



Kaitlin A. Simpson

Curriculum Vitae

Department of History, Geography, and Philosophy
University of Louisiana at Lafayette
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Aug. 2024-Present **Assistant Professor of U.S. History**, Department of History, Geography, and Philosophy, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

EDUCATION

Aug. 2024 **Ph.D., American History**, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Dissertation: "The Flowers of El Dorado: Gender, Production, and the Cut Flower Industry in the United States and Colombia, 1908-Present"

May 2020 **M.A., American History**, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Thesis: "Appalachia Abroad: The University of Tennessee and Cold War Rural Development Programs in India, 1954-1972"

May 2018 **B.A., History**, *summa cum laude*, University of Louisiana Monroe

PUBLICATIONS

Book Project

In Progress *To Dream of Flowers: Profits and Power in the Intertwined U.S. and Colombian Cut Flower Industries*

Articles

In Progress "Blooming after Internment: Japanese American Flower Growers and the Rise of Commercial Cut Flower Production in California and Arizona." For submission to the *Journal of Arizona History*

Submitted "Buds and Drugs: The Power of Flowers in U.S.-Colombian Anti-narcotics Efforts," Submitted to *Diplomatic History*

Book Reviews and Blog Posts

Forthcoming Book Review of *Dollars and Dominion: US Bankers and the Making of A Superpower*, by Mary Bridges in the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*

- May 2025 Book Review of *Flowers, Guns, and Money: Joel Roberts Poinsett and the Paradoxes of American Patriotism*, by Lindsay Schakenbach Regele in *Agricultural History*, Spring 2025
- Sept 2023 Book Review of *Land of Milk and Money: The Creation of the Southern Dairy Industry* by Alan I. Marcus in the *Journal of Mississippi History*, Spring/Summer 2023
- May 2023 “Perfect Mothers, Perfect Flowers: Gender and the Cut Flower Industry’s Creation of a Commercialized Mother’s Day,” *The Short Rows Blog*, Agricultural History Society, May 10, 2023, <https://www.aghistorysociety.org/ahs-blog/simpson-perfect-mothers-perfect-flowers>

AWARDS

- 2025 Winner, Gilbert C. Fite Award for Best Dissertation on Agricultural History in 2024, Agricultural History Society
- 2025 Finalist, Allan Nevins Prize for Best Written Doctoral Dissertation on a Significant Subject in American History, Society of American Historians
- 2025 Honorable Mention, Betty M. Unterberger Dissertation Prize, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations
- 2024 Excellence in Gender Studies Award. University of Tennessee, Knoxville – Department of History
- 2023 Best Paper for “Flowers on the Move: Gendered Holidays and the Environment in a Shifting U.S. Floriculture Industry,” Agricultural History Society Annual Conference Graduate Workshop 2023: Farming and Place
- 2022-2023 Charles O. Jackson Award for American History. University of Tennessee, Knoxville – Department of History
- 2023 Third Place, University of Tennessee, Knoxville Graduate School Three-Minute Thesis Competition
- 2021-2022 Josh Hodge Memorial Award for the Recovery of Lost Voices. University of Tennessee, Knoxville – Department of History

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2025 Arizona Historical Society Research Fellowship, Arizona Historical Society, Tempe, Arizona
- 2024 The Jamie & Thelma Guilbeau First Year-Faculty Publication Enhancement Grant
- 2023-2024 University of Tennessee Humanities Center Graduate Student Fellowship
- 2023 University of Tennessee Humanities Center Graduate Student Research Travel Award
- 2023 Mae Scheib Scholarship for the Study of World Affairs, University of Tennessee Center for Global Engagement
- 2022 John F. Kennedy Presidential Library Arthur M. Schlesinger Fellowship

2022	Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Samuel Flagg Bemis Dissertation Research Grant
2022	Agricultural History Society Research, Dissemination, Public Outreach, and Exhibition Grant
2022	Economic History Association Early Stage Dissertation Grant
2022	Summer Research Travel Grant, Department of History, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
2022	Conference Travel Grant, Department of History, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
2021-2022	Chancellor's Fellowship Award, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
2019	Summer Research Travel Grant, Department of History, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
2018-2021	Graduate School Funds Fellowship, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

Invited and Public Talks

April 2025	"Thirsty Flowers, Community Protests, and the Battle for Water on the Sabana de Bogotá," 2024-2025 College of Liberal Arts Interdisciplinary Lecture Series, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, Louisiana.
Feb. 2025	"Every Rose Has Its Thorns: Valentine's Day, Labor, and Conflict in the U.S. and Colombian Cut Flower Industries," Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL.
April 2022	"Wars of the Roses: Gender, Activism, and Cut Flower Production in Colombia and the United States." History of Colombia Honors Class, College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, Minnesota, Virtual
Oct. 2021	"Flower Power: Gender, Globalization, and the Cut Flower Industry in Latin America and the United States," Southern Exchanges, Southern Historical Association Graduate Council
Feb. 2021	"Appalachia Abroad: The University of Tennessee and Rural Development Programs in Post-War India," AfterWars Seminar, Center for the Study of War and Society, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Panels Organized

June 2023	"The Labor of Luxury in Global Commodity Production," Agricultural History Society Annual Conference, Knoxville, Tennessee
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Conference Presentations

