

## MEGAN RABY

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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Texas at Austin, 2013-present.

Faculty Associate, Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, 2016-present.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, Saint Olaf College, Spring 2013.

### EDUCATION

Ph.D., History of Science, University of Wisconsin, Madison, December 2012.

*PhD Minor*: Certificate on Humans and the Global Environment (CHANGE), Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies.

M.A., History, Montana State University, Bozeman, 2007.

B.Sc., Earth Sciences, Minor in History, Montana State University-Bozeman, 2004.

### CURRENT RESEARCH AND WRITING

Second book project on the life of Marston Bates and the changing role of science and environment in US relations with the Global South.

Article on the intersection of methods in environmental history and history of science.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Book

*American Tropics: The Caribbean Roots of Biodiversity Science*, University of North Carolina Press, in the series *Flows, Migrations, and Exchanges*, edited by Mart Stewart and Harriet Ritvo. In press, forthcoming November 2017.

#### Refereed Articles and Book Chapters

“A Laboratory for Tropical Ecology: Colonial Models and American Science at Cinchona, Jamaica.” In *Spatializing the History of Ecology: Sites, Journeys, Mappings*, edited by Raf de Bont and Jens Lachmund, (New York: Routledge, 2017): 56-78.

“‘The Jungle at Our Door’: Panama and American Ecological Imagination in the Twentieth Century.” *Environmental History* 21, no. 2 (2016): 260-269.

Reprinted in Spanish as “‘La Jungla Ante Nuestra Puerta’: Panamá y la Imagenación Ecológica Norteamericana en el Siglo XX.” Translated by Mónica Kupfer. Ciudad del Saber, Panamá: [HTTP://CIUADDELSABER.ORG/ES](http://ciudadelsaber.org/es) (Forthcoming 2017).

“Ark and Archive: Making a Place for Long-term Research on Barro Colorado Island, Panama.” *Isis* 106, no. 4 (2015): 798-824.

Awarded the History of Science Society’s 2016 Price/Webster Prize for best article.

**Invited Article**

“The Colonial Origins of Tropical Field Stations: To confront persistent geographic and demographic biases in environmental science, researchers must understand the history of their field sites.” *American Scientist* 105, no. 4 (2017): 216-223.

**Book Reviews**

*Subalternity vs. Hegemony, Cuba's Outstanding Achievements in Science and Biotechnology, 1959-2014* by Angelo Baracca and Rosella Franconi. *Isis* (In press, forthcoming 2017).

*Stations in the Field: A History of Place-based Animal Research* by Raf de Bont. *Archives of Natural History* 43, no. 1 (2016): 178.

*Ordering Life: Karl Jordan and the Naturalist Tradition* by Kristen Johnson. *Centaurus* 55, no. 4 (2013): 437-438.

*The Maximum of Wilderness: The Jungle in the American Imagination* by Kelly Enright. *H-Environment, H-Net Reviews* (May 2012): [HTTP://WWW.H-NET.ORG/REVIEWS/SHOWREV.PHP?ID=35629](http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=35629).

*The Second Jurassic Dinosaur Rush: Museums and Paleontology in America at the Turn of the Twentieth Century* by Paul D. Brinkman. *Journal of the History of Biology* 44, no. 1 (2011): 155-57.

With Erin F. Madden and Anne J. Shudy Palmer. *Weathering Risk in Rural Mexico: Climatic, Institutional, and Economic Change* by Hallie Eakin. *Society & Natural Resources: An International Journal* 22, no. 10 (2009): 944-946.

**Encyclopedia Articles**

“United States—Caribbean holdings.” In *Encyclopedia of American Environmental History*, Vol. 4, edited by Kathleen Brosnan, 1309-1311. New York, NY: Facts on File, 2011.

“Corn” and “Potatoes.” In *Encyclopedia of American History: Colonization and Settlement 1608 to 1760*, edited by Billy G. Smith, 80-81, 304-305. New York, NY: Facts on File, 2009.

**SELECTED GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Bordin/Gillette Fellowship, support for research on the papers of Marston Bates, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, 2017.

College Research Fellowship, College of Liberal Arts, UT Austin, Fall 2017.

Price/Webster Prize for best article appearing in *Isis* during the years 2013-2015, awarded by the History of Science Society for “Ark and Archive: Making a Place for Long-term Research on Barro Colorado Island, Panama,” 2016.

Research Fellowship, Institute for Historical Studies, UT Austin, 2015-2016.

Summer Research Assignment, College of Liberal Arts, UT Austin, Summer 2015.

Writing Flag Faculty Retreat, School of Undergraduate Studies, UT Austin, May 11-12, 2015.

Fellow of the John E. Green Regents Professorship in History, UT Austin, January-August 2015.

Smithsonian Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Smithsonian Institution Archives and the National Museum of American History, advisors: Pamela Henson and Jeffrey Stine, 2013.

