

Molly A. Warsh
History Department, University of Pittsburgh
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., History, Johns Hopkins University, 2009

M.A., *with highest honor of distinction*, History, Johns Hopkins University, 2004

B.A., *summa cum laude and with distinction in all subjects*, Cornell University, 1999

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

President, *Forum on Early-modern Empires and Global Interactions* (FEEGI), 2026-2028

Vice President, *Forum on Early-modern Empires and Global Interactions* (FEEGI), 2024-2026

Editor, *Journal of Early Modern History*, July 2021-present

Associate Professor, History, University of Pittsburgh, September 2018-present

Associate Director and Head of Educational Outreach, World History Center, University of Pittsburgh, January 2017-June 2023

Assistant Professor, History, University of Pittsburgh, September 2012-August 2018

Director, *Alliance for Learning in World History* (ALWH), World History Center, University of Pittsburgh, July 2017-present

Interim Associate Director, World History Center, University of Pittsburgh, August 2015-January 2017

Visiting Scholar, History, Johns Hopkins University, June 2014-August 2015

NEH Postdoctoral Fellow, Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture
Williamsburg, VA, July 2010-July 2012

Assistant Professor, History, Texas A&M University, August 2009-August 2012

SELECT RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

Books

In progress: *Servants of the Seasons: Itinerant Labor and Liminal Ecologies in the Early Modern Atlantic World*

American Baroque: Pearls and the Nature of Empire, 1492-1700. Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture with the University of North Carolina Press, 2018

Edited Collections

With Philip D. Morgan. *Early North America in Global Perspective*. Routledge, 2013

Refereed Articles and Book Chapters

“Transformations on Land and Sea: Considering multispecies migration in the Early Modern Iberian Empires” in Juan Pablo Gil-Osle and Joris van Gastel, eds, *Worlds Drawn from the Earth: Art, Extractivism, and Climate Crises in the Iberian Global Empires*, forthcoming with Brepols

“Immersion across the Atlantic World, 1550-1605” in Renaud Bécot, Romain Grancher, Solène Rivoal and Judith Rainhorn, eds., *La Sueur et la poussière (Sweat and Dust)*, forthcoming with Éditions Anacharsis

“Seasonal Harvests: Migration, Reproduction, and Religion in the Early Modern Spanish Tuna Fisheries.” *Environmental History*, Vol. 30 (3), July 2025: 466-493

Winner of the Leopold-Hidy Award for the best article published in Environmental History in the calendar year (2025)

“Ungovernable Things: Baroque Fantasies and Early Modern Realities” in Paula Findlen, ed., *Early Modern Things: Objects and their Histories*. 2nd edition. Routledge, 2021

“Assessing Worth across the Iberian Empires: Pearls and the Role of Human Capital in the Creation of Value, c. 1500-1700.” Special issue of *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies*, Volume 19 (2), Spring 2019: 52-74

“A Political Ecology in the Early Spanish Caribbean.” *William & Mary Quarterly*, 3d ser., Volume 71 (4), October 2014: 517-548

Winner of the Alice Hamilton prize for the best article outside Environmental History (2015), the Lester J. Cappon prize for the annual best article in the William and Mary Quarterly (2014), and Honorable Mention, Vanderwood Prize for the best English-language article on Latin American history published outside the Hispanic American Historical Review (2015)

Translated into French by Pauline Tardieu-Collinet as “L’écologie politique de la pêche perlière dans les premiers temps de la colonisation espagnole des Caraïbes” in Romain Grancher and Solène Rivoal, eds., Dernière frontière: Une histoire environnementale du fond de la mer, France: Champ Vallon Editions, 2025

“Enslaved Pearl Divers in the Sixteenth Century Caribbean.” *Slavery & Abolition*, Volume 31 (3), September 2010: 345-362. Reprinted in Philip D. Morgan, ed. *Maritime Slavery*. London: Routledge, 2012

Translated in Spanish by Aura Jirau Arroyo) as “Pescadores de Perlas Esclavizados en el Caribe. Siglo XVI” in Boletín de la Academia Nacional de la Historia, Caracas, Venezuela, Spring 2020

EXHIBITIONS/INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATIONS

“Water”. Co-curated (with Katherine Ibbett and Ivonne del Valle), NEH Four Elements exhibition, The John Carter Brown Library, Brown University. Summer 2018

Contributing author, “Continuum: Aspen Mays and Dionne Lee”, Silver Eye Gallery, Pittsburgh, Sept. 5-Oct. 26, 2019

SELECT MEDIA APPEARANCES AND PUBLICATIONS

Featured speaker on the Portuguese Empire in [Episode 4](#) “The Portuguese Empire: Ports and Profits” of Al-Jazeera’s four-part documentary “The Colonizer’s Academy”, Jan. 12, 2026

[Interview](#) with *The Times of India* for the “Times Evoke” series with Srijana Mitra Das, Dec. 14, 2025

“What’s Missing in the Conversation about the Pandemic Gