**SOPHIA A. ROSENFELD**

Department of History

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Education

Harvard University, Ph.D. in History, 1996; M.A. in History, 1990

Princeton University, A.B. in History, summa cum laude, 1988

 Elected to Phi Beta Kappa

Current Appointment

University of Pennsylvania, Department of History

 Walter H. Annenberg Professor of History, 2017-

 Department Chair, 2022-2025

 Member of Graduate Group, Francophone, Italian and Germanic Studies, 2022-

Previous Academic Appointments

Yale University, Department of History

 Professor, July 2015-December 2016

University of Virginia, Corcoran Department of History

Professor, 2011-2015; Associate Professor, 2002-2011; Assistant Professor, 1995-2002

also: (Founding) Director, Pavilion Seminars Program, College of Arts and Sciences, 2011-14; Professor of French, by courtesy, 2003-2015

Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Paris)

 Visiting Professor, Spring 2020 (canceled for Covid-19) and Spring 2004

Institute for Advanced Studies (Princeton), School of Social Science

 Ed Kaufmann Founders’ Circle Member, 2014-15

University of Virginia School of Law, Visiting Professor, 2008-2009

New York University, Department of History, Postdoctoral Fellow/Visiting Faculty, Spring 2000

Harvard University, Departments of History and of History and Literature, Tutor, 1991-1992

Fellowships and Awards

American Academy of Arts and Sciences, elected member, 2025

Paris Institute for Advanced Studies (IEA) Writing Residency (by invitation), June 2025

Officier dans l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques, French government award, 2022

Kluge Chair in Countries and Cultures of the North (by invitation), Library of Congress, fall 2022

NYU Center for Ballet and the Arts Fellowship, spring 2020

John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, 2013-14

American Philosophical Society, Senior Library Fellow, and University of Pennsylvania, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Research Associate, 2013-14

Mark Lynton History Prize, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism/Nieman Foundation at Harvard University (Lukas Prize Project), 2012

Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) Book Prize, 2011

The Florence Gould Foundation, translation grant for French edition of *Common Sense*, 2012

Mellon Foundation New Directions Fellowship, Spring 2010 and 2003-2004

American Council of Learned Societies Frederick Burkhardt Fellowship, 2004-2005

Center for Advanced Studies, University of Virginia, Sesquicentennial Associateship, 2013-14, Spring 2009, 1999-2000

Remarque Institute for the Study of Contemporary Europe Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, New York University, 1999-2000

University of Virginia Summer Research Grants, 2013, 2012, 2007, 2006, 2003, 2001, and 1997

East-West Seminar, International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, summer 1996

Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship for Research related to Education, 1994-1995

Josephine DeKarman Foundation Fellowship, 1994-1995

Harvard University Summer Travel Grant, Paris, summer 1994

Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 1993-1994

Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship, Harvard University, for dissertation research in France, 1992-1993

Krupp Foundation Fellowship for European Studies, Center for European Studies, Harvard University, for dissertation research in France, 1992-1993

Harvard University Merit Fellowship, for outstanding work in the first two years of any Harvard graduate program, 1992

Center for European Studies Summer Dissertation Travel Grant, Paris, summer 1991

Mellon Foundation Fellowship in the Humanities, used at Harvard University, 1989-1991

Walter Phelps Hall Prize for a thesis in European History, Princeton University, 1988

Douglas Thompson Memorial Scholarship, Princeton University, 1984-1988

Jewish Foundation for Education of Women Scholarship, 1984-1988

Golden Nugget Scholarship, 1984-1988

Books

The Age of Choice: A History of Freedom in Modern Life

(Princeton: Princeton University Press, February 2025)

\*translations to date: Italian (forthcoming with Mondadori)

\*my commentary and op-eds: Princeton University Press Ideas blog (2/5/25); “When Choice Goes Wrong: How Modern Options Limit Freedom,” Next Big Idea Club (2/12/25) (reprinted as “Is Free Will Freeing?” in Fast Company (2/22/25)); book excerpt published as “The Sum of Our Choices” in Harvard Magazine (4/14/25); “Featured Essay: The Insidious Doublespeak of Trump’s Freedom of ‘Choice,’” The Guardian (5/11/25)

\*advance praise and most anticipated books of 2025 lists: Library Journal, Axios San Francisco, The Millions, The Next Big Idea, Le Grand Continent

\*reviews to date: Library Journal (1/1/25) [starred review]; The New York Times Book Review(Stephen Greenblatt, 2/3/25) [and “Editors’ Choice” book, Feb. 2025]; Los Angeles Review of Books (Henry Cowles, 2/4/25); Psychology Today (Glenn Altschuler, 2/4/25); Folha de S. Paulo (Brazil) (Renata Nagamine, 2/26/25); Il Sole 24 Ore (Sunday Literary Supplement) (Italy) (Francesca Trivellato, 3/9/25); “Critics at Large,” New Yorker podcast (Vinson Cunningham, Naomi Fry and Alexandra Schwartz, 3/13/25); The New Republic (Andrew Lanham, 4/11/25); Marx and Philosophy Review of Books (republished in Monthly Review Online) (Guy Lancaster, 4/22/25); Jacobin (Paul Schofield, 4/29/30); The Bulwark (Jonathan Marks, 5/27/25); Times Literary Supplement (Victoria Kahn, 6/20/25); The Atlantic (Gal Beckerman, 6/23/25); New York Review of Books (David Bell, 6/26/25); Choice (8/25) [highly recommended title]

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\*interviews and other book-related media to date: Le Monde (interview with Marion Dupont) (France) and discussed on Radio France; Le Vif (“grand entretien” with Nidal Taibi) (Belgium); d La Repubblica (interview with Laura Piccinini) (Italy); Corriere della Sera (Italy); La Nacion (Argentina); Arab News (Saudi Arabia); De Morgen (Belgium); Jacobin (interview with Daniel Falcone); Current Affairs journal and podcast (interview with Nathan Robinson); Harvard Gazette (interview with Jacob Sweet); Princeton Alumni Weekly; Penn Today; Omnia; Institute for Advanced Studies Newsletter; Green European Journal; “New Books Network” podcast (interview with Mark Klobas); “Behind the News” podcast and KPFA radio show (interview with Doug Henwood); “Converging Dialogues” podcast (interview with Xavier Bonilla); “Scientific Sense” podcast (interview with Gill Eapen); “Keen On” podcast (interview with Andrew Keen); “American Trends” podcast (interview with Larry Rifkin); “Unsiloed” podcast (interview with Greg LaBlanc); “Against the Grain” podcast and KPFA radio show (interview with Sasha Lilley); “Not Old Better” podcast (interview with Paul Vogelzang); “The Afternoon” on Radio Talk Europe (Spain) (interview with Hannah Murray); “The Philosopher” (UK) webinar (interview with Isabelle Laurenzi); and forthcoming: “American Prestige” podcast of The Nation (interview with Daniel Jenkins); “In Theory” podcast of the Journal of the History of Ideas (interview with Disha Jani); “The Reason Interview with Nick Gillespie” podcast; “Reading Our Times” (UK) podcast (interview with Nick Spencer); Worlds Turned Upside Down podcast of the Mitchell Center, UPenn

\*book talks and discussions to date: Washington History Seminar at the National History Center in DC, Philadelphia Free Library lecture series (in conversation with Emily Wilson), New York Institute for the Humanities at the New York Public Library (in conversation with Maya Jasanoff), Remarque Institute at NYU (in conversation with Jennifer Szalai and Nicolas Guilhot), Stanford University, Yale University, Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton, Smithsonian Associates (Washington), American Philosophical Society (Philadelphia), David Library of the American Revolution, Columbia/Yale/Penn Alumni Clubs of DC

Democracy and Truth: A Short History

(Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2019 [December 2018])

\*translations: Spanish (Democracia y Verdad. Una historia breve, INE/Penguin Random House, Mexico City, 2021); Portuguese (Democracia e Verdade. Uma breve história, Ateliê de Humanidades Editorial, Rio de Janeiro, 2023); Hindi (forthcoming)

 \*my own commentary and op-eds on related themes: The Nation (3/1/17), The Washington Post (11/22/18), Page 99 Test (12/26/18), The Washington Post (1/10/19), De Standaard (Brussels) (5/4/19), Die Zeit (Hamburg) (5/9/19), Tocqueville21 (6/13/19), The Hedgehog Review (“Truth and Consequences,” summer 2019 issue on Reality) [also “Top 5 Reads” on Arts and Letters Daily (7/12/19) and ABC Religion and Ethics (Australia) (10/22/19)], Contemporary Political Theory (5/20), Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, Lies and the Law Blog (9/21/21)

