

KEITH COCOZZA (KC) O'HARA

Department of History
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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, PA

Ph.D., History

Expected May 2026

Dissertation: "Faunal Foundations: Entangled Human-Herd Relationships in the Colonial Andes, 1500-1700."

Advisor: Marcy Norton, Ph.D.

M.A., History

Philadelphia, PA

Advisor: Marcy Norton, Ph.D.

May 2023

Yale University

New Haven, CT

M.A., History

May 2020

Advisor: Paul Sabin, Ph.D.

Wesleyan University

Middletown, CT

B.A., History, and Environmental Studies, Honors

May 2019

Honors Thesis: "Porcine Empires: An Environmental History of Pigs in the Spanish Colonization of the New World, 1493-1800."

Advisor: Paul Erickson, Ph.D.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Pennsylvania

February 2021 – January 2025

Center for Latin American and Latinx Studies

Advisor: Tulia G. Falleti, Ph.D.

"Dispossessions in the Americas: The Extraction of Bodies, Land, and Heritage from La Conquista to the Present."

Graduate Research Assistant, Yale University

June 2019 – August 2019

Department of History

Advisor: Paul Sabin, Ph.D.

"American Energy History."

Undergraduate Researcher, Wesleyan University

November 2017 – April 2019

Honors Thesis Research

Advisor: Paul Erickson, Ph.D.

Honors Thesis: "Porcine Empires: An Environmental History of Pigs in the Spanish Colonization of the New World, 1493-1800."

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Dissertation Research Award** Summer 2024 – Summer 2025
Graduate Division of Arts & Sciences, University of Pennsylvania
- Research Fellowship – Travel Grant** Spring 2024 – Spring 2025
The Huntington Library
- Albert J. Beveridge Grant for Research in the History of the Western Hemisphere** Spring 2024
The American Historical Association
- J. Donald Hughes Graduate Research Fellowship** Spring 2024
American Society for Environmental History (ASEH)
- Bradley Foundation Dissertation Research Award** Summer 2022 – Summer 2023
Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, University of Pennsylvania
- Wachs and Rattner Dissertation Research Award** Summer 2022
Eli Wachs Fund and Faye Rattner Research Fund, University of Pennsylvania
- Mellon Humanities Graduate Fellow** Fall 2021 – Summer 2022
Mellon Humanities Graduate Fellowship Endowment, University of Pennsylvania

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Stuart Weitzman School of Design**, University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, PA
Instructor of Record Spring 2025
“LARP 5400: Landscape Histories II,” Jessica Varner, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture
- Design and conduct two weekly classes for forty-five master’s students in the Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning Program at the Stuart Weitzman School of Design.
to the methodological tools of history and critical research, writing, and analytical skills.
- Introduce graduate students in landscape architecture to historical writing pedagogy centered on primary and secondary source analysis.
- Provide weekly writing instruction and feedback on students’ semester-long research projects.
- Department of History**, University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, PA
Graduate Teaching Assistant 2021-2023
“Modern Latin America 1808-Present,” Melissa Teixeira, Assistant Professor of History Spring 2023
“Colonial Latin America to 1810,” Marcy Norton, Associate Professor of History Fall 2022
“American Origins,” Emma Hart, Director of the McNeil Center (MCEAS) Spring 2022
“American Diplomatic History Since 1776,” Walter A. McDougall, Professor of History Fall 2021
- Introduced around a hundred and fifty undergraduate students of various disciplinary backgrounds to the methodological tools of history and critical research, writing, and analytical skills.
- Facilitated nine weekly recitation sections based on the critical inquiry of primary sources and secondary literature.

Great Books Summer Program, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA
Lead Program Assistant, Creative Writing Instructor Summer 2019 – Summer 2024

- Oversaw the education and safety of over four hundred middle and high school students.
- Directed and trained over thirty program assistants in the Socratic method and program protocols.
- Facilitated over forty student discussion sessions based on relevant philosophy and history.
- Designed and instructed six writing courses on rhetorical strategies for sixty students.

Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, PA
Graduate Certificate in College and University Teaching Fall 2022

- Participated in over ten teaching workshops and taught classes for over two semesters.
- Reviewed and revised personal teaching skills through guidance from a CTL Graduate Fellow.
- Developed teaching philosophy statements and educational approaches with the CTL director.

WesReads/WesMath, Wesleyan University Middletown, CT
Teaching Assistant Fall 2016 – Spring 2019

- Aided three third-grade teachers at Macdonough Elementary School in daily lessons and activities.
- Administered reading and math comprehension programs for twenty elementary school students.

Green Street Teaching and Learning Center, Wesleyan University Middletown, CT
Teaching Assistant Fall 2015 – Spring 2017

- Led over sixty middle school students in developing reading comprehension and study strategies.
- Fostered community connections between Wesleyan students and over two dozen local families.

TEACHING AWARDS

Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching by Graduate Students Fall 2022 – Spring 2023
School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania

Teaching Assistant of the Year Fall 2022 – Spring 2023
History Undergraduate Advisory Board (HUAB), University of Pennsylvania

PRESENTATIONS & LECTURES

Thinking Andean Studies Conference, Presenter Spring 2023
Haverford College, Haverford, PA
“Animal Afterlives: A Microhistory of Human-Herd Relationships in the Andes.”

Modern Latin America 1808-Present, Guest Lecturer Spring 2023
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
“Royalism in the Andes.”

Penn History Colloquium, Presenter Fall 2022
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
“Animal Afterlives: A Microhistory of Human-Herd Relationships in the Andes.”

Colonial Latin America to 1810, Guest Lecturer Fall 2022

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
“The Colonial Andes.”

Penn History Colloquium, Presenter Fall 2021
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
“Faunal Foundations: Communal and Private Livestock Systems in the Colonial Andes.”

Yale Environmental History Colloquium, Presenter Fall 2021
Yale University, New Haven, CT
“Faunal Foundations: Communal and Private Livestock Systems in the Colonial Andes.”

College of the Environment Senior Capstone Fair, Presenter Spring 2019
Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT
“Porcine Empires: An Environmental History of Pigs in the Spanish Colonization of the New World, 1493-1800.”

College of the Environment Senior Colloquium, Presenter Fall 2018
Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT
“An Environmental History of Pigs in the Early Modern Atlantic.”

Department of History Senior Colloquium, Presenter Fall 2018
Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT
“The Role of Pigs in the Spanish Colonization of the New World.”

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Clio Social Chair, University of Pennsylvania Fall 2022 – Summer 2023
Penn History Graduate Student Departmental Representative
- Built community among graduate students within the department through organized events.
- Compiled resources for new, incoming, and returning students to aid their graduate studies.

Local Arrangements Committee, American Historical Association (AHA) Spring 2023
LAC Assistant, American Historical Association Annual Meeting
- Arranged over fifty conference spaces and assisted dozens of presenters with technological accommodations.
- Recorded over a hundred conference statistics for future use by the AHA.
- Assisted dozens of attendees with directions, registration, conference protocols, and events.

Clio Co-President, University of Pennsylvania Fall 2021 – Spring 2022
Penn History Department Graduate Student Representative
- Acted as a liaison between the Director of Graduate Studies and graduate students to address students’ professional and personal concerns.
- Organized over a dozen panels for career development and research assistance.

History Majors Committee, Wesleyan University Fall 2017 – Spring 2019
Committee Member

- Reviewed, edited, and published student academic research in a yearly historical journal.
- Mediated connections between professors and students through monthly colloquia, socials, and lectures.

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Intermediate Spanish; Intermediate Quechua; teaching; high school and college education; environmental history, Indigenous history; human-animal relationships; colonial Latin America; early modern Atlantic world; the Andes; agrarian societies; animal studies; animal histories; livestock; colonial foodways.