review of Andrea Wiley, *Cultures of Milk* for *Agricultural History*, 2015.

Review of Helen Veit, *Modern Food, Moral Food: Self-Control, Science, and the Rise of Modern American Eating in the Early Twentieth Century* for *Journal of Southern History*, November 2014.

Review of Deborah Valenze, *Milk: A Global and Local History* for *Business History Review*, (Autumn 2012):587-589.

Review of Edward Janus, *Creating Dairyland* for *Agricultural History* (Spring 2012): 116-118.

Review of Peter Atkins, *Liquid Materialities: A History of Milk, Science, and the Law* for *Agricultural History*, (Spring 2011): 293-294.

### **Peer-Reviewed Presentations**

Panelist – “A Storied World: Animal.” *Common Places: Keywords for a More than Human World*, University of Wisconsin, April 30, 2022.

Roundtable participant, “Should Agricultural Historians Care About the New Materialism?” *Agricultural History Society Annual Meeting*, June 2021.

Chair and Comment, “Feed(ing) the Beast: Environmental History at the Cattle Trough,” American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting, Columbus, Ohio, April 13, 2018.

Roundtable participant, “Firms in the Garden: Environmental Histories of Modern Corporations,” American Society for Environmental History Annual meeting, Columbus, Ohio, April 11, 2018.

Panelist, “Object Lessons: Profits and Pitfalls in Writing Histories of Commodities,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, April 7, 2018.

“The Disposable Diaper Paradox,” American Society for Environmental History, Seattle, Washington, March 31, 2017.

Comment, “Managing Land for Animals,” Agricultural History Society, June 4, 2015.

Comment, “Feeding Me With Science: Nutrition, Nature, and Technology on the Table,” American Society for Environmental History, March 2015.

“Greening Blue Monday: Towards an Environmental History of Laundry Day,” Agricultural History Society, June 21, 2014.

“Risking Professionalism: Veterinary Identity in an Antibiotic Age,” American Association of History of Medicine, May 9, 2014.

“A Different Breed: Democracy, Capital, and Dairying,” Organization of American Historians, April 20, 2012.

Commentator and Chair, “Technology, Livestock, and Aquaculture,” Agricultural History Society Annual Meeting, Springfield, IL, June 2011.

“Seeking Health, Transforming Nature: The Quest for Pure Milk since 1900,” Session 116: Nourishing Ideas: Food History in the Archives and the Classroom, January 8, 2011, American Historical Association Annual Meeting.

“Animals Domestic and Wild in Children’s Literature, 1900-1920,” American Society for Environmental History Conference, Tallahassee, FL, February 2009.

“Silver Bullets or Food Adulterants?: Antibiotics and the Dairy Industry, 1946-1970,” Agricultural History Society conference, Reno, NV, June 2008.

“Pesticides and Persistence: Dairy Farming and Chemical Pesticides, 1946-1970,” American Society for Environmental History Conference, Baton Rouge, LA, February 2007.

- “Nature, Artifice, and Dairy Farming—1930-1950.” Montana State/University of Wisconsin Environmental History Conference. Bozeman, MT. January 2007.
- “The Unnatural Nature of Dairy Byproducts, 1930-1955,” 2006 Workshop on History of the Environment, Agriculture, Technology, and Science. London, Ontario, October 2006.
- “Nature’s Food or Nature’s Food Perfected?: Competing Assessments of Health and Nature in Progressive Era Dairying,” Agricultural History Conference, Cambridge, MA, June 15, 2006. (Panel Organizer)
- “Setting Standards for Milk: Politics and Science in Progressive Era America,” Business History Conference, Toronto, Ontario, June 9, 2006.
- “American Studies and Environmental History: New Directions for a Continuing Dialogue,” Mid-America American Studies Association Conference, April 2002, St. Louis, MO.
- “Negotiating Power: Rural Electrification in Wisconsin, 1925-1940,” presented at the Society for History of Technology Conference, October 2001, San Jose, CA.