\*interviews on book: “Truth and Faith” on Truth, Politics and Power with Neil Conan and Heather Richardson, National Public Radio (11/2/18), “Is Widsom of the Crowd an Oxymoron?” on the Brian Lehrer Show, WNYC (New York Public Radio) (1/25/19), “Interview with Sophia Rosenfeld” on TKNN.com, Media News Network (1/26/19), “Does Democracy Need Truth? A Conversation with the Historian Sophia Rosenfeld,” The New Yorker (1/31/19), “Democracy and Truth,” on Ideas and Ideals with Larry Bensky, KPFA (Berkeley Public Radio) (3/1/19), “What is Truth?” on Good Law/Bad Law podcast (3/1/19), “Simon Brown interviews Sophia Rosenfeld,” Journal of the History of Ideas podcast (3/25/19), “Free Speech 50: Truth and Democracy with Sophia Rosenfeld,” on Ulrich Baer’s “Think About It” podcast (5/28/19), “Democracy and Truth: An Interview with Sophia Rosenfeld,” Age of Revolutions blog (6/10/19), “Democracy and Truth,” Radio Times with Marty Moss-Coane, WHYY (Philadelphia Public Radio) (6/12/19), “Democracy and Truth,” on Your Weekly Constitutional with Stewart Harris, WETS (Tennessee/Virginia Public Radio) (8/29/19), “Conspiracies,” The Minefield, ABC Radio National (Australia) (10/23/19), “Interview: Sophia Rosenfeld, Historian,” in The Geyser (info economy newsletter), Substack (1/11/21), “The Future of Truth” on Why We Argue podcast (3/21), “Sophia Rosenfeld on Truth and Misinformation in History and Today,” Queen City Nerve (Charlotte) (6/28/21), “America Has Wrestled with Truth Since Its Founding” on Charlotte Talk, WFAE (Charlotte Public Radio) (6/28/21), “Postmodernism, Posttruth, and Democracy,” on Recovering Truth podcast (12/1/21), Interview, Apache (Belgian journal) (1/10/22), Interview, Paris Institute for Critical Thinking podcast (2/25/22), “Truth Lies and Democracy—with Sophia Rosenfeld,” New Lines Magazine podcast (11/25/22), virtual book launch and discussion of Democracia e Verdade, Ateliê de Humanidades channel (2/2/2023), “Democracy and ‘Common Sense’: A Conversation with Sophia Rosenfeld,” Library of Congress website (2/3/23), interview with Carlos Bravo Regidor for forthcoming book on scholars’ new ideas for democracy (3/13/24); “Confidence with Dr. Sophia Rosenfeld” on Dakota Dialogues podcast (9/6/24); “Sophia Rosenfeld on Statistics, Democracy and Choice” on Scientific Sense podcast (11/12/24)

\*interviews or quoted on related topics: articles in Le Monde, New York Times, Washington Post, The Atlantic, The Economic Times (India), segment on democracy of Al Jazeera TV (Min Washington with Abderrahim Foukara), Invisibilia podcast (NPR)

\*reviews: The Guardian (Fara Dabhoiwala, 12/19/18), The Nation (David Bell, 1/24/19), France Culture (radio, 2/1/19), Dissent (Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen, spring 2019), Ideje (Zeljko Ivankovic, 3/15/19), Project Syndicate (Jan-Werner Müller, 4/26/19), The New Yorker (“In Brief,” 5/27/19), Cato Journal (Michael Levy, spring/summer 2019), Coffee Party USA (Outi Papamarcos, 5/21/19), book forum on Tocqueville21 blog (Jonny Thakkar, 6/1/19; Antoine Lilti, 6/2/19; Lisa Wedeen, 6/3/19; Nathalie Caron, 6/4/19, with my response, 6/13/19); Sydney Review of Books (Miriam Cosic, 6/5/19); De Volksrant (Marjan Slob, 6/14/19); H-Diplo (Anton Jäger, 10/18/19), Perspectives on Politics (Samuel Bagg, 12/19); History: Reviews of New Books (Lee McIntyre, 12/19); Open Magazine (“My Choice of Best of 2019: Srinath Raghavan” [India], 12/21/19); American Political Thought (Keith Whittington, 1/20); Journal of American History (David Greenberg, 3/20);, Books and Ideas/La Vie des idées (Sarah Maza, 5/7/20 and 6/8/20 respectively), Democratization (Nirupam Hazra, 6/20), Journal of Modern History (Helena Rosenblatt, 6/20); book forum (“Beyond Populism and Technocracy: The Challenges and Limits of Democratic Epistemology”) in Contemporary Political Theory (Alfred Moore, Carol Invernizzi-Accetti, Elizabeth Markovits, Zynep Pamuk, with my response, 5/20), Review of International American Studies (Sakina Ahakil Gröppmaier, fall-winter/20), 3:16 am blog (Walter Horn, 8/22), Folha de S. Paulo [Brazil] (Renata Nagamine, 4/23), Gulf News (Ahmad Nazir, 6/23/24)

\*published excerpts: The Institute Letter (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton) (spring 2019), Colloquy (Harvard University Graduate School) (winter 2020), Delanceyplace.com (2/16/23)

Common Sense: A Political History

(Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2011; paperback 2014)

\*translations: Korean (Boogle Books, 2011); French (Le Sens commun: Histoire d’une idée politique, Presses Universitaires de Rennes, 2014); Chinese (Social Sciences Academic Press, forthcoming)

\*prizes: Mark Lynton History Prize, 2012; Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) Book Prize, 2011

\*essays and op-eds on related themes: The Washington Post (4/21/11), The Daily Beast (6/29/11), The New York Times (Campaign Stops blog) (11/11/11), Page 99 Test (4/15/11), Largehearted Boy: Book Notes (5/5/11), Medium [by Dan McGee] (1/2/17), The Atlantic [by D. Graham] (8/4/17)

\*interviews c. 2011-12: C-Span Book TV, Matt Lewis Show (Daily Caller), Late Night Live (ABC News, Australia), History for the Future (WRCT-Pittsburgh), Soundboard (WTJU-Charlottesville), NPR News (WFAE-Charlotte), Médiapart (Paris), FranceCulture (Paris), Radio Wissen (Berlin)

\*interviews and press c. 2024-25: Colin McEnroe Show (CT Public Radio), Current Affairs podcast, The Conversation, Bloomberg News, MSNBC, The Hill,

Télérama (France), Folha de S. Paulo (Brazil), Frankfurter Rundschau (Germany), Le Monde (France), L’Express (France), and forthcoming: Kometa (France)

\*reviews: Wall Street Journal, Boston Globe (Brainiac blog), American Prospect, Pop Matters, Library Journal, London Review of Books, Times Literary Supplement, Choice, Reviews in History, Révolution française.net, H-Law, Isis, American Historical Review, Political Theory, History: Review of New Books, The Historian, Journal of Modern History, Law and Society Review, Jornal of the Early Republic, H-France, Political Studies Review, Canadian Journal of History, Journal of British Studies, Contributions to the History of Concepts, Reviews in American History, Historical Materialism, Philosophy Now, Études: revue de culture contemporaine, Revue d’histoire moderne et contemporaine, La Vie des idées, Acta Fabula, Revue française d’études américaines, Revue française de science politique

A Revolution in Language: The Problem of Signs in Late Eighteenth-Century France

(Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2001; paperback 2004)

\*reviews: The New Republic, American Historical Review [regular review and featured in two review essays], History, Journal of Interdisciplinary History, History of European Ideas, Dix-huitième siècle [regular review and featured in a review essay], Literary Research/Recherche Littéraire, Annales historiques de la Révolution française, Journal of Modern History, French Review, French Politics, Culture and Society, Canadian Journal of History, Histoire, Epistémologie, Langage

Edited Volumes and Editorships

A Cultural History of Ideas (6 volume series covering antiquity to present, Bloomsbury Publishing), General Editor (with Peter Struck), November 2022 (UK) and January 2023 (global)

 \*prizes: Association of American Publishers PROSE award for the best “Reference-Humanities” book of the year and finalist for best “World History” book of the year, 2023; Choice Outstanding Academic Title, 2024

 \*translations: Turkish (forthcoming)

 \*reviews: Times Literary Supplement, Sun News Austin, Choice

Modern Intellectual History (Cambridge University Press journal), Co-Editor (with Sam Moyn/Tracie Matysik, Duncan Kelly, and Charles Capper), 2013-17

Articles and Essays

“Populism and Cosmopolitanism,” in The Oxford Handbook of Cosmopolitanism, eds. Sanjay Seth, Dipesh Chakrabarty, Prathama Banerjee, and Lisa Wedeen (Oxford University Press), forthcoming

"On Being Heard 2.0: The Historical Ear Revisited," in Conference Proceedings: Sound, Language and the Making of Urban Space, ed. Jakob Ingemann Parby (University of Copenhagen and Museum of Copenhagen, 2024)

“I Teach a Course on Free Speech. My Students Can Show Us the Way Forward,” Opinion Guest Essay, New York Times (December 15, 2023) and “No, Campuses are Not in Chaos over Gaza,” Opinion Audio Essay, New York Times(December 20, 2023)

 Related content on free speech, the state of universities, and/or the state of democracy: Courageous Conversations about our Schools podcast (3/6/24); Created Equal with Stephen Henderson (NPR Detroit) (5/1/24); Background Briefing with Ian Masters (syndicated) (6/2/24); Taye Uhuru Speaking podcast (11/1/24); “The Crisis of Civic Despair,” interview with Marilyn Cooper in Liberal Education (American Association of Colleges and Universities) (spring 2024); “Sophia Rosenfeld, historiadora,” interview with Paula Escobar in La Tercera (Chile) (6/21/24); “Not Just the First Amendment,” Perspectives (AHA publication) (9/12/24); quoted in CNN Business, Philadelphia Inquirer, The Atlantic, Washington Post, and Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung; interviewed by Anne-Claire Coudray on TFI (French TV) (10/26/24)