Supplemental College Research Fellowship, College of Liberal Arts, UT Austin, Fall 2013.

University Prize Fellowship, UW Madison, Fall 2008-Spring 2009, Fall 2011-Spring 2012.

Smithsonian Predoctoral Fellowship at the Smithsonian Institution Archives and the National Museum of American History, advisors: Pamela Henson and Jeffrey Stine, June 1-August 31, 2010

History of Science Society Travel Grant, 2009 and 2010.

National Science Foundation Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program (NSF-IGERT) Fellow, Certificate on Humans and the Global Environment (CHANGE), UW Madison, Fall 2007-Spring 2008, Fall 2009-Spring 2010.

Montana State University Graduate Achievement Award, 2007.

Smithsonian Institution Short-Term Visitor Travel Grant to research at the Smithsonian Institution Archives, advisor: Pamela Henson, October 1-14, 2006.

## PRESENTATIONS

### Academic Conferences

[Upcoming] “Land Tenure, Land use, and Long-term Research: The Case of El Yunque, Puerto Rico,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario, November 9-12, 2017.

“From Tropicality to Biodiversity,” Biodiversity and its Histories, Columbia University and the New York Botanical Garden, New York, NY, April 24-25, 2017.

Session chair, “Science and the State in China, Mexico, and the US,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, November 3-6, 2016.

“Species Richness and Revolution in the Caribbean: Transforming Tropical Diversity into a ‘Global Resource,’” VIII Simposio de la Sociedad Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Historia Ambiental (SOLCHA), Puebla, México, August 3-5, 2016.

“Diversity and the Tropics: The ESA and a Century of Tropical Ecology,” in session “The ESA at 100: Historical Perspectives on Ecology and Ecological Management,” Ecological Society of America 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, August 9-14, 2015.

“Landscapes of Leisure or Labor?: Making a Place for US Field Biology in the Caribbean.” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, November 6-9, 2014.

“A ‘Little Panamanian Community’: Science and Labor on Barro Colorado Island.” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, January 2-5, 2014.

“Institutionalizing ‘Tropical Biology’: US Science in the Postcolonial Caribbean.” Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, October 31-November 3, 2013.

“‘Nature’s own laboratory?’: The Construction of Barro Colorado Island a Site for Tropical Ecology.” American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario, April 3-6, 2013.

“‘A Scientist’s Eden’: Disciplining Tropical Biology at Barro Colorado Island.” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, November 15-18, 2012.

“A Place for ‘Pure Botany’: The Cinchona Station, Jamaica, and the Origins of American Tropical Ecology,” American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting, Madison, Wisconsin, March 28-31, 2012 (Session organizer).

“The Cinchona Botanical Station: American Botany in British Jamaica,” Columbia History of Science Group Annual Meeting, Friday Harbor Biological Research Station, March 9-11, 2012.

“Sixty-one Years of Soledad: University and Corporate Science at Harvard’s Research Station in Soledad, Cuba, 1898-1959,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Montréal, Quebec, November 4-7, 2010 (Session organized with Christine Manganaro).

Participant in the ASU-MBL History of Biology Seminar: “From Linnaeus to the Encyclopedia of Life: Tracking Diversity in the Natural World,” Woods Hole, Massachusetts. May 19-26, 2010.

“Imagining a Tropical Laboratory: US Science in the Caribbean after 1898,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona, November 19-22, 2009.

“‘Birdskins are capital’: Western Expansion and the Geography of Nineteenth-Century American Ornithological Collection,” American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting, Boise, Idaho, March 12-16, 2008.

“Names and Places: The American Ornithologists’ Union Code of Nomenclature and the Geography of Collection in the U.S. West,” 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Michael P. Malone Memorial Conference: “Natural and Unnatural Geographies,” Chico Hot Springs, Pray, Montana, January 17-21, 2007.

“‘Without rule or example...’: Nineteenth Century Codes of Zoological Nomenclature,” Columbia History of Science Group Annual Meeting, Friday Harbor Biological Research Station, February 24-26, 2006.

#### **Invited Presentations**

[Upcoming] “Advancing the Interdisciplinary Environment,” Center for Culture History and Environment 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, November 3-5, 2017.

“Tropical Biology and the History of Biodiversity,” Smithsonian Botanical Symposium: Exploring the Natural World: Plants, People and Places, National Museum of Natural History Department of Botany and United States Botanic Garden, Washington, DC, May 19 2017.

Seminar and author question and answer session on “‘The Jungle at Our Door’: Panama and American Ecological Imagination in the Twentieth Century,” Caribbean and Atlantic Studies Working Group, Texas A&M University, February 2, 2017.

Seminar and author question and answer session on “Ark and Archive: Making a Place for Long-Term Research on Barro Colorado Island, Panama,” Biological Sciences Working Group, Philadelphia Area Consortium for the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology, October 27, 2016.