### **Invited Talks**

- “Commodity history as a Guide to Citizen Action,” Keynote talk - Canadian History of the Environment Summer School, Montreal, Quebec, June 2024.
- “Social Life of Things Meets Ecological Footprint: The Promise and Perils of Commodity-Centered Environmental History,” Science, Technology, and Society Brownbag, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, February 14, 2018.
- “The Dirty Environmental History of Cleaning Up,” National Museum of American History, March 5, 2017.
- Address and Panel Discussion, “The Land of Milk and Money,” Albany Law School, April 16, 2015.
- Address and Symposium on *Pure and Modern Milk*, Hagley Fellows’ Speaker Series, Hagley Museum and Library – Wilmington, Delaware, October 24, 2014.
- Plenary Address, “Pure Milk, Healthful Cows? Domestic Animals and Environmental Histories of Health,” Canadian History and Environment Summer School, Guelph, Ontario, May 2012.
- “Pure Milk: The Complicated Environmental History of a Seemingly Simple Food,” Middlebury College Environmental Studies Colloquium, Middlebury, Vermont, September 15, 2011.
- Roundtable comment, Decline and Other Stories in the Postwar Midwest, Agricultural History Society Meeting, June 2011.
- “Producing Pure Milk in the Twentieth-Century US,” Colloquium for the Virginia Historical Society, May 2009.
- “Reassessing the Risks of Nature: Milk, 1950-1970.” Workshop on the History of Agriculture and the Environment, University of Georgia, October 3, 2008.
- “Perfecting Nature’s Food: Dairy Production and Consumption in the United States, 1900-1975.” Colloquium at the National Museum of American History, Washington, DC, April 19, 2005.

### **TEACHING**

#### **Teaching Awards**

Jim Geisen Teaching Award, Agricultural History Society, for excellence in teaching rural and agricultural history, 2025.

University Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2016.

Capstone Teaching Award, College of Letters and Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Spring 2007.

### **Undergraduate Teaching, University at Albany:**

AHIS 101: United States Political and Social History II

AHIS 314: Progressive Generation, 1900-1931

AHIS 329: American Environmental History

AHIS/THIS 203: History of Childhood in the United States

AHIS/THIS 277: Culture & History of Food in the United States

AHIS 395: Historian's Craft

AHIS 489: Senior Research Seminar

UUNI 100: Knowing Your Place at UAlbany

### **Graduate Teaching, University at Albany:**

AHIS 603/628/630: Reading Seminar in American Environmental History

AHIS 603/628/630: Reading Seminar in History of Public Health in the United States

AHIS 630: Research Seminar: Environmental History of New England and New York (2008); Rural and Agricultural History (2011); Leisure & Work in US History (2013)

AHIS 603/628/630: Reading Seminar in Consumer Culture & Consumer Politics

### **Doctoral Dissertation Committees, University at Albany:**

#### *Completed dissertations:*

Tina Peabody, (2024) *Wretched Refuse: Garbage and the Making of New York City*. University at Albany (SUNY). **Chair.**

Jacqueline Mirandola-Mullen, (Spring 2015) *Preserving Shifting Shorelines: How the Federal Government Bought up America's Coasts in the 1960s*. University at Albany (SUNY). **Chair.**

Kimberly LaMay (Spring 2013), *The Creation of an American Collective Memory of the First World War, 1917-1941*. University at Albany (SUNY). **Member.**

John Evers (Spring 2013), *Investigating New York: Governor Alfred E. Smith, the Moreland Act, and Reshaping the Executive Branch*. University at Albany. **Member.**

Christian Ruth (2021), *The Bitter World: Famine, Foreign Aid and Development*. University at Albany (SUNY), member.

Ali Straub, *Making Water Pure: A History of Water Softening from Potash to Tide*, (Spring 2020). Temple University, member.