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“Editors’ Introduction” (with Peter Struck), A Cultural History of Ideas (see above), 2022

“L’Urne” [Ballot Box], in Les Choses: Une histoire de la nature morte, ed. Laurence Bertrand-Dorléac (Louvre Museum exhibition catalogue, 2022), 432-433

 “Statistics and Democracy: A Long Story about Trust and Resentment,” Revue de l’Euro/Euro Revue (special issue on European Statistical Governance, ed. J.-F Boudet, Guillermo Dávila Muro, and Frédéric Allemand), no. 56 (September 2022)

“Are We Really Past Truth? A Historian’s Perspective,” Analyse & Kritik: Journal of Philosophy and Social Theory (special issue on Post-Truth and Democracy), vol. 43, no. 2 (December 2021): 265-284

“The French Revolution in Cultural History,” in “Forum: The French Revolution is Not Over,” ed. Jack Censer, Journal of Social History 52, no. 3 (January 2019): 555-565

“Human Rights and the Idea of Choice,” Tenth Gerald Stourzh Lecture on the History of Human Rights (2018), Universität Wien, published online at https://gerald-stourzh vorlesungen.univie.ac.at/fileadmin/user\_upload/p\_%20gerald\_stourzh/vortraege/2018.pdf

“Of Revolutions and the Problem of Choice,” in Rethinking the Age of Revolutions: France and the Birth of the Modern World, eds. David Bell and Yair Mintzer (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018), 236-272

“Introduction: Knowledge,” in The Eighteenth Centuries: An Interdisciplinary Investigation, eds. David T. Gies and Cynthia Wall (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2018), 11-13

“Benjamin Rush’s Common Sense,” Early American Studies (special issue “The Republics of Benjamin Rush,” eds. Sari Altschuler and Christopher Bilodeau) 5, no. 2 (Spring 2017): 252-273

 “The Limits of Choice” (opinion piece), Dissent (March 10, 2017)

“On Lying: Writing Philosophical History after the Enlightenment and after Arendt,” in The Worlds of American Intellectual History, eds. Joel Isaac, James Kloppenberg, Michael O’Brien, and Jennifer Ratner-Rosengarten (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), 228-236

“‘Europe,’ Women, and the American Political Imaginary: The 1790s and the 1990s,” commissioned essay for a special forum on the Republican Court, Journal of the Early Republic 35, no. 2 (Summer 2015): 271-277

“National Revolutions: France,” in The Princeton Companion to Atlantic History, ed. Joseph Miller (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2015), 407-11

“The Social Life of the Senses: A New Approach to 18th-Century Politics and Public Life,” in A Cultural History of the Senses in the Enlightenment, ed. Anne C. Vila (in ‘Cultural History of the Senses’ series, gen. ed. Constance Classen, London: Bloomsbury, 2014), 21-39

“L’Europe des cosmopolites: quand le XVIIIe siècle rencontre le XXIe [Europe of the Cosmopolitans, or When the Eighteenth Century Meets the Twenty-First],” in Penser l’Europe au XVIIIe siècle: commerce, civilization, empire, eds. Antoine Lilti and Céline Spector (Oxford: Voltaire Foundation, 2014), 203-228

“Humanity and its Common Sense,” in The Concept of Humanity in an Age of Globalization, ed. Zhang Longxi (Goettingen: V&R Unipress, 2012), 121-136

“On Being Heard: A Case for Paying Attention to the Historical Ear,” commissioned essay for a forum on “The Senses in History,” with commentary by Martin Jay, The American Historical Review 116 (April 2011): 316-334

“Una censura senza censori. Il destino del senso commune nella Francia settecentesca [Censorship without Censors: The Fate of Common Sense in Eighteenth-Century France],” trans. Franco Motta, in Censura nel secolo dei lumi. Una visione internazionale, ed. Edoardo Tortarolo (Torino: UTET, 2010), 41-62

“Thinking About Feeling, 1789-99,” one of six commissioned essays for a special issue on the state of scholarship twenty years after the Revolution’s bicentennial, French Historical Studies 32, no. 4 (Fall 2009): 697-706

“Tom Paine’s Common Sense and Ours,” William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd series, 65, no. 4 (October 2008): 633-668

translation: “Il senso comune di Thomas Paine e il nostro,” in L’Età di Thomas Paine. Dal senso commune alle libertà civili americane, ed. Marco Sioli and Matteo Battistini (Milan: FrancoAngeli, 2011)

“Before Democracy: The Production and Uses of Common Sense,” Journal of Modern History 80, no. 1 (March 2008): 1-54

 “The Political Uses of Sign Language: The Case of the French Revolution,” Sign Language Studies 6, no. 1 (Fall 2005): 17-37

 “Politics, Epistemology, and Revolution,” Intellectual News: Review of the International Society for Intellectual History, no. 11/12 (Summer 2003): 64-69

"Citizens of Nowhere in Particular: Cosmopolitanism, Writing, and Political Engagement in Eighteenth-Century Europe,” National Identities (special issue: "The Local Life of Nationhood," eds. Alon Confino and Ajay Skaria), 4, no. 1 (March 2002): 25-43

reprint: Cosmopolitanism: Critical Concepts in Sociology, eds. Gerard Delanty and David Inglis (Routledge, 2010)

"Writing the History of Censorship in the Age of Enlightenment," in Postmodernism and the Enlightenment: New Perspectives in Eighteenth-Century French Intellectual History, ed. Daniel Gordon (New York and London: Routledge, 2001), 117-145

"Les Philosophes and le savoir: Words, Gestures, and Other Signs in the Era of Sedaine," in Michel-Jean Sedaine (1719-1797): Theatre, Opera and Art, eds. David Charlton and Mark Ledbury (Aldershot, Eng.: Ashgate Publishing, 2000), 39-51

"Universal Languages and National Consciousness during the French Revolution," in La Recherche dix-huitiémiste. Raison universelle et cultures nationales au dix-huitième siècle, eds. David A. Bell, Stéphane Pujol and Ludmila Pimenova (Paris/Geneva: Honoré Champion and Slatkine, 1999), 119-131

"Deaf Men on Trial: Language and Deviancy in Late Eighteenth-Century France," Eighteenth-Century Life (special issue: "Faces of Monstrosity in Enlightenment Thought"), 21, n.s., no. 2 (May 1997): 157-175

"From Citizens to Hommes de la Nature: Revolutionary Regeneration and the Sign Language Model," Proceedings of the Western Society for French History: Selected Papers of the Annual Meeting 24 (1997): 472-482

Review Essays

“Popular Rule”: review of Two Cheers for Politics: Why Democracy is Flawed, Frightening—and Our Best Hope by Jedediah Purdy, The Nation (January 16, 2023)

“In the Age of QAnon”: review of A Lot of People Are Saying: The New Conspiricism and the Assault on Democracy by Russell Muirhead and Nancy L. Rosenblum, The Nation (September 30, 2019)

 “The Egalitarians” (on multiple books on early American political discourse), The Nation (April 24/May 1, 2017): 34-37

“A Radical History of Free Speech”: review of The Taming of Free Speech: America’s Free Speech Compromise by Laura Weinrib, Dissent (Fall 2016)

“How to Die”: review of Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End by Atul Gawande, The Nation (May 7, 2015)

“The Choice Isn’t Clear” (on multiple books on the culture and politics of choice), The Nation (June 23-24, 2014): 31-35

“Liehards: On Political Hypocrisy” (on multiple books on dishonesty in politics), The Nation (September 10, 2012): 27-30

Academic Book Reviews

Review of In the Name of History by Joan Wallach Scott and History: Why It Matters by Lynn Hunt, Journal of Modern History (December 2021)

Introduction to Forum on Men on Horseback: The Power of Charisma in the Age of Revolutions by David Bell, in H-Diplo (March 2021)

Review of Eating the Enlightenment: Food and Knowledge in Paris, 1670-1780 by Emma Spary, Journal of Modern History 86, no. 3 (September 2014): 684-686

Review of Language and Enlightenment: The Berlin Debates of the 18th Century by Avi Lifschitz, Annales: Histoire, Sciences Sociales (special issue on “histoire culturelle”), 68e année, no. 3 (July-September 2013): 893-896

Review of Constituent Moments: Enacting the People in Postrevolutionary America by Jason Frank, William and Mary Quarterly 69, no. 1 (January 2012): 192-195

Review of The Unfinished Enlightenment: Description in the Age of the Encyclopedia by Joanna Stalnaker, American Historical Review 116, no. 4 (October 2011): 1207-1208

Review of Sans-Culottes: An Eighteenth-Century Emblem in the French Revolution by Michael Sonenscher, Journal of Modern History 82, no. 2 (June 2010): 469-472

Review of Unnaturally French: Foreign Citizens in the Old Regime and After by Peter Sahlins, American Historical Review 110, no. 1 (February 2005): 230-232

