

Joseph M.H. Clark

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Academic appointments

2024- Associate Professor of History, University of Kentucky
2018-2024 Assistant Professor of History, University of Kentucky
2016-2017 Adjunct Assistant Professor of History, Albion College

Education

2016 PhD, History, Johns Hopkins University
2012 MA, History, Johns Hopkins University
2010 BA with Distinction, History, Boston University

Publications

Monographs

Veracruz and the Caribbean in the Seventeenth Century, Cambridge University Press, 2023.

- Honorable Mention, Bandelier/Lavrin Book Prize, Rocky Mountain Council of Latin American Studies

Refereed articles and book chapters

“In Shadows of Eternal Spring’: Climate and Crisis in the Caribbean’s ‘Little Ice Age,’” *Journal of World History* (accepted and forthcoming 2027).

“La conformación caribeña de Veracruz: Diáspora africana e intercambio regional en el siglo XVII,” translated by Álvaro Alcántara López, forthcoming 2026.

“The Limit of Afro-Mexico: Archival Abundance and A Fragmented Diaspora” in [Coming Into View: Afro-Mexican Lives in the Long Nineteenth Century](#), edited by Theodore W. Cohen and Nicole von Germeten, Cambridge University Press, 2025.

“‘Born in this Abominable Sin’: Contraband Trade in Colonial Spanish America,” in [Contraband Cultures: Reframing Smuggling across Latin America](#), edited by Charles Beach and Jennifer Cearns, University College London Press, 2024.

“The Moving Border: Black Experiences in Caribbean Frontiers and North American Borderlands in the Late Seventeenth Century,” in [At the Heart of the Borderlands: Africans](#)

[and Afro-Descendants on the Edges of Colonial Spanish America](#), edited by Cameron David Jones and Jay Harrison, University of New Mexico Press, 2023.

“Environment and the Politics of Relocation in the Caribbean Port of Veracruz, 1519-1599,” in [Spain’s Maritime Empire: The Caribbean in the Long Sixteenth Century](#), edited by David Wheat and Ida Altman, University of Nebraska Press, 2019.

Monographs in progress

Witchcraft and Contraband in the Early Modern Caribbean

The Many Lives of Pedro Angola: Captivity, Piracy, and Freedom in the Early Modern Caribbean

Articles in progress

“Interrupted Voyages: The Slave Trade in the Early Spanish Americas” (in revision).

“Native Plants, Foreign Bodies: A Botanical History of Caribbean Witchcraft, 1600-1640” (in preparation)

“Commercial Deception and the Early Modern Slave Trade” (in preparation)

Book reviews and encyclopedia entries

Casey Schmitt, *The Predatory Sea: Human Trafficking and Captivity in the Seventeenth-Century Caribbean*. (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2025) in *Hispanic American Historical Review* 106, no. 4 (2026), forthcoming.

Chelsea Berry, *Poisoned Relations: Healing, Power, and Contested Knowledge in the Atlantic World*. (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2025) in [The American Historical Review](#) 131, no. 1 (2026): 377-378.

Kris Lane, ed., and Timothy F. Johnson, trans., *Basques and Vicuñas at the Mouth of Hell: A Documentary History of Potosí in the Early 1620s*. (University of Nevada Press, 2024) in [Renaissance Quarterly](#) 79, no. 1 (2026): 322-323.

Victoria I. Lyall, ed. *El Mar Caribe: The American Mediterranean*. (University of Oklahoma Press, 2024) in [Hispanic American Historical Review](#), vol. 104, no. 4, 2024.

Giacomo Bonan and Katia Occhi, eds., *Environment and Infrastructure: Challenges, Knowledge and Innovation from the Early Modern Period to the Present* (De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2023) in [H-Environment](#), [H-Net Reviews](#), September 2024.

Miguel A. Valerio, *Sovereign Joy: Afro-Mexican Kings and Queens, 1539-1640* (Cambridge University Press, 2022) in [Hispanic American Historical Review](#), vol. 103, no. 4, 2023.