Joy Newman (Spring 2011), *The Drinking Age Debates: A History of Youth-Oriented Alcohol Policy in the United States*, University at Albany (SUNY). **Member.**

#### *In progress:*

Minseok Jang, (expected 2025), *Natural Antimonopoly: An Environmental History of the Antitrust Movement*. **Chair.**

Kaycie Haller, *To Grow Men as Well as Trees: Citizenship, Race, and the Civilian Conservation Corps*. **Chair.**

Shawn Maher, (expected 2026) *Sensory Hygiene: The Senses and Public Health in the Hudson River Valley, 1865-1940*. **Chair.**

Jack Grobe (expected 2024) *Before Paperclip: The American Campaign to Acquire German Military Technology, 1917-29*. Member.

Gene Smith, (expected 2025) *Forgotten: The Mentally Ill in 1980s New York City*, member.

Howard Schneider, (expected 2025), *How the Help Desk Created the Modern Internet*, member.

Michael Reugger (Deceased). *Route Seven: The Ethan Allen Highway and the Consequences of its Construction in Western New England*. University at Albany (SUNY). **Member.**

### **PhD student advisees, pre-dissertation stage:**

Chair: Cassidy Griffin, Daemyeong Choi

Member of comps committee: Kelvin Yudianto, Gregory Eburn

### **Master's Thesis Committees, University at Albany:**

G. Samantha Rosenthal (Winter 2007), *Electric City Pond: Schenectady and the Adirondacks*, University at Albany (SUNY). Committee member.

Kristen Zielinski (Summer 2009), *Venus and Ceres United: The Development of the Oral Contraceptive Pill and the United States Regulatory Oversight, 1950-1978*, University at Albany. Chair

Maya Rook (Spring 2010), *Earthly Delights in the New England Wilderness: The Puritan Experience with Food and Drink*, University at Albany (SUNY). Chair.

Jackie Mirandola Mullen (Spring 2012), *The Fire Island Road that Wasn't: Bob Moses, the Wilderness Movement, and a New National Seashore*, University at Albany (SUNY), Chair.

Sarah Wassberg, *Food Conservation Efforts of the Orange County Food Preservation Battalion*, (Spring 2015) University at Albany (SUNY). Chair.

Wyatt Erchak, *A Glittering Dream: Celebration, Spectacle, Power, and Identity in American Cities, 1886-1924* (Spring 2019) University at Albany (SUNY). Chair.

### **Teaching Experience, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY**

Nature and Capital (Fall 2016)

Food Culture, Technology and Economy in United States History (Fall 2016)

### **Teaching Experience, Saint Olaf College, Northfield, MN**

American Environmental History (Instructor, Spring 2004)

Saving Wild Places (Instructor, Spring 2004)

### **Teaching Experience, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

Rural Life in the United States: A History (Instructor & Introduced course, spring 2007)



Introduction to Southeast Asia (Teaching Assistant, fall 2006)  
U.S. History, 1865-present (Teaching Assistant, spring 2006)  
American Environmental History (Teaching Assistant, fall 2004)  
Immigration and Assimilation in the U.S. (Teaching Assistant, spring 2001)  
U.S. Urban History – 1865-Present (Teaching Assistant, spring 2000)  
Nineteenth Century U.S. History (Teaching Assistant, fall 1999)