Review of Political Actors: Representative Bodies and Theatricality in the Age of the French Revolution by Paul Friedland, American Historical Review 108, no. 4 (October 2003): 1225-1226

Review of Enemies of the Enlightenment: The French Counter-Enlightenment and the Making of Modernity by Darrin McMahon, Journal of Modern History 75, no. 3 (September 2003): 685-688

Review of Reading the French Enlightenment: System and Subversion by Julie Candler Hayes, Journal of Modern History 73, no. 2 (June 2001): 415-417

Review of A Silent Minority: Deaf Education in Spain, 1550-1835 by Susan Plann, Social History of Medicine 11, no. 3 (December 1998): 510-511

Plenary, Keynote or Named Lectures

Forthcoming: keynote at Lisbon Summer School for the Study of Culture (theme: The Age of Excess), July 2025; keynote for Institute of Historical Research at University of Texas-Austin, September 2025; respondent for the Tanner Lectures, University of California-Berkeley, May 2025

“The Age of Choice: Decentering the Enlightenment and French Revolution,” keynote, Enlightenment Workshop, University of California-Berkeley, October 2024

“The Age of Choice,” inaugural Lapidus Lecture, Institute for Paine Studies at Iona College, New York, September 2024

“On Being Heard 2.0. The Historical Ear Revisited,” keynote, Sound, Language, and the Making of Urban Space conference, University of Copenhagen (Denmark), August 2023

“President’s Lecture and Dialogue (with Lewis Grossman),” keynote, Reframing Trust: A Path to Address Misinformation, American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation Forum, Asheville, NC, July 2023

“Science, Liberalism, and Truth,” keynote panel (with Peter Galison), Science and Liberalism conference, Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, University of Chicago, April 2023

“Truth, Lies and Democracy Now: A Historian’s Reflections,” keynote, Fifth Anniversary of the Lepage Center for History in the Public Interest, Villanova University, October 2022

“How the Enlightenment Understood Truth—and Why It Matters,” Annual Besterman Lecture on the Enlightenment, Voltaire Foundation/University of Oxford, November 2021

“Choice, Power and Mme Bovary’s *Cotillon*,” keynote,Nineteenth-Century French Studies Association annual meeting (“Power”), Washington DC, October 2021

“Democracy and Common Sense in the Post-Truth Age,” keynote, Between Resentment and Critique: Common Sense in the Age of Populism conference, University of Frankfurt (Germany), October 2021 (online due to covid-19)

“Democracy and Truth,” Annual Independence Day Ron Hankins ‘History Talks’ Lecture, The Charlotte Museum of History, July 2021 (online due to covid-19)

“Democracy, Truth and the Status of Expertise,” Annual FORSK-KOMM Public Lecture, University of Oslo, April 2020 (canceled for covid-19)

“Data, Truth and Trust,” keynote, Paris21 Cross Regional Forum on Building Trust in Data, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Paris (France), October 2019 [available on OECD website]

“The Waltz, the Cotillon and the Hazards of Choice,” Eberhard L. Faber IV Class of 1915 Memorial Lecture and accompanying seminars and colloquia, Program in European Cultural Studies, Princeton University, October 2019

“Democracy and Truth,” 2019 Tom E. Moses Memorial Lecture on the Constitution, The Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education at Shepherd University, WV, September 2019 [filmed for American Democracy, C-SPAN, Oct. 6, 2019]

“Democracy and Truth,” 2019 Wm. Louis Rogers Lecture, National History Center, Washington D.C., September 2019

“Human Rights and the Idea of Choice,” Tenth Annual Gerald Stourzh Lecture on the History of Human Rights and Democracy, University of Vienna (Austria), May 2018

“Conspiracies and Common Sense from the Founding to the Age of Trump,” Baskes Lecture on History, plus seminar for area graduate students, University of Chicago/Chicago Humanities Festival, November 2017

“A Tale of Two Texts, or Why Write French History Today,” keynote, Society for French Historical Studies annual meeting, Washington, D.C., April 2017

“The History of Choice: An 18th-Century Subject,” keynote, Ideas and Enlightenment: David Nichol Smith Seminar in Eighteenth-Century Studies XV, University of Sydney (Australia), December 2014

“The Sensory Revolution,” keynote, Society for the Study of French History annual meeting, University of Durham (U.K.), July 2014

“Benjamin Rush’s Common Sense,” keynote, The Republics of Benjamin Rush conference, Dickinson College and the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, March 2014

“Common Sense, Then and Now,” keynote, Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies annual conference, Wesleyan University, October 2012

“Common Sense, Reason, and Revolution in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World,” keynote, British Group of Early American Historians annual conference, Rothermere American Institute and St. Anne’s College, Oxford University (U.K.), September 2010

 “Sign Language as a Political Tool: The Case of the French Revolution,” Schaefer Distinguished Lecture, Gallaudet University, Washington, DC, October 2004

Invited Talks, Conference Papers, Discussions, and Workshops

Forthcoming in 2025-26: Material Text seminar at the University of Penn, Interintellect book salon, Monash University talk (online), Haystack Book Festival talk (with Dagmar Herzog), French Department at Princeton University talk (with Arnaud Orain), Library of Congress conference on J. Franklin Jameson and the American Revolution, St. Andrew’s School lecture, American Academy of Religion annual meeting in Boston, Center for the History of Political Economy conference at Duke University

Presentation on 2026 and the problem of revolutionary anniversaries, Institut d’Etudes Avancées (Paris), June 2025

Commentator on paper by Katlyn Carter on truth in early America, Davis Center, Princeton University, April 2025

Commentator and Chair, “Making Movement: Dance and the Historian,” American Historical Association annual meeting, New York City, January 2025

Presenter, Utopia and Psychopathology: A Symposium in Honor of Anthony Vidler, Princeton University School of Architecture, November 2024

Roundtable Discussant, “Enlightenment and the University,” Canadian Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, November 2024 (online)

“Freedom of Speech and Press,” lecture/workshop for teachers, National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, October 2024

“The Age of Choice,” invited lecture, History and Sociology of Science Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, September 2024

Discussant, “The Trouble with Facts: Reimagining the Role of Information in Democracy,” American Political Science Association annual meeting, Philadelphia, September 2024

Discussant, Intellectual History of the American Revolution conference, Kylemore Abbey, Galway (Ireland), August 2024

“What Can We Talk About? Free Speech Battles in our Colleges and Universities,” invited lecture, Crested Butte Public Policy Forum, Colorado, July 2024

Commentator, plenary panel on David Bromwich’s paper on Edmund Burke, International Conference for the Study of Political Thought meeting, Columbia University, May 2024

“Early French and American Constitutions, Human Rights, and the Question of Choice,” invited talk, New Perspectives on French and American Revolutionary Constitutions, America2026/Château de Tocqueville, Normandy (France), May 2024

“What is a Democracy?” invited talk, Morven Museum/Princeton Public Library lecture series on democracy, April 2024

“How Choice Came to Stand for Freedom,” invited talk, Eighteenth-Century Seminar, Princeton University, February 2024

“Two at 1014: Is Truth the Highest Good of Democracy?” in conversation with Alexander Görlach, German government cultural center 1014-Space for Ideas, New York City, November 2023

Commentator at book manuscript workshop on Kevin Duong, *The Revolution of the Ballot*, Karsh Institute of Democracy, University of Virginia, September 2023

‘Idea Blitz’ participant and discussant, Keeping the Republic conference, Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy, University of Notre Dame, May 2023

Commentator on Glory Liu, *Adam* *Smith’s America*, Washington History Seminar at the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, Washington DC, April 2023 (online)

“Who Gets to Say What’s True?” invited lecture in series on annual theme of Authority, Miami University of Ohio Humanities Center, February 2023

Moderator for opening conversation with Patrick Spero and Bertrand Van Ruymbeke, “America 2026 Consortium Launch,” French Embassy in Washington D.C., December 2022

“Cosmopolitanism/Populism,” invited presentation, Workshop for the ‘Oxford Companion to Cosmopolitanism’ volume, University of Chicago, November 2022 (online)

“Democracy and Common Sense in the Post-Truth Age,” invited talk, From Common Sense to Common Practices: The Timeliness of an Old Concept, University of St. Gallen (Switzerland), September 2022

“Night of Ideas: Where Are We Going?” invited speaker/conversation with Caroline Fredrickson, French Embassy/Martin Luther King Jr. Library, Washington, DC, May 2022

“The Crisis of Truth in Democratic Societies,” conversation with Rebecca Solnit, School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe, NM, May 2022 (online)

“Truth, Lies, and Democracy,” invited public lecture, Humanities Center at George Washington University, April 2022 (online)

“Touchstones of Democracy: Alexis de Tocqueville,” conversation with Olivier Zunz, Democracy Institute at the University of Virginia, April 2022

“Does Choice Have a History?” invited presentation, History Research Seminar, University of Warwick (UK), February 2022 (online)

“Future of Democracy,” presenter in series hosted by Wired magazine, February 2022 (online)

“Patriotism and Dissent in America,” discussant, Townhall at the National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, October 2021 (online)

“Lies and Democracy,” discussant, Knight First Amendment Institute, Columbia University, September 2021