Michael Lawrence Dickinson, *Almost Dead: Slavery and Social Rebirth in the Black Urban Atlantic, 1680-1807* (University of Georgia Press, 2022) in [H-Early-America, H-Net Reviews](#), January 2023.

William B. Taylor, *Fugitive Freedom: The Improbable Lives of Two Imposters in Late Colonial Mexico* (University of California Press, 2021) in [The Middle Ground Journal: World History and Global Studies](#), no. 25, Spring 2023: 43-44.

Alex Borucki, *From Shipmates to Soldiers: Emerging Black Identities in the Río de la Plata*. (University of New Mexico Press, 2015) in [The Latin Americanist](#), vol. 64, no. 3, 2020: 360-362.

Pablo Miguel Sierra Silva, *Urban Slavery in Colonial Mexico: Puebla de los Ángeles, 1531-1706*. (Cambridge University Press, 2018) in [Hispanic American Historical Review](#), vol. 100, no. 3, August 2020: 557-558.

David M. Stark, *Slave Families and the Hato Economy in Puerto Rico* (University of Florida Press, 2015) in [Hispanic American Historical Review](#), vol. 98, no. 4, November 2018: 745-746.

[Oxford Dictionary of Caribbean Afro-Latin American Biography](#), edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Franklin W. Knight (New York: Oxford University Press, May 2016).

“Esteban Dorantes (Estebanico)”

“Juana la Mulata”

“Lorenzo de Tapia”

“Pedro Alonso Niño”

Other writing

“Reforesting the Bluegrass,” Report of the Environmental Commission of Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, April 2026.

“Microplastics in Lexington,” [Report of the Environmental Commission of Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government](#), March 2026.

“Biography of Ben Vinson III, President of the American Historical Association,” co-author with Norah L.A. Gharala and Paul T. Zeleza, [American Historical Association](#), January 2026.

“2023 Was a Deadly Year for Lexington’s Pedestrians and Bicyclists. Here’s What Needs to Change,” [Lexington Herald-Leader](#), December 31, 2023.

Research awards and fellowships (external)

2024 Kent R. Mullikin Fellow, National Humanities Center, Research Triangle, NC

- 2023 Visiting Fellow, Eccles Centre for American Studies, The British Library, London, UK
- 2021-2022 Kemble Fellow of Maritime History (long-term fellowship), The Huntington Library, Pasadena, CA, unable to accept
- 2019 Lewis Hanke Post-Doctoral Award, Conference on Latin American History
- 2018 Mayer Short-Term Fellow, The Huntington Library, Pasadena, CA
- 2013 Fulbright-IIE, Mexico, unable to accept
- 2012 Lydia Cabrera Award, Conference on Latin American History

Research awards and fellowships (internal)

- 2024-2025 CURATE Grant, Vice President for Research, University of Kentucky
- 2023-2024 CURATE Grant, Vice President for Research, University of Kentucky
- 2016 Butler Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Department of History, Johns Hopkins University
- 2016 Library Fellowship, Singleton Center for the Study of Premodern Europe, Johns Hopkins University
- 2013 Research Travel Award, Singleton Center for the Study of Premodern Europe, Johns Hopkins University
- 2011 Research Travel Award, Program in Latin American Studies, Johns Hopkins University
- 2009-2010 Grieg Fellowship, Office of the Dean, Boston University

Invited talks and seminars

“Native Plants, Foreign Bodies: A Botanical History of Caribbean Witchcraft,” École normale supérieure – PSL and Universidad Complutense de Madrid, October 2025

“‘In the Shadow of Eternal Spring’: Local Climates and Atlantic Exchanges in the Caribbean’s ‘Little Ice Age,’” 3rd Early Modern Global Caribbean Conference, Center for Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Studies, University of California, Los Angeles, CA April 2025

“Witch Hunts in the Tropical Ice Age,” Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, VA, November 2024

“Witchcraft in the Tropical Ice Age: Natural and Supernatural Adaptation in the Caribbean, 1600-1640,” Triangle Early American History Seminar, Research Triangle, NC, October 2024

21st Annual Black Atlantic History Lecture, Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities and the Department of History, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, February 2024