June 2024	Round Table Panelist, "Diplomacy and Food Security," Agricultural History Society Annual Conference, St. Paul, Minnesota.
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- Nov. 2024 “Blooming After Internment: Japanese Americans, Bracero Labor, and Cut Flower Production in California and the U.S. Sunbelt,” Southern Historical Association Annual Conference, Kansas City, Missouri
- June 2024 “An Imported Rose Would Smell as Sweet: Colombian and U.S. Flower Growers in the Battle to Control the U.S. Cut Flower Market,” Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada
- April 2024 “‘Better to Call Them Flower Vultures:’ the Colombian Cut Flower Industry and the Fight over Water on the Sabana de Bogotá,” American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado
- June 2023 “Labor Flowers: Print Culture and Labor Protests in Colombia’s Cut Flower Industry, 1988-1996,” Agricultural History Society Annual Conference, Knoxville, Tennessee
- May 2023 “The Wars of the Roses: Labor and Conflict in the Colombian Cut Flower Industry,” Latin American Studies Association Annual Conference, Vancouver, Canada
- Aug. 2022 “Flowers of El Dorado: Culture, Consumption, and the Creation of a Transnational Floriculture Industry,” Agricultural History Society Annual Conference, Stavanger, Norway
- March 2022 “The Flowers of El Dorado: Gender, Technology, and the Environment in the Colombian-U.S. Cut Flower Trade,” Indiana University History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine Fifth Annual Graduate Student Conference, Virtual

WORKSHOPS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2023 National Humanities Center Graduate Student Podcasting Institute. Digital Humanities Center of San Diego State University
- 2023 University of Tennessee Innovative Teaching and Learning Conference

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record – University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Graduate

- 2025 Readings in American History – Gender and Sexuality in the United States
- 2025 Food and U.S. Foreign Policy

Undergraduate

- 2026 The History of Food
- 2025 Dish Diplomacy: U.S. Foreign Relations Through Food
- 2024 The Historian’s Craft: Gendering the Twentieth-Century Americas
- 2024-2026 Conflicting Hopes: United States History 1877-Present Through Film

Graduate Teaching Assistant – University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2022-2023	History Department Research and Writing Tutor
2022	History of World Civilizations Origins – 1500
2021	Red Dead America: The Real History Behind the Popular Video Games
2021	Modern Latin American and Caribbean History
2020	Early Latin American and Caribbean History
2020	United States History Reconstruction – Present
2019	United States History Colonial Era – Reconstruction
2019	United States History Reconstruction – Present
2018	Western Civilization 1750 – Present

Guest Lectures

2022	“Helping Others Learn to Help Themselves: Global Development in the Cold War,” Science, Medicine, and Technology in World Perspective
2022	“The Persian Empire, 539-323 BCE,” History of World Civilizations Origins – 1500
2019	“The Spanish American War and U.S. Imperialism,” United States History Reconstruction – Present

STUDENT MENTORSHIP**MA Committees**

2025-	Sawyer Coco, MA in History Thesis Committee Member, Department of History, Geography, and Philosophy, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
2024-2025	Caroline Dugan, MA in Public History Capstone Committee Member, Department of History, Geography, and Philosophy, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
2024-2025	Cade Granier, MA in History Thesis Committee Member, Department of History, Geography, and Philosophy, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Undergraduate Committees

2024-	Ainsley Gauthier, Honors Undergraduate Baccalaureate Thesis Committee Member, College of Business Administration Department of Economics and Finance, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
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PUBLIC HISTORY EXPERIENCE

2024	Organizer, <i>Freeman</i> Documentary Screening with Director John W. Sutherlin, University of Louisiana at Lafayette Department of History, Geography, and Philosophy
2020-2022	Producer and Co-Host, <i>Add Men and Stir: A Women's History Podcast</i> , Knoxville, TN

2017 Intern, Germantown Colony Museum, Louisiana Secretary of State Museums Division, Minden, Louisiana.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2020 Graduate Research Assistant, working with Dr. Tore C. Olsson on “The Global Cowboy: Country Music and American Empire in the Twentieth Century,” Department of History, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2019 Graduate Research Assistant, working with Dr. Brandon K. Winford on “Black Banking in the U.S. South Post-Reconstruction,” Department of History, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

SERVICE

2024 Member, Public History Committee, Department of History, Geography, and Philosophy, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

2024 Member, Undergraduate Committee, Department of History, Geography, and Philosophy, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

2021-2023 Member, Graduate Student Council, Southern Historical Association

2023 Local Host, Agricultural History Society Annual Conference, Knoxville, TN

2022-2023 University of Tennessee, Knoxville Department of History Audiovisual Technician

2022 Graduate Assistant, University of Tennessee Department of History Summer Bridge Program Diversity and Inclusion Initiative

2021 Graduate Student Representative, Graduate Committee Handbook Revision Task Force, Department of History, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2020-2021 Department Representative, Graduate Student Senate, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Internal Committee: Legislative and Steering

2019-2021 Caucus Representative, History Graduate Affairs Committee, Department of History, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & MEDIA OUTREACH

2024 History Day Judge, National History Day East Tennessee Regional Competition, Knoxville, TN

- 2021 Technical Support Volunteer, Smoky Mountain Counseling Association Annual Conference, Knoxville, TN, *virtual due to COVID-19*
- 2019 History Day Judge, National History Day East Tennessee Regional Competition, Knoxville, TN

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Advanced Reading and Speaking
French: Intermediate Reading and Speaking

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Agricultural History Society
American Historical Association
Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations
Southern Historical Association