Commentator and Chair, panel on “Democratic Intolerance: Illiberal Foundations of Popular Sovereignty in the Early Republic,” Society for the History of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) annual meeting, July 2021 (online due to covid-19)

“Democracy and Truth,” invited lecture, conference “Vamos a contrar mentiras: Periodismo, democracia y desinformatción,” University of Valencia (Spain), June 2021 (online due to covid-19)

“Does Choice Have a History?” invited presentation and conversation with Tessie Lu, History Department lecture series, Northwestern University, April 2021 (online due to covid-19)

Commentator on paper by Dan Edelstein on revolutions, Davis Center, Princeton University, April 2021 (online due to covid-19)

“Arendt’s Truth and Politics (1967),” invited presentation, Touchstone Texts 2021 panel, American Historical Association annual meeting, April 2021 (online due to covid-19)

“Democracy and Truth—and Elections,” invited lecture, Penn Women’s Forum, March 2021 (online due to covid-19)

Roundtable on Annelien De Djin, *Freedom: An Unruly History*, Center for European Studies, Harvard University, February 2021 (online due to covid-19)

“Writing the History of Choice,” seminar presentation, Wolf Humanities Center, University of Pennsylvania, September 2020 (online due to covid-19)

“The Waltz, the Cotillon and the Performance of Choice,” invited talk, Center for Ballet and the Arts, NYU, June 2020 (online due to covid-19)

“Making Choices in the Early Modern World,” invited talk with respondent (Jonathan Sheehan), Catholic University of Australia (Melbourne), May 2020 (online due to covid-19)

“The Crisis of Truth,” invited talk, European Union Center of Excellence, University of Pittsburgh, February 2020

“The Crisis of Truth,” invited talk, Ethical Society of Philadelephia, January 2020

Commentator and Chair, panel on Frauds and Fakes in 18th-Century France and Its Colonies, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New York, January 2020

Seminar on *Democracy and Truth*, invited guest, Humanities Center at Lehigh University, December 2019

“Voting and the Invention of Political Choice,” invited paper, Research Triangle Intellectual History Seminar, National Humanities Center, North Carolina, November 2019

Chair, panel on Transatlantic Crises of Democracy and Intellectual Expertise, Society for US Intellectual History annual meeting, New York, November 2019

“Democracy in Crisis?” invited discussant, Worldviews International Conference on Media and Higher Education, University of Toronto, June 2019

“Post-Truth: A European Problem?” Europe Day invited talk, BOZAR, Brussels (Belgium), May 2019

“Democracy and Truth, Then and Now,” invited presentation, Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere Reconsidered, Center for Human Values, Princeton University, April 2019

“Truth, Lies, and the History of Democracy,” invited talk, Bryn Mawr College, April 2019

“Democracy and Truth: A Philadelphia Story,” invited talk, Free Library of Philadelphia, March 2019

“The Choices We Make,” seminar presentation, Wolf Humanities Center, University of Pennsylvania, March 2019

Roundtable on Stephen Sawyer, *Demos Assembled: Democracy and the International Origins of the Modern State, 1840-1880*, Institute for French Studies, NYU, February 2019

“Democracy and Truth,” invited presentation, Liberalism and Democracy: Past, Present, Prospects Conference, The New School 100th Anniversary Event, New York, February 2019

Chair, “Intellectual History in an Anti-Intellectual Age” and Organizer, “What is Theory Now?” American Historical Association annual meeting, Chicago, January 2019

“Democracy, Truth and the History of Exclusions,” invited talk, Antinomies of Democracy, Center for Africana Studies conference, University of Pennsylvania, November 2018

Commentator and Chair, Plenary Roundtable on Populism, Democracy, and Anti-Intellectualism, Society for US Intellectual History annual meeting, Chicago, November 2018

“Marriage, Social Dance, and Choice in Partners: A Nineteenth-Century Dilemma,” invited talk, Swarthmore College, November 2018

“Democracy and Truth: A Short History,” Bernstein Faculty Seminar annual guest, Bowdoin College, October 2018

“Freedom as Freedom of Choice: A History,” invited talk, Institute for Historical Studies, University of Texas-Austin, September 2018

Commentator, panel on The American Revolution and the Emotions, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture annual conference, College of William and Mary, June 2018

“Human Rights and the Idea of Choice,” invited talk, Amsterdam Global lntellectual History Seminar, University of Amsterdam (Netherlands), May 2018

“Of Revolutions, Human Rights, and the Problem of Choice,” invited talk, Seminar in the History of Political Ideas, Institute of Historical Research at the University of London (U.K.), May 2018

Panel Discussion on Researching and Teaching: The Future of the Field, invited participant, French Historians of the Long Eighteenth Century in America meeting, Florida State University, Tallahassee, April 2018

“Coping with Quantity, or Two Texts about Choice-Making,” invited talk, Conference on Quantity, Interacting with Print Worshop, Concordia University, Montreal (Canada), March 2018

“The Political Sense,” invited talk, Conference on The Sixth Sense, Einstein Forum, Potsdam (Germany), December 2017

“Intellectual History and Cultural History,” invited talk as guest professor, Dartmouth Summer History Institute, June 2017

“Populism, Conspiracy, and Common Sense from Tom Paine to Donald Trump,” invited talk, Conspiracy and Democracy Lecture series, and “Voting and the Invention of Choice,” invited seminar presentation, both at CRASSH, University of Cambridge (U.K.), May 2017

“Of Revolutions and the Problem of Choice,” invited presentation, Columia/NYU Consortium for Intellectual and Cultural History, New York, April 2017

“The Cultural Turn,” invited talk for a Roundtable on Fifty Years of the History of the French Revolution, Consortium on the Revolutionary Era (1750-1850) annual meeting, Charleston, SC, February 2017

“Freedom of Choice,” workshop on my current book project in the Neuroscience/History seminar at the Heyman Center for the Humanities, Columbia University, October 2016

Book Manuscript Colloquium on Paola Bertucci, *Artisanal Enlightenment: Science and the Mechanical Arts in Early Modern France*, Yale University, June 2016

Book Manuscript Workshop on Jonathan Gienapp, *Inventing the Fixed Constitution: Language and Constitutional Interpretation of the American Founding*, Stanford University Humanities Center, May 2016

“The History of *Mentalité* and the Study of Politics,” invited talk, Europe Without Borders: Reflections on Forty Years of European Cultural Studies conference, Princeton University, May 2016

“Thomas Paine’s Words on Words,” invited talk, FightingWords: Polemical Literature in the Age of Revolution conference, Princeton University, April 2016

“Making Choices: Reflections on a Historical Problem,” invited talk, Department of History, University of Pennsylvania, March 2016

“Commercial Choice and Political Choice in The Age of Revolution,” invited talk, Zuckerman Salon, McNeil Center, University of Pennsylvania, December 2015

“Intellectual History in an International Framework,” invited talk, International History Workshop, Yale University, December 2015

“On Lying,” seminar presentation, Center for Historical Enquiry in the Social Sciences (CHESS) Workshop, Yale University, September 2015

 “Voting and the Invention of Political Choice,” seminar presentations in the New York Area Seminar on Intellectual and Cultural History, CUNY Grad Center, May 2015

“Voting and the Invention of Political Choice,” Egalitarianisms Seminar, School of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton), both May 2015

Panel Discussion on “The Social, Legal, and Political Life of Money,” The Heyman Center for the Humanities at Columbia University, May 2015

“Of Revolutions and the Problem of Choice,” invited talk, Symposium on Rethinking the Age of Revolutions: New Perspectives on the Origins of Modern Political Culture, Department of History, Princeton University, April 2015

“Making Choices: Reflections on a Historical Problem,” invited talk, Social Science Seminar, Institute for Advanced Studies (Princeton), March 2015

“Voting and the Invention of Choice,” seminar presentation, Department of History, Johns Hopkins University, February 2015

“Making Choices: Reflections on a Historical Problem,” invited talk, Department of History, Yale University, February 2015

“Communicating Concepts: The Challenges of Conveying Meaning In and Across Languages,” invited conversation with Michael Wood, Program in European Cultural Studies, Princeton University, December 2014

Panel Discussion on *Le Sens commun: Histoire d’une idée politique*, New Books in Early American History in France, Paris IV-Sorbonne (France), November 2014

“Philosophical History for Our Time,” invited talk, The Civic Arts: Enlightenment and the Subject of Liberal Learning, Clark Memorial Library, UCLA, October 2014

Roundtable on “The Republican Court Revisited,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual meeting, Philadelphia, July 2014

“Voting in Secrecy: On the Turbulent History of Free Choice,” invited talk, Workshop on the Idea of Freedom, Center for the Study of Representative Institutions, Yale University, April 2014

“’Take Your Choice!’: Method and Meaning at the Ballot Box since 1776,” invited talk, University of Michigan Law School, April 2014

Comment, panel on “Genius, Celebrity, and the Self: Visions of Singularity and Transcendence in 18th-Century France,” Society for French Historical Studies annual meeting, Montreal (Canada), April 2014

“’Take Your Choice!’: Historical Reflections on the Act of Voting,” invited talk, National History Center, Washington DC, April 2014

