

Joseph M . H . C L A R K

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Academic Appointments

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

Education

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

Research Grants and Fellowships

2024 Fellow, National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park, NC
2023-2024 CURATE Grant, Vice President for Research, University of Kentucky
2023 Visiting Fellow, Eccles Centre for American Studies, The British Library, London, UK
2021-2022 Kemble Fellowship in Maritime History, 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
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 Fulbright-IIIE, Mexico, unable to accept
2013 Research Travel Award, Singleton Center for the Study of Premodern Europe, Johns Hopkins University
2012 Lydia Cabrera Award, Conference on Latin American History
2011 Research Travel Award, Program in Latin American Studies, Johns Hopkins University
2009-2010 Grieg Fellowship, Office of the Dean, Boston University

Monographs

[*Veracruz and the Caribbean in the Seventeenth Century*, Cambridge University Press, 2023.](#)

Honorable Mention, 2024 Bandelier/Lavrin Book Prize, Rocky Mountain Council of Latin American Studies

Journal Articles

“The Slave Trade to Early Spanish America: Revising from the Ground Up,” in revision.

Chapters in Refereed Edited Volumes

“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, forthcoming.

““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 Preparation

Witchcraft and Contraband in the Early Modern Caribbean

Beyond Afro-Mexico: Captivity, Mobility, and Race in Mexico’s Maritime Borderland

Articles in Preparation

“Mexico, the Caribbean, and the Atlantic: Regional History in the Global Era,” in preparation

Book Reviews and Encyclopedia Entries

Victoria I. Lyall, ed. *El Mar Caribe: The American Mediterranean*. (University of Oklahoma Press, 2024) in *Hispanic American Historical Review*, vol. 105, no. 1, 2025.

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

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

Invited Talks and Seminars

“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 Park, 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

“Piracy, Slavery, and Race in Colonial Latin America,” Department of History, Idaho State University, Pocatello, ID, February 2022

“The Afro-Latino: Five Centuries of Identity, Culture and Erasure,” Martin Luther King Center, Latino Student Union, and Hispanic Studies Department, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, February 2021

“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

Conferences since 2016

“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

“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, 1^a 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

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| 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-

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| 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 (graduate seminar)

Albion College, 2016-2017

HIS 142	Modern Latin America
HIS 189	Pre-Colonial Africa

Johns Hopkins University, 2014-2016

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

2023-	Kerry Warren, Department of History
2021-	Yerty VanderMolen, Department of Hispanic Studies
2021-	Allen Fletcher, Department of History
2021	Max Brown, Department of History
2020-2023	Stephen Jakob Turner, Department of Hispanic Studies
2018-	Gabriel Montero Mejia, Department of Anthropology

Undergraduate Committees

University of Kentucky

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

Prize Committees

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

Manuscript and Journal Reviews

The Latin Americanist

Anuario de Estudios Americanos (Escuela de Estudios Hispano-Americanos, Spain)

Editoriales de Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH, Mexico)

Fronteras de la Historia (Instituto Colombiano de Antropología e Historia, Colombia)

Journal of Global Slavery
Latin American Research Review
Vernon Press
Pacific Historical Review

University of Kentucky

2022-2023 Curriculum Committee, African American and Africana Studies
2021- Post-Colonial Studies Group, African American and Africana Studies
2020-2022 Equity and Inclusion Committee, Department of History
2020-2021 Planning and Priorities Committee, Department of History
2020- Coordinator, Imperial Encounters Working Group, Department of History
2019- Faculty Advisor, Undergraduate History Club, Department of History
2020 Chair Search Committee, Department of History
2018-2020 Undergraduate Committee, Department of History
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

Research Languages

Primary: Spanish, English
Secondary: Portuguese, Italian
With effort: French, Dutch

Professional Memberships

American Historical Association
American Society for Environmental History
Association of Caribbean Historians
Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies
Conference on Latin American History
Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association
Latin American Studies Association
Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies

References

Upon request