

Alexandra Finley, PhD

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Pittsburgh

Associate Professor

Assistant Professor

Pittsburgh, PA

August 2025 - Present

August 2019 – August 2025

Mississippi State University

Assistant Professor

Starkville, MS

August 2017 – August 2019

EDUCATION

College of William & Mary

Doctor of Philosophy

“Blood Money: Sex, Family, and Finance in the Antebellum Slave Trade”

Dissertation advisor: Scott Reynolds Nelson

Dissertation committee: Henry Louis Gates, Jr.; Cindy Hahamovitch; Hannah Rosen

- Organization of American Historians Lerner-Scott Prize for the best dissertation in Women’s History

Williamsburg, Virginia

May 2017

College of William & Mary

Master of Arts

American History

““Cash to Corinna”: Silas and Corinna Omohundro and the Politics of Overt Interracial Relationships in the Antebellum Upper South”

Williamsburg, Virginia

May 2012

Ohio State University

Bachelor of Arts Suma Cum Laude

Columbus, Ohio

May 2010

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Books

- *An Intimate Economy: Enslaved Women, Work, and America’s Domestic Slave Trade* (University of North Carolina Press, August 2020)

Peer Reviewed Book Chapters in Edited Volumes

- "A Gentleman and a Scoundrel? Alexander McDonald, Financial Reputation, and Slavery’s Capitalism" in Jeff Forret and Bruce Baker, eds. *Southern Scoundrels: Grifters and Graft in the Nineteenth Century*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2021: 37-60.

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

- “‘Cash to Corinna’: Domestic Labor and Sexual Economy in the ‘Fancy Trade,’” *Journal of American History* 104 no. 2 (September 2017): 410-430.
 - Named one of the 10 best articles in the *JAH* on gender history: <https://academic.oup.com/jah/pages/womens-history-month-collection-2020>
 - Coordinating Council for Women Historians Chaudhuri Award for best first article

Forthcoming Publications

- “A Murder and Some Furniture: Gender, Value, and Household Objects in the early U.S.,” in Joanna Cohen and Laura Edwards, eds., *New Histories of Value in America* (University of Chicago Press; accepted for publication - anticipated summer 2025)
- “‘Gentle Lady, Beware of Frowns’: The Cult of Domesticity as a Paean to Emotional Labor” (submitted to *Labor* – accepted with revisions Spring 2024 – edited and resubmitted Summer 2024)

Book Reviews

- Review of *Laboring Mothers: Reproducing Women and Work in the Eighteenth Century* by Ellen Malenas Ledoux, *Labor* (forthcoming; submitted July 2024)
- Review of *The Price for Their Pound of Flesh*, by Daina Ramey Berry, *Journal of Civil War History* 8, no. 1 (March 2018), 132-134.
- Review of *Dark Work: the Business of Slavery in Rhode Island*, by Christy Clark-Pujara, *Labor* 14, no. 4 (2017), 93-94.
- Review of *New Directions in Slavery Studies*, ed. By Jeff Forret and Christine E. Sears, *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 124, no. 1 (2016), 72-74.

Public-Facing Scholarship

- New Books in History Podcast on *An Intimate Economy* <https://newbooksnetwork.com/alexandra-j-finley-an-intimate-economy-enslaved-women-work-and-americas-domestic-slave-trade-unc-press-2020/>
- "Women's household labor is essential. Why isn't it valued? Covid-19 has exposed enduring inequality in domestic divisions of labor," Made By History for the Washington Post (May 29, 2020) <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/05/29/womens-household-labor-is-essential-why-isnt-it-valued/>
- American History TV talk on *An Intimate Economy* (CSPAN-3 January 16, 2020)
- “A Woman's Work is Never Done” public lecture as part of the *Working Thought* Exhibition, Carnegie Museum of Art (June 2022)

Web-based Publications

- “What’s in a Name? Or, Who Put the Omohundro in the Institute of Early American History and Culture?” *Uncommon Sense: the Blog of the Omohundro Institute of Early*