Comment, panel on “Making Room for Debate and Disagreement: Participatory Politics in Revolutionary France, 1789-92,” American Historical Association annual meeting, Washington DC, January 2014

*Common Sense: A Political History* and “The Choices We Make,” invited book talk, 18th-Century Interdisciplinary Salon, Washington University, Saint-Louis, November 2013

“Geographies of Revolution,” invited participant, Mellon Sawyer Seminar on Rethinking the Age of Revolutions, Brandeis University, October 2013

“Hannah Arendt for Intellectual Historians,” invited talk, The Futures of Atlantic Intellectual History: Themes, Methods, Disciplines, CRASSH, Univerity of Cambridge (U.K.), July 2013

“The Fate of Philosophical History in the Age of Disciplines,” invited participant, Workshop: Shaping Education and Setting the Boundaries of Knowledge in France, England, and Germany, 1750-1950, Max Planck Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Berlin (Germany), June 2013

“Philosophical Differences and the Future of Pedagogy at UVa, 2012,” invited talk (with Chad Wellmon), Re: Enlightenment Meeting, University of California-Santa Barbara, December 2012

“History as Philosophy for Our Times,” invited talk, The Humanities in Ferment: Strategizing for Our Times, Delhi University and Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi (India), August 2012 (canceled; early version given as “Philosophical History after Arendt” in the Global Humanities Workshop, University of Virginia, April 2012)

“On Lying and Philosophical History,” invited talk, The Futures of Atlantic Intellectual History, Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University, May 2012

Panel discussion, J. Anthony Lukas Prize Project Awards ceremony, Harvard Univeristy, May 2012

“Making Choices in the Late Eighteenth Century,” invited talk, Eighteenth-Century Seminar, Princeton University and the Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton, April 2012

“Atlantic Revolutions and the Right to Be Heard,” Soundscapes in Jefferson’s America conference, University of Virginia, March 2012

Comment, panel on “Readers and Reading in 17th- and 18th-century France,” Society for French Historical Studies Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, March 2012

Roundtable on *Common Sense: A Political History*, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia, February 2012

Roundtable on “What’s the Big Idea? Challenges and Prospects for Long-Range Intellectual History” and Comment, panel on “Revolutionary Era Cosmopolitanisms,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, January 2012

“Declaring Rights: 1776, 1789 and After,” invited talk, Inaugural Conference on Foundations and Traditions, East and West, for the UVa, PKU, HKST Trilateral Partnership, Beijing (China), August 2011

“*Common Sense: A Political History*,” invited book talks, Politics and Prose Bookstore, Washington DC, May 2011; Princeton Club of New York, July 2011; International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello, September 2011; Society of Fellows at UVa, November 2011; Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UVa, April 2013; Rockefeller College, Princeton University, October 2014

 “Tom Paine’s Common Sense,” daylong workshop and lecture for history teachers organized by the Center for the Liberal Arts (UVa) and the Festival of the Book (Virginia Foundation for the Humanities), March 2011

 “On Being Heard: A Case for Paying Attention to the Historical Ear,” invited paper, French Culture Workshop, Stanford Humanities Center, April 2010

“Arendt, Politics, and the Enlightenment,” invited talk, Enlightenment 2.1 Conference, History Department, University of California-Berkeley, April 2010

Roundtable on “How To Do Things with the ‘Encyclopédie,’” Digital Encyclopédie Colloquium, University of Virginia/ARTFL-University of Chicago, April 2010

Roundtable on “Evidence and ‘Sophie Scholl: The Final Days,’” Burdens of Proof: Emerging Issues in Law and the Humanities conference, University of Virginia School of Law, February 2010

“Declaring Rights in America and France,” invited talk, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History: The International Impact of the Declaration of Independence, Monticello and the University of Virginia, August 2009 and June 2010

“Invisible Censorship: A Historian’s Reflections on the Boundaries Between Free and Unfree Speech,” invited lecture, University of Virginia School of Law, April 2009 (canceled)

“On Being Heard: A Case for Paying Attention to the Historical Ear,” invited talk, Eighteenth-Century Workshop, University of Indiana-Bloomington, May 2008

Comment, panel on “The Value of Beauty: Money, Politics and Visual Culture,” Society for French Historical Studies Annual Meeting, Rutgers University, April 2008

“On Being Heard: A Case for Paying Attention to the Historical Ear,” invited talk, University of Maryland History Department Workshop, February 2008

“Common Sense in the Age of Reason,” invited talk, Reason and its Rivals: Muller Colloquium of the French Department, University of Virginia, February 2008

“Humanity and its Common Sense,” invited talk, International Conference on Humanity and Humanism in the Age of Globalization, City University of Hong Kong (China), November 2007

“Censorship Without Censors: The Cases of England and France,” invited talk, International Conference on Censorship in the Eighteenth Century, Fondazione Firpo, Torino (Italy), May 2007

“The Enlightenment: A Roundtable,” Consortium on the Revolutionary Era annual meeting, George Mason University, March 2007

 “Transparency in Graduate Education,” invited roundtable speaker, American Historical Association annual meeting, Atlanta, January 2007

“The Advent of Common Sense,” invited talk, Interdisciplinary Seminar on Political and Moral Thought, The Johns Hopkins University, December 2006

“The Language of Censorship,” invited talk, Linguistic Anthropology Seminar, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Virginia, May 2006

“Tom Paine’s Eighteenth-Century Paradoxes and Our Common Sense,” Tom Paine: Common Sense for the Modern Era Symposium, San Diego State University, October 2005

“Tom Paine’s Paradoxes and Our Common Sense,” invited talk, New York Intellectual and Cultural History Seminar, Graduate Center of the City University of New York, April 2005

“The Slow Disappearance of Bon Sens,” Society for French Historical Studies Annual Conference, Stanford University, March 2005

 “Politics and Epistemology in the Age of Revolution,” series of three seminar presentations, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris (France), May 2004

“Before Democracy: The Creation of Common Sense,” invited talk, After Enlightenment: A Symposium organized by the Remarque Institute, Nice (France), April 2004

“Before Democracy: The Creation of Common Sense,” invited talk, Eighteenth-Century Studies Faculty Seminar, University of Virginia, March 2004

“Common Sense and Alterity in the Eighteenth Century,” Alterity and the Experience of Limits: International Conference of the International Society for Intellectual History, Bosphorus University, Istanbul (Turkey) December 2003 (canceled)

“The Enlightenment in Jefferson’s Paris,” invited talk, Monticello, Charlottesville, November 2003

“Approaches to Historical Inquiry,” invited talk, Albemarle County [Virginia] Public Schools Conference, November 2003

“Politics, Epistemology, and the Senses in the Age of Revolution,” invited talk, University of Delaware History Department Workshop, March 2003

“The Cosmopolitan Author and the National Idea,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, January 2003

Chair, panel on “The Self in Revolutionary France,” Society for French Historical Studies Annual Conference, Toronto, April 2002

“The Problem of Signs in France and America,” invited talk, Tocqueville Society Meeting, University of Virginia, November 2001

Comment, panel on "French as an International Language: Myth, Reality, Possibility," Society for French Historical Studies Annual Conference, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, March 2001

"Writing the History of Censorship in the Age of Enlightenment," invited talk, Research Triangle French History Seminar at the National Humanities Center, February 2001

Comment, panel on "Eighteenth-Century Europe across National Boundaries," and Discussant, "Roundtable: The French Revolution as Epistemological Shift?" Northeast Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting, Portland, ME, October 2000

"History, Identity, and the Old Idea of European Unity," invited talk, European Union Center of California, Scripps College, April 2000

"History, Identity, and the Old Idea of European Unity," roundtable presentation, Remarque Institute for the Study of Contemporary Europe, New York University, March 2000

"Between Free Speech and Censorship: the Politics of Signs after the Terror," invited talk, Eighteenth-Century Culture Seminar at Columbia University, New York, October 1999

"On the Eve of the Revolution: Paris in the 1780s," invited talk, Jefferson Symposium, University of Virginia, June 1999

"Ending the Terror: Logomachy and Language Control," invited talk, Department of French, University of Virginia, April 1999

"Fear of Words and the Fate of Women in Revolutionary France," Society for French Historical Studies Annual Conference, Georgetown University, March 1999

"Ending the Terror: Logomachy and Language Control after Thermidor," invited talk, Conference on Censorship, Center for Western European Studies at the University of Washington, Seattle, May 1998

"Les Philosophes and le savoir: Words, Gestures and Other Signs in the Era of Sedaine," invited talk, International Conference on Fusing the Arts: the Achievement of Michel Sedaine, 1719-1797, Royal Holloway College, University of London (U.K.), October 1997

Comment, panel on "State Formation in Early Modern Europe," Social Science History Association, Washington, D.C., October 1997

"Fixing the French Language, 1780-90," Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting, University of California-Berkeley, February 1997

"From Citizens to Hommes de la Nature: Revolutionary Education and the Sign Language Model," Western Society for French History Annual Meeting, Charlotte, N.C., October 1996

"Universal Languages and National Sentiment during the French Revolution," East-West Seminar of the International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Sèvres (France) July 1996

"Learning the French Language in Revolutionary France," Spencer Foundation Forum, Harvard School of Education, February 1995