“Making ‘Jungle Island’: How Barro Colorado Became a Place for Science,” Bambi Seminar, Barro Colorado Island, Panamá, June 16, 2016.

“The Panama Canal: From the Conquest of Nature to the Construction of New Ecologies,” with Marixa Lasso, Ciudad del Saber, Panamá, June 15, 2016.

“Why do Biologists Work Where They Work in the Tropics?: The History and Geography of Tropical Research Stations,” Tupper Seminar, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá, Panamá, June 14, 2016.

“A Laboratory for Tropical Ecology: Colonial Models and American Science at Cinchona, Jamaica,” Spaces of Ecological Knowledge: Exploring the Geographies of a Field Science, Interdisciplinary Workshop, Faculty for Arts and Culture, Maastricht University, Netherlands, November 20-21, 2014.

Discussant of “Oceanic environment(s): Places of Marine Botany in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries,” by Franziska Torma, Spaces of Ecological Knowledge: Exploring the Geographies of a Field Science, Interdisciplinary Workshop, Faculty for Arts and Culture, Maastricht University, Netherlands, November 20-21, 2014.

“Tropical Encounters and the Idea of Biodiversity,” Food for Thought Lecture Series, Austin, Texas, August 18, 2014.

“A Tale of Two Research Stations,” Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, DC, October 23, 2013.

“Mapping the History of Botany: Using JSTOR Plant Science for Historical Research,” 4<sup>th</sup> Global Plants Initiative Meeting, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá, Panamá, January 10-14, 2011.

“From Luxuriant Tropics to Biodiversity Hotspot: A History of US Biology in the Caribbean,” poster presentation, Conference for Sustainability IGERTS 2, Tempe, Arizona, October 8-10, 2009.

“Situating Biogeography: Toward a Historical Account of Post-Darwinian Distribution Studies,” poster, 2008 IGERT Project Meeting, Arlington, Virginia, May 18-20, 2008.

#### **Presentations at UT Austin**

“Bridging the Two Cultures: Perspectives on Teaching STEM Educators the History of Science,” introductory speaker, Summer Teachers' Institute: What's STEM got to do with it? Teaching Social Studies in a Science and Tech-Obsessed World, Hemispheres: the International Outreach Consortium, UT Austin, June 6, 2017.

Panelist, “Deep History,” with Erika Bsumek and Mark Metzler, Institute for Historical Studies, April 13, 2017.

Panelist, “The Age of Man: What are the Scientific and Social Implications of the Anthropocene?” 10th Annual Polymathic Scholars Chautauqua, College of Natural Sciences, April 4, 2017.

“Tropical Field Stations and the Global Distribution of Ecological Knowledge: Some Historical Perspective,” PopBio Seminar, Department of Integrative Biology, March 2, 2017.

Responder, “Habitat and Habitus: Woodland Peoples in an Agrarian Society,” by Sumit Guha, Workshop, Institute for Historical Studies, November 14, 2016.

“The History and Geography of Tropical Science: The Legacies of Field Stations,” Geography Colloquium, September 2, 2016.

“Biological Diversity: From a ‘Tropical Problem’ to a ‘Global Crisis,’” Workshop, Institute for Historical Studies, February 8, 2016.

Responder, “Writing a Deep History of ‘Humboldt’s Current,’” by Kristin Wintersteen, Workshop, Institute for Historical Studies, December 1, 2014.

“The Tropics and the Idea of Biodiversity,” History and Philosophy of Science Colloquium, September 12, 2014.

“Perspectives on Science and Mathematics: Interactive Presentation,” with Van Herd, UTeach Conference, Austin, Texas, May 20, 2014.

#### **Presentations at UW Madison**

“Taming ‘Jungle Island:’ The Transformation of Barro Colorado Island into a Field Station for Tropical Biology,” History of Science Colloquium, September 7, 2012.

- “Sixty-one Years of Soledad: University and Corporate Science at Harvard’s Research Station in Soledad, Cuba, 1898-1959,” *History of Science Brownbag*, October 22, 2010.
- “Imagining a Tropical Laboratory,” Center for Culture, History, and Environment Graduate Student Symposium, April 4, 2009.
- “Placing the Idea of Biodiversity: US Tropical Biology in the Caribbean after 1898,” *History of Science Brownbag*, October 23, 2009.
- “People, Plants, and Culture: Bringing Humanistic Inquiry to a Botanical Database,” with Gregg Mitman, Sara Hotchkiss, and Lynn Nyhart, Center for Culture, History, and Environment Colloquium, October 22, 2008.
- “The Natural History of Nearly Everything: A Publishing Trend,” with Lynnette Regouby and Meridith Beck Sayre, *History of Science Brownbag*, March 7, 2008.
- “Birdskins are capital’: Western Expansion and the Geography of Nineteenth-Century American Ornithological Collection,” Center for Culture, History, and Environment Colloquium, March 5, 2008.