American History and Culture, <http://blog.oieahc.wm.edu/whats-name-put-omohundro-institute-early-american-history-culture/> (June 29, 2016)

AWARDS

- Organization of American Historians Lerner-Scott Prize for the best dissertation in Women's History (April 2018)
- Coordinating Council for Women Historians Chaudhuri Award for best first article (2018)

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- Huntington Library Fellow (Summer 2023)
- American Antiquarian Society Peterson Fellow (July 2022)
- University of Pittsburgh College of Arts and Sciences Junior Faculty Summer Stipend (Summer 2021)
- Provost Dissertation Fellowship, College of William & Mary (2016-2017)
- McNeil Center for Early American History Advisory Council Fellow (2015-2016)
- Glucksman Fellow, College of William & Mary (2015-2016)
- Dean's Research Fund, College of William & Mary (2015)
- Provost Grant, College of William & Mary (2015)
- Betty Sams Christian Fellowship in Business History, Virginia Historical Society (2014)
- Parker-Dooley Visiting Scholar, Southern Historical Collection, UNC – Chapel Hill (2014)

INVITED TALKS

- Central Region Humanities Center Annual Lecture, "The United States Colored Infantry and Appalachian History in the Nineteenth Century," (April 1, 2025, Ohio University)
- Richards Civil War Era Center at Penn State Webinar on *An Intimate Economy* (December 3, 2020)
- Slavery and Emancipation Lecture, Anti-Black Racism Course for the University of Pittsburgh (2020-)
- Labor and Working Class History Association Book Talk on *An Intimate Economy* (January 21, 2021)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

- "Race and Reputation: Black Appalachian Soldiers in the United States Colored Troops," for "Sites of Memory: History, Storytelling, and Undermining the Erasure of BIPOC in Northern Appalachia," Appalachian Studies Association (March 21, 2025, Tennessee Tech)
- "A Murder and Some Furniture: Gender, Value, and Household Objects in the early U.S." New Histories of Value Conference, Princeton University (May 2023 – invited participant)

- “The Movable Property of Women: Gendering Value in Antebellum New Orleans,” Southern Historical Association, Baltimore (November 2022)
- "The Labor of a Wife': Marriage as a Division of Intimate Labor" Conference on Economy and Intimate Life, University of Manchester (June 1, 2022)
- "Producing Intimate Labors: Domesticity, Inequality, and Racial Capitalism" Organization of American Historians, Boston (chair and comment - April 1, 2022)
- "What's Public and Private in the History of American Slavery? Private Controls, Public Interests and Open Secrets under Southern Slavery" American Society for Legal History, New Orleans (November 2021 – accepted panel but withdrawn due to Covid concerns)
- "A First-Rate Seamstress For Sale": Gender, Slavery, and the Contested Meaning of Home" Labor and Working Class History Virtual Conference (May 22, 2021)
- "A Murder and Some Furniture: Household Goods as Business Strategy" Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders and Sexualities, Baltimore (May 2020 – cancelled due to COVID-19)
- "The Movable Property of Women," McNeil Center for Early American History and Culture Seminar (April 3, 2020)
- "Bed and Board in a Southern City," Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, Louisville (November 2019)
- Chair and comment, “New Perspectives on Gender in Early America,” Omohundro Institute for Early American History Annual Conference, Williamsburg, VA (June 2018)
- Panel organizer, “To Rely on a Trusty Woman: Social Reproduction and the Domestic Slave Trade,” Southern Association of Women Historians Triennial Conference, Tuscaloosa, AL (June 2018)
- “The Sexual Economy of the New Orleans Slave Market,” Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, New Orleans (April 2017)
- “Family/Business: the Private Sides of Business and Empire in Antebellum America,” Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Denver (January 2017)
- “Women and the Economy of Slavery in Early America,” OIEAHC Region and Nation in American Histories of Race and Slavery Conference, Mount Vernon (October 2016)
- “Mrs. Omohundro’s Boarding House: Domestic Economy and the Richmond Slave Market,” Society for Historians of the Early Republic Annual Meeting, Raleigh, NC (July 16-19, 2015)
- Panel Member, “To Be Sold: the American Slave Trade in Virginia and New Orleans” Symposium, a joint conference of the Library of Virginia, the Midlo Center at the University of New Orleans, and the Historic New Orleans Collections in conjunction with the “To Be Sold” Exhibit (March 21, 2015)
- “The Life and Love of Slave Trader Silas Omohundro,” Invited Speaker for the Library of Virginia’s “To Be Sold” Exhibit (February 24, 2015)
- Consulting Historian, “Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.” (Season 2, 2014)