"Language and the Limits of Law: Deaf Men on Trial in Late Eighteenth-Century France," Northeast Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting, Fordham University, New York, October 1994

"Was the Revolution a Logomachy? The Politics of Language Reform in France, 1795-1799," Society for French Historical Studies Annual Conference, University of Delaware, March 1994

Courses Taught at the University of Pennsylvania

undergraduate seminars: Human Rights in the Age of Revolutions (fall 2017), The History of Truth (spring 2019), Workshop: Introduction to Historical Methods (spring 2022 and 2023); Honors: Senior Thesis Writing (spring 2025)

undergraduate lecture courses: The History of Free Speech and Censorship (fall 2017, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024); The French Revolution and the Making of Modern Politics (spring 2018 and 2019)

graduate seminars: Trans-Atlantic Enlightenment (spring 2018, 2021, and 2024), Readings in European History, 1600-1900 (fall 2018, spring 2022), Dissertation Prospectus Workshop (spring 2021)

graduate exam preparation: the history of political thought; early modern European history; modern European history; French history, 17th-20th centuries; Age of Revolutions; intellectual history (methods and topics)

Courses Taught at Yale University

undergraduate seminars: Experiments in Writing History (fall 2015 and fall 2016), Human Rights in the Age of Revolutions (spring 2016)

undergraduate lecture courses: The History of Free Speech and Censorship (spring 2016)

graduate seminars: The Enlightenment: Approaches to the Intellectual and Cultural History of the Eighteenth Century (fall 2015 and fall 2016)

graduate field exam supervision: modern European cultural history (1750-1945), early modern European intellectual history (1600-1800)

Courses Taught at the University of Virginia

undergraduate lecture courses: Revolutionary France, 1770-1815; The Age of Atlantic Revolutions (co-taught with Patrick Griffin); Western Civilization since 1600; Europe, 1600-1815; Early Modern Europe and the World

undergraduate seminars: Women, Men and Politics in the Age of Democratic Revolutions, 1760-1848 (cross-listed with Studies in Women and Gender); Utopias; Readings in the Enlightenment: America and Europe; Free Speech (in the Pavilion Seminar program)

graduate courses: Historical Methods; History, Politics, and Language; The Enlightenment: Approaches to the Intellectual History of 18th-Century Europe; Europe across National Boundaries, 1750-1914; Writing Transnational History; New Directions in Cultural History; Europe, 1770-1890 (part of a required sequence in European history); Dissertation Proposal Writing; The History of Human Rights (co-taught with James Loeffler); Approaches to History (co-taught with Christian McMillen and taught alone)

graduate reading courses and/or field exam supervision: History and Literature; Early Modern Europe; Early Modern France; European Cultural History; Eighteenth-Century European Politics and Political Thought; Eighteenth-Century Europe; Nineteenth-Century Europe; Modern France

University Service and Administrative Experience

University of Pennsylvania:

--Chair, Department of History, 2022-2025

--Project Director, Wolf Humanities Center (theme: “Choices”) (2020-21); Advisory Board member, incl. doctoral, post-doctoral and faculty application reader (2019-21); and faculty fellow (theme: “Stuff”) (2018-19)

--Theme Co-Director, Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy (theme: “Free Speech”) (2020-21); Executive Committee member, including doctoral and post-doc application reader (2017-)

--chair, search committee for Joseph Meyerhoff Chair in Modern Jewish History (senior position), History Department (2021-22)

--member, Ad Hoc Provost’s Committee on Planning for 2026 Sesquicentennial (spring 2024)

--member, Promotion and Tenure Committee of the School of Arts and Sciences (2021-22)

--member, New Directions in the Humanities Working Group, School of Arts and Sciences (spring 2021)

--member, Research Resumption Committee, School of Arts and Sciences (summer 2020)

--organizer, Annenberg Seminar series, History Department (2018-19)

--member, faculty working group on Concepts and Ideas, Arts and Sciences (2018-19) and organizer of an interdepartmental workshop on the concept of sovereignty (spring 2019)

--faculty mentor for assistant professor, History Department (2018-22) and South Asian Studies Department (2024-)

--member, third-year review committee for assistant professor, History Department (2019-20)

--member, search committee for a senior position in 19th-century US history, History Department (2018-19)

--member, Penn Fulbright Faculty Committee, School of Arts and Sciences(2018-)

--member, University Council Committee on Open Expression, Faculty Senate (2017-19)

--member, Advisory Committee to the Chair on Personnel Matters, History Department (2017-19, 2021-22)

--member, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, History Department (2017-19, 2020-21)

--faculty mentor for one postdoc in Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy, one in Medical Humanities at the Medical School, and one at the Wolf Humanities Center (2018-19, 2020-21)

--co-organizer, Eighteenth-Century Seminar, Princeton/Penn joint meeting (2017-18)

--undergraduate advisor and senior thesis advisor, History Department (2017-), incl. Case Prize for best thesis in European history winner (2019) and Hilary Conroy Prize for best thesis in world history winner (2021)

--presenter, Undergraduate History Majors Lunch Series (spring 2017); History Matters lecture series (“Truth and Post-Truth in the Age of Trump”) (fall 2017); World History lecture course (spring 2018 and 2019); TRC workshop on teaching with rare books (spring 2018); History Dept. graduate student lunch on comprehensive exams (fall 2018); introduction of Carlo Ginzburg for his three Rosenbach Lectures on Bibliography, Van Pelt Library (fall 2018); Knowledge by the Slice lecture series (“The History of Democracy and Truth”) (fall 2018); moderator for Annenberg conversation on the future of genocide and human rights history (spring 2019); moderator for undergrad reseach panel at the Wolf Humanities Center (spring 2019); 60-Second Lecture (“Truth or Consequences”) (spring 2019); Annenberg Seminar conversation on *Democracy and Truth* with Ben Nathans (spring 2019); lecture on *Democracy and Truth* for incoming Lauder Program MBA students (spring 2019); interview for Advancement film featuring chaired professors (spring 2019); History Dept. graduate student workshop on comprehensive exams (fall 2019); Katz Center/WHC Post-Doctoral Workshop on Writing for Different Audiences (fall 2019); moderator for Mitchell Center voter suppression (fall 2020) and host of lecture by Fara Dabhoiwala on free speech history (spring 2021); Penn Women’s Forum lecture (spring 2021); Wolf Humanities Center Workshop on Writing Letters of Recommendation (spring 2021); moderator and/or host (online) for all events Choice-themed events at the Wolf Humanities Center (2020-21); moderator for Van Pelt Library Beitler Lecture Series panel on Conspiracy Theory and Political Culture, Past and Present (fall 2021); History Dept. graduate student workshop on fellowship applications (fall 2021); Cultural History of Ideas, with Peter Struck, to Board of Advisors of SAS (spring 2023); Benjamin Franklin program “Masterclass” with Peter Struck (spring 2023); Academy Weekend presentation on democracy for Penn donors (spring 2024); SAS Hard Promises public interview on free speech on campus (spring 2024); Scholarly Journal Editing Workshop in History (spring 2024); presentation to the Design School faculty on free speech on campus (spring 2024); roundtable moderator for Faculty Senate forum on free speech and universities (spring 2024); podcast for SAS on “Truth and Democracy” (fall 2024); Facilitating Discussions in Polarized Times at CETLI (fall 2024); Ben Talks SAS advancement event on democracy in New York (spring 2025); Faculty Senate advisory committee (spring 2025); podcast for SAS on choice (spring 2025); podcast for SAS on the future of the humanities and history (summer 2025)

--member of comprehensive exam and/or dissertation committees for multiple doctoral students in History, including (currently) Anna Apostolidis, Javier Ardila, Arshdeep Brar, Nainika Dinesh, Molly Jones, Dan Premauden, Sasha Zborovsky

--principal advisor for Ph.D. theses: Drew Starling (“From Meditation to Information: Reading after *Unigenitus*,” 2022); Francis Russo (co-advised with Dan Richter), ("New Moral Worlds: Socialism, Antislavery, and Selfhood in the American Republic, 1820-1860,” 2025); Arielle Alterwaite, “Empire and Debt: Haiti and France in the Nineteenth-Century Atlantic World,” 2025); Paige Pendarvis (“Levels of Life: A History of the Standard of Living in France and its Empire, 1890-1970,” 2025)

Yale University:

--Faculty Fellow, Whitney Humanities Center (fall 2016)

--Faculty Fellow, Branford College (2015-16)

--chair, History Department search committee for senior modern Europeanist (spring 2016)

--member, Joint Board of Permanent Officers of Yale University (spring-fall 2016)

--member, Steering Committee, Center for Historical Enquiry and the Social Sciences (CHESS), (spring-fall 2016)

--member, Promotion and Tenure Committee, History Department (spring-fall 2016)

--member, Standing Committee on Diversity in Hiring, History Department (spring 2016)

--member, Committee on Undergraduate Summer Research Grants in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Yale College (spring 2016)

--member, Executive Committee, Program in the Humanities, Yale College (2015-16)

--member, European Studies Council (2015-16)

--member and diversity recruitment coordinator, Graduate Committee, History Department (2015-16)