## **SERVICE**

### **Department of History:**

Member, NEH Humanities Connections Curricular Grant writing team, 2020.  
Member, Graduate Committee, fall 2020-present  
Member, Long Range Planning, fall 2018-present  
Member, Ancient History Search Committee, 2017.  
Chair, Ad Hoc Committee for Mitch Aso Tenure Case, June-October, 2017.  
Undergraduate Director, August 2014-2016.  
Chair, Ad Hoc Committee to Develop SUNY 2020 proposal in Early American history, August-October 2013.  
Advisor, Phi Alpha Theta, 2011-2012  
Member, Early America Environmental History Search Committee, 2013-2014.  
Chair, Global Environmental History Search Committee, 2011-2012.  
Co-organizer, Department Research Colloquia, spring 2010.  
Member, History Department Undergraduate Committee, 2007-2010.  
Panelist, “So You’re Thinking of Graduate School,” Phi Alpha Theta event, October 2009.  
Member, Researching New York Conference, Program Committee, 2008, 2009.  
Member, Reedy Prize and undergraduate award committee, History Department, University at Albany, spring 2008.  
Member, Search committee, 20th century U.S. Public Policy history, University at Albany, 2007-2008.  
Member, Joint Committee on Teaching Assistants, University of Wisconsin-Madison History Department, fall 2005-2007.

### **University at Albany, State University of New York:**

Co-organizer, Environmental Humanities lab, spring 2020, fall 2022, fall 2025.  
Panelist, Library panel for PhD students in the humanities, October 2022.  
Member, Honors college committee on Academic Standing, Summer 2021-present.  
Member, Select Committee for Lecturer Promotions, fall 2020, spring 2021.  
Member Search Committee for ITLAL instructional assistant, spring 2016.  
Member, Undergraduate Academic Council, Spring 2014 semester.  
Member, Academic Support Committee, CAS Faculty Council, Fall 2012-Summer 2013.  
Co-Coordinator, Sustainability Roundtable, spring 2012-present.  
Member, University at Albany Task Force for Environmental Sustainability, 2008-2010  
Member, FRAP A research award evaluation panel, January 2009 and January 2010.  
Panelist, Planning for Graduate School Event, University at Albany – Career Services, November 2007.

Panelist, Future Faculty Roundtable on the Job Market (for graduate students),  
University at Albany, Institute for Teaching and Learning, September 2007.

### **Professional:**

Manuscript reviewer, *Environmental History*, 2010-present, *Agricultural History*, 2010-present, *Gastronomica*, 2014-present; *Business History Review*, 2015-present; *Sustainability*, 2024-present; *American Quarterly*, University of Chicago Press, University of California Press, University of Iowa Press, Oxford University Press.

Executive Committee, American Society for Environmental History, 2025-2028.

Editorial board, *Environmental History*, 2023-present.

Vernon Carstensen Prize Committee, *Agricultural History*, 2023-present. Chair in 2025.

Rachel Carson Prize Committee, American Society for Environmental History, 2019-2020.

Nominations committee, American Society for Environmental History, 2017-2019.

Editorial Board, *Agricultural History*, 2016-2018.

Nominations committee, Agricultural History Society, 2012-2015. Chair, 2014-2015.

Grant review panel, Larry Hackman Research Residency, New York State Library and Archives, April 2013-2018, 2021-2025.

Grant reviewer, Social Science & Humanities Research Council of Canada, 2013.

Grant reviewer, National Science Foundation Science & Society Program, 2012.

Edwards Prize committee, Agricultural History Society, 2008-2011. Chair, 2010-2011.

Program committee member, American Society for Environmental History, 2007-2008.

### **Community:**

PTSA President, Myers Middle School, Albany, NY, 2025-2026; Vice President, 2024-2025.

Consultant, NEH Libraries Grant Development, Mohawk Valley Library System, 2013-2014.

Invited speaker, From Scratch Club (local food organization), Troy, NY, November 4, 2012.

Historical Consultant, Dairy Exhibit, Maplewood Area Historical Society, Maplewood, MN, 2012-2013

“The Past and Future of Food and Farming,” Humanities Institute for Life-Long Learning, Delmar, NY, March 30, 2011.

Volunteer, Docent Training Program for Cedar Grove Historic Site, spring 2009.

Tutor, Madison Area Literacy Council, October 2005-July 2007.

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Historical Association

American Society for Environmental History

Society for History of Technology

Organization for American Historians

Agricultural History Society