## TEACHING

### Courses Taught at UT Austin

- “History of the Modern Life Sciences,” HIS 322G.
- “Global Environmental History,” HIS 350L.
- “Perspectives on Science and Math,” HIS 329U/UTeach Natural Sciences.

### Advising

#### *Ph.D. Committee Member*

Felipe Fernandes Cruz, “Flight of the Steel Toucans: Aeronautics and Nation-Building in Brazil’s Frontiers,” 2016.

Blake Charles Scott, “From Disease to Desire: Panama and the Rise of the Caribbean Vacation,” 2016.

Trevor Mark Simmons, “Selling the African Wilds: A History of the Safari Tourism Industry in East Africa, 1900-1939,” 2015.

#### *Plan II Honors Thesis Supervisor*

Nina Lemieux, in progress, 2016-2017.

Michael E. Baumgartner, “Blind Men and a Neuron: Problems and Perspectives in Neuroscience Research,” 2015. (Selected as a Model Thesis by Plan II.)

#### *Plan II Honors Thesis Second Reader*

Shelley Broman, “Dam It!: Austin’s Water Supply, Use, and Technology Past, Present, and Future,” 2016.

Sarah Douglas, “The Sea *In-Situ*: Using Immersive Experiences to Further the Field of Oceanography,” 2015.

#### *Teaching Assistants Mentored*

Daniel Jean-Jacques, “Perspectives on Science and Math,” HIS 329U (four sections), 2015; HIS 329U (two sections), 2016.

Angela Smith, “Perspectives on Science and Math,” HIS 329U (four sections), 2014.

*Undergraduate Interns Mentored*

Nathan Wong, UTeach, 2016.

**Teaching Development**

Consultations with Faculty Innovation Center, 2016-2017.

Participant, Perspectives on Science and Mathematics Workshop, UTeach Institute, May 23, 2017.

Participant, Independent Inquiry Flag Lunch Workshop, May 15, 2017.

Participant, Cultural Diversity & Global Cultures Flags Faculty Lunch Series, 2017

University Writing Center Course Specialist Consultant Program, support granted for HIS 329U, Fall 2016.

Participant, Writing Flag Faculty Retreat, School of Undergraduate Studies, support granted for HIS 329U, May 11-12, 2015.

Participant, Perspectives on Science and Mathematics Working Group, UTeach Institute, January 22-23, 2015.

Participant, Perspectives on Science and Mathematics Workshop, UTeach Institute, May 20, 2014.

**Past Teaching Experience**

*Saint Olaf College*

“American Environmental History,” History Department, Spring 2013.

*University of Wisconsin, Madison*

“Western Culture: Science, Technology, Philosophy II” and “Science in the 20th Century,” Teaching Assistant, History of Science Department, 2010-2011.

*Montana State University*

“Darwinian Revolution,” “Latin American History,” “American History Before 1860,” “History of Japan,” Teaching Assistant, History and Philosophy Department, 2005-2007.

**SELECTED SERVICE AND RELATED EXPERIENCE**

**National and International**

Peer reviewer for Harvard University Press and the journals *Environmental History*, *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences* and *Society and Space (Environment and Planning D)*.

George Perkins Marsh Prize Committee, American Society for Environmental History, 2017-2020.

Co-chair, Women’s Caucus of the History of Science Society, 2015-2017.

History of Science Society Forum for the History of Science in America, Philip J. Pauly Publication Prize Committee, 2011-2013.

History of Science Society Forum for the History of Science in America Steering Committee, 2010-2013.

**UT Austin Department of History**

Undergraduate Research Coordinator, 2017-2018.

Institute for Historical Studies Steering Committee, 2016-2017.

Executive Committee, 2014-2015, 2016-2017.

Salary Committee, 2015-2016.

Special Committee on Peer Observation, 2014-2016.

Chair, History of Science, Medicine, and Technology Symposium, 2014-2015.

Jan Carleton Perry Prize Committee, 2014.

**Other Service and Experience**

UW Center for Culture, History, and Environment Graduate Student Associate, 2007-2012;  
Representative, 2009-2010; and Symposia planning committee, 2008-2010, 2012.

Project assistant, UW Madison Department of the History of Science, 2012.

Project assistant, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, "Plants and their Collectors: A Web-based  
Mapping Tool for the JSTOR Plants Database and the History of Botany," 2010-2011.

Workshop for the History of Environment, Agriculture, Technology and Science (WHEATS)  
planning committee, 2010.

**LANGUAGES**

Spanish, intermediate reading; French and German, beginner reading.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Historical Association

American Society for Environmental History

History of Science Society

Sociedad Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Historia Ambiental