--presenter, “Diversity and Teaching,” History Department Teaching Lunches (spring 2016)

--presenter, “Posing Questions in Lectures and Seminars,” Yale University Teaching Center (fall 2016)

--presenter, “The Life of the Historian,” History Department Undergraduate Teas (fall 2016)

--undergraduate advisor and senior essay advisor, History Department (2015-16)

--sophomore advisor, College of Arts and Sciences (fall 2016)

--committee member, three doctoral students (2015-2021)

--principal advisor for Ph.D. thesis: Kathleen McCrudden (“*Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité:* Sophie de Grouchy, Moral Republicanism, and the History of Liberalism, 1785-1815,” 2021; published as A Republic of Sympathy: Sophie de Grouchy’s Politics and Philosophy, 1785-1815 [Cambridge, 2024])

University of Virginia, Department of History:

--Director of Graduate Studies (2005-2008)

--member, Personnel (1996-1999), Curriculum (2000-2001), Governance (2001), Graduate (2002-2003, 2005-2008), Graduate Program Restructuring (2010-11), Steering (2012-13) and Planning (2013) committees

--member, search committees in Modern British, Modern European Jewish, Early Modern European (junior and senior level searches), Early Virginia, and Early US History

--member (including as chair), various Third-Year Review Committees and Tenure and Promotion Committees

--advisor for undergraduate majors

--advisor for senior theses

--member of Ph.D. committees in Early American, 19th-Century American, Early Modern European, and Modern European History, as well as English Literature, Religious Studies, French Literature, and History of Education

--principal adviser for Ph.D. theses: Allyson Delnore (“Political Convictions: French Deportation Projects in the Age of Revolutions, 1791-1854,” 2004), Jeanne Haffner (“Social Space Revolution: Aerial Photography, Social Science, and Urban Politics in Postwar France,” 2008; published as The View from Above: The Science of Social Space [MIT Press, 2013]), Victoria Meyer (“Divining the Pox: The Controversy over Smallpox Inoculation in Eighteenth-Century France,” 2010), Nir Avissar (“Photoactivism: Political Iconography in France, 1945-1968,” 2015)

University of Virginia, College of Arts and Sciences:

--Director of the Pavilion Seminars Program (2011-2014)

--faculty advisory board member, Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures (2011-2014)

--project director and board member, Center for the Liberal Arts (outreach for Virginia K-12 teachers) (2002-2015)

--member, 18th-Century Faculty Group (2002-2015)

--participant, Mellon Dissertation Seminar in the Humanities (2013)

--chair, Sociology Department informal review (2011-12)

--Senator for History, Faculty Senate, and member of the Faculty Recruitment, Retention, and Welfare Committee (2009-11)

--member, Summer Stipends and Small Grants Committee (2010)

--outside member, French Department Third-Year Review and Tenure Committees (2007, 2010)

--member, Ecole Normale Supérieure Fellowship Selection Committee (2006, 2007)

--outside member, Music Department Chair Search Committee (2001)

--member, Woodson Fellowship Selection Committee (1996, 1997)

--advisor for first- and second-year College students (1996-2013)

 Professional Service

American Historical Association

 \* Vice-President (Research Division) (Jan. 2018-Jan. 2021), elected to 3-year term

 \* Chair, Search Committee for editor-in-chief of the American Historical Review (2019-20)

 \* Executive Board Member, Modern European Section (2015-2017), incl. host of 2017 section luncheon and discussant on work/life balance panel at 2017 annual meeting

 \* Nominating Committee Member (Jan. 2013-Jan. 2016), elected to 3-year term

Modern Intellectual History

 \* Co-Editor (with S. Moyn, D. Kelly, C. Capper, and T. Matysik) (2013-2017)

 \* Editorial Board Member (2019-present)

Oxford University Press

 \*US Delegate for World History, 5-year term (2020-present)

University of Pennsylvania Press

 \*Executive Editorial Board Member, Intellectual History of the Modern Age series

 (2014-present)

Institute for Advanced Studies (Princeton), School of Historical Studies

 \*external reviewer (annually, 2017-present)

Cowen Prize in Eighteenth-Century Studies, sponsored by the University of Virginia Press

 \*judge (annually, 2005-present)

Gilder Lehrman Foundation

 \*Scholarly Advisory Board member (2020-present)

Collected Works and Correspondence of Thomas Paine

 \*Advisory Board member (2022-present)

Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton), School of Historical Studies External Institutional Review Committee

 \*member (fall 2025)

Stanford University History Department External Review Committee

 \*member (2025)

Princeton University History Department

 \*external examiner for dissertation committee (2025)

Université Lumière Lyon 2 (France)

 \*reviewer for internal pre-grant program for faculty applicants for ERC funding (2025)

European Council (EU)

 \*fellowship application reviewer (2024)

NYU/Institute of Fine Arts graduate class on approaches to the body

 \*guest in class to talk about *The Age of Choice* (2024)

CUNY/NYU/Columbia joint Tech, Media, Democracy studies graduate class

 \*guest in class to talk about *Democracy and Truth* (2024) (online)

Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study

 \*fellowship application reviewer (2023)

Sorbonne University (France)

 \*guest class in American History (2023)

Harvard University History Department Visiting Committee

\* chair (2021-22, canceled)

\* member (2010-11)

Chateaubriand Fellowship Program, French Embassy in Washington

 \*fellowship application reviewer (2022)

College of William and Mary, University of Miami Law School, and Dartmouth College

\*guest lecturer in classes via Zoom during covid-19 closures (2020-21)

Academy of Finland, Centre of Excellence

 \*fellowship application reviewer (2021)

Guggenheim Foundation

 \*Advisor for Intellectual and Cultural History (2020)

Yale University History Department

 \*chapter workshops participant (2020, 2019) and external reader for dissertation committees (2022, 2018)

Cambridge University History Department

 \*external examiner for dissertation committee (2019)

University of Vienna History Department

 \*member of international review committee for tenure-track position in the history of democracy and human rights (2019)

H-France

 \*Webinar on Democratic Problems in the Age of Revolutions, discussion co-leader (2019) and Webinar on French Intellectual History, discussion co-leader (2015)

MacArthur Fellowship Program

 \*nominator (2018)

Rosenbach Library (Philadelphia)

\*discussant on Women, History and Books (with Marty Moss-Coane, NPR) for the annual benefit (2018)

ACLS Burkhardt Fellowship

 \*peer reviewer (2017)

Princeton University History Department

 \*external reader for dissertation committee (2017)

NEH Seminar on Tocqueville

 \*fellowship selection committee member (2016)

Paris Institute for Advanced Studies (IEA)

 \*fellowship selection committee peer reviewer (2015)

American Academy in Berlin

 \*fellowship selection committee peer reviewer (2014, 2013)

Re:Enlightenment Project

 \*member responsible for planning and co-hosting 2014 international conference sponsored by UVa and Monticello: “Institutions of Knowledge and The Future of Enlightenment” (2013-14)

Gilder Lehrman Seminar, International Jefferson Studies Center

 \*faculty participant (2013, 2008, 2006)

Fulbright Fellowship Program

 \*fellowship application reviewer (2012)

Quaderna (Université Paris-Est)

 \*International Reading Committee Member (2012-present)

Journal of Modern History

 \*Editorial Board Member (2011-2014)

French Historical Studies

 \*Editorial Board Member (2010-2013)

ACLS Burkhardt Fellowship

 \*ten year anniversary meeting participant (2011)

Mellon Foundation New Directions Fellowship

 \*advisory meeting participant (2008)

Consortium on the Revolutionary Era

 \*program committee member (2007)

Koren Article Prize, sponsored by the Society for French Historical Studies

 \*committee member (2007-2009)

Higby Prize, sponsored by the Journal of Modern History

 \*committee member (2006)

reviewer for tenure and/or promotion and/or chair cases for the University of Hawaii, the University of Massachusetts, NYU (2), Montclair State University, Columbia University, Yeshiva University, Vanderbilt University, University of North Texas, Johns Hopkins University (2), Mississippi State University, Cornell University, Ohio State University, Bryn Mawr College, George Washington University (2), University of Southern California (2), University of Toronto, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Princeton University (2), University of Michigan, University of Pittsburg, Northwestern University, the City University of New York Graduate Center, and SUNY Binghamton University

review of manuscripts for publication for French Historical Studies, Studies in Eighteenth Century Culture, National Identities, Historical Reflections/Réflexions Historiques, Modern Intellectual History, Journal of Modern History, Journal of the History of Ideas, William and Mary Quarterly, American Historical Review, Russian Review, History Compass, Journal of the Historical Society, Social Theory and Practice, Revue Française d’Etudes Américaines, Eighteenth-Century Studies, International Journal for History, Culture and Modernity, Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, Bedford/St. Martin’s Press, Palgrave Macmillan, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Cornell University Press, Ashgate Press, Houghton Mifflin, McGill-Queen’s University Press, Harvard University Press, Princeton University Press, John Benjamins Publishing Company, the Universiy of Virginia Press, Bloomsbury, Yale University Press, Columbia University Press, Johns Hopkins University Press, Routledge, the American Philosophical Society Press, and London School of Economics Press

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