“Imperial Competition and the Free-Black Militia,” Berkeley Latin American History Workshop, University of California, Berkeley, CA, October 2017

“Africa, Mexico, and the Caribbean in the Early Modern Period,” Faculty of History, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK, May 2017

“The First Black Atlantic: African Diaspora in the Mexican-Caribbean World” Department of African American Studies, Princeton University, February 2017

“Environment and Society in the Port of Veracruz, 1519-1599,” Spain’s Maritime Empire, University of Florida, Gainesville, October 2016

“The Social and Cultural Significance of Trade in the Early Spanish Caribbean Port City, 1590-1700,” Port Cities in the Early Modern World, 1500-1800, The Library Company of Philadelphia, Temple University, and The McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, November 2015

“Havana and Veracruz in the Making of the Spanish Caribbean Urban System in the Seventeenth Century,” Alexandrian Society Annual Symposium, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, April 2015

Conference presentations (since 2016)

“Trade/Craft: The Commercial Networks of Accused Witches in Cartagena de Indias, 1600-1640,” Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2026.

Roundtable chair, “How We Adapt: Colonial Latin American History for the Climate Crisis,” Conference on Latin American History Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, January 2026

“Witchcraft in the Tropical Ice Age: Natural and Supernatural Adaptation in the Caribbean, 1600-1640,” Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, March 2025

“American Orthodoxy: New Standards in the New World,” Catholicism in Transit, Università Ca' Foscari, September 2024

“Pedagogies of Radical Transparency,” Teaching Excellence Symposium, Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, October 2023

“Commercial Deceptions of the Early Modern Transatlantic Slave Trade,” Sixteenth Century Society Conference, Baltimore, MD, October 2023

“Antonia Bello’s Atlantic Networks,” Premodern Spanish History Association Midwest, Lexington, KY, March 2022

“Entanglement and Ethnogenesis: The Intercolonial Slave Trade in Mexico and the Caribbean, 1640-1791,” Southern Historical Association, Latin American and Caribbean Section, 87th Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 2021

“Contraband and Legal Trade in the Spanish Caribbean, 1571-1640,” Contraband Culture Symposium, Institute of the Americas, University College London, UK, May 2021

“Free-Black Mobility in Mexico and the Caribbean during the Colonial Period,” 135th American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, January 2021

“Diasporic Identity and Port City Networks in the Early Caribbean,” Afro-Latin American Research Institute, Harvard University, 1a International Conference, Cambridge, MA, December 2019

“Religious Identity and Port City Networks in the Early Modern Caribbean,” Southern Historical Association, 85th Annual Meeting, Louisville, KY, November 2019

“Beyond Presencia: Afromexican History and the Biographical Turn,” American Historical Association, 133rd Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, January 2019

“Transimperial Networks in Mexico’s Maritime Borderlands, 1650-1800,” Latin American Studies Association, XXXVII International Congress, Barcelona, Spain, May 2018

“The Slave Trade to the Spanish Caribbean: A Reassessment Using Mexican Sources,” Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies, 64th Annual Meeting, SLC, UT, April 2017

Teaching awards

2023-2024 Outstanding Teacher Award, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Kentucky

2016 Teaching Fellowship, Program in Latin American Studies, Johns Hopkins University

- 2014-2015 Dean's Teaching Fellowship, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, Johns Hopkins University
- 2013-2014 Teaching Fellowship, Center for Africana Studies, Johns Hopkins University

Courses taught

University of Kentucky, 2018-Present

- HIS 119 War and Society, 1350-1914
- LAS 201 Introduction to Latin American Studies
- HIS 207 Modern Latin American History
- HIS 208 History of the Atlantic World
- HIS 301 Ages of Discovery (Historian's Craft)
- HIS 301 Biography and History (Historian's Craft)
- HIS 301 Disaster History (Historian's Craft)
- HIS 301 Environments and Empires (Historian's Craft)
- HIS 355 Comparative Slavery in the Atlantic World
- HIS 355 Slavery, Piracy, and Rebellion: The Caribbean in World History
- HIS 355 Supernatural History of the Atlantic World
- HIS 395 Epidemics and Public Health in Mexican History
- HIS 395 Piracy in the Caribbean Region
- HIS 499 Cities in the Atlantic World (senior research seminar)
- HIS 695 Race, Religion, and Syncretism in Caribbean History
- HIS 700 Race and History
- HIS 701 Research Seminar in American History

Albion College, 2016-2017

- HIS 142 Modern Latin America
- HIS 189 Pre-Colonial Africa

Johns Hopkins University, 2013-2016

- AAS 501 Comparative Slavery in the Atlantic World
- HIS 369 Mexico and the World from Cortés to Cartels
- LAS 362 Afro-Latin American Biography

Graduate committees

University of Kentucky, 2018-Present

- 2026 Dioselin Cruz, Department of History (advisor)
- 2025 Sanjana Krishnan, Department of Geography
- 2025- Kayla S. Heard, Department of History
- 2024-2026 Rebeca Ponce Ochoa, Department of Hispanic Studies
- 2023- Kerry Warren, Department of History

2021-2025	Yerty VanderMolen, Department of Hispanic Studies
2021-2025	Allen Fletcher, Department of History
2021	Max Brown, Department of History (master's thesis)
2020-2023	Stephen Jakob Turner, Department of Hispanic Studies
2018-2026	Gabriel Montero Mejia, Department of Anthropology

Undergraduate committees

2021-2022	Avery Israel, Department of History, Lewis Honors College Thesis
2020-2021	Elena Liu, Department of International Studies
2020-2021	Daniela Gamez Salgado, Gaines Center for the Humanities, Honors Thesis

Service

Professional organizations

2026-2027	Chair, Colonial Studies Section, Conference on Latin American History
2025-2026	Secretary, Colonial Studies Section, Conference on Latin American History

Prize committees and fellowship application reviews

2026	The Tibesar Prize, Conference on Latin American History
2025	Peer Reviewer, National Humanities Center Fellowship Applications
2023	Judy Ewell Award, Rocky Mountain Conference on Latin American Studies
2023	Paul Vanderwood Prize, Conference on Latin American History
2022	Ralph Lee Woodward Jr. Prize, Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association

Book manuscript reviews

Editoriales de Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH, Mexico)
University of New Mexico Press
University of Pennsylvania Press
Vernon Press

Journal and chapter manuscript reviews

Cambridge History of the Caribbean (Cambridge University Press)
The Americas: A Quarterly Review of Latin American History
Anuario de Estudios Americanos (Escuela de Estudios Hispano-Americanos, Spain)
Fronteras de la Historia (Instituto Colombiano de Antropología e Historia, Colombia)
Hispanic American Historical Review
Journal of Global Slavery
The Latin Americanist
Latin American Research Review
Pacific Historical Review
Perspectivas Afro (Universidad de Cartagena, Colombia)

University of Kentucky

Affiliations in interdisciplinary programs

African American and Africana Studies (AAS)
Commonwealth Institute of Black Studies (CIBS)
Kentucky Climate Consortium
Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies (LACLS)
Social Theory

Committee positions

2026-2028 Executive Committee, LACLS
2025-2027 Executive Committee, Department of History
2020-2022 Equity and Inclusion Committee, Department of History
2020-2021 Planning and Priorities Committee, Department of History
2019- Faculty Advisor, Undergraduate History Club, Department of History
2020 Member, Chair Search Committee, Department of History

Events organized and co-organized

2026 Organizer, 11th Annual Symposium of the Program in Latin American, Caribbean, and Studies, October 2026
2019 Co-Organizer, 5th Annual Symposium of the Program in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies, October 2019
2019 Co-Organizer, Symposium on the 500th Anniversary of the Conquest of Mexico, Departments of Hispanic Studies and History, February 2019

Service in the community

2025- Commissioner (District 1), Environmental Commission, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, Lexington, KY

Research languages

Primary: Spanish, English
Secondary: Dutch, Portuguese

Professional organizations

American Historical Association
American Society for Environmental History
Association of Caribbean Historians
Conference on Latin American History
Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association

Latin American Studies Association
Renaissance Society of America
Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies
Sixteenth Century Society

References

Upon request