- “The Cost of the Trade: A Slave Trader’s Business Network in Antebellum Richmond, Virginia,” The Virginia Forum, George Mason University (March 2014)

UNDERGRADUATE CLASSES TAUGHT

HIST 16XX Course Proposal Submitted and Accepted Fall 24 – History of Appalachia (University of Pittsburgh)
 HIST 0670 African American History to 1865 (University of Pittsburgh)
 HIST 1001 Introductory Writing Seminar for History Majors (University of Pittsburgh)
 HIST 1621 U.S. South to the 1880s (University of Pittsburgh)
 HIST 1655 Labor in the Nineteenth Century (University of Pittsburgh)
 HIST 1660 Gender and Sexuality to 1865 (University of Pittsburgh)
 HIST 1901 Undergraduate Independent Study (University of Pittsburgh)
 HI 3013 African American History to the Civil War (Mississippi State University)
 HI 4273 Women in the South (Mississippi State University)
 HI 4283 Women in America (Mississippi State University)
 HI 122 U.S. History 1865 to Present (College of William and Mary)

GRADUATE CLASSES TAUGHT

HIST 2023 Methods Seminar (University of Pittsburgh)
 HI 8803-08 African American History (Mississippi State University)
 HI 8803-08 Comparative Slavery (Mississippi State University)
 HI 8803-08 History of Capitalism (Mississippi State University)

GRADUATE STUDENTS ADVISED

Hunter Moyler, PhD advisor (2025-)
 Zach Baurele, PhD co-advisor (2024-)
 Lea Fishburn-Moore, PhD advisor (2023-)
 Ann Fleming, Dissertation Committee (2021-)
 Emily Culver, Dissertation Committee (2020-)
 Diana Clarke, M.A. Committee (2019-2020)
 Samantha Schmidt, M.A. advisor (Mississippi State University, 2018-2019)

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Faculty Advisory Committee (2020-2021)
 Graduate Committee (2020-2021; 2024-)
 Secondary Appointment Committee (Fall 2021)
 College of Arts and Sciences Dean Search Committee (Spring 2023)
 Faculty Advisory Committee (2023-24)
 Union Steward Local 1088-4 (2024-)

History Department DEI Committee (2024-)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Membership Committee for Mississippi, Southern Historical Association (2018)
- Membership Committee, Southern Historical Association (2019)
- Virginia Forum, Nominating Committee (2021)
- Labor and Working Class History Association Book Talk organizing committee (2020-2024)
- Contributing Editor, *Labor* (2021-)
- Co-organizer, Working Class History Seminar, University of Pittsburgh (2023-)
- Program Committee, Labor and Working Class History Association Biannual Conference (2024-2025)
- Secretary, Board of Directors, Southern Labor Studies Association (2024-2026)
- Board of Directors, Labor and Working Class History Association (2025-)
- Board of Directors, Virginia Forum (2025-2028)
- Board of Directors, Tablertown People of Color Museum (Tablertown, OH) (2025-)
- Manuscript reviewer for the University of North Carolina Press and Louisiana State University Press
- Article reviewer for the *Journal of Southern History* and *Gender & History*

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association

Coordinating Council for Women in History

Labor and Working Class History Association

Organization of American Historians

Southern Historical Association

Southern Labor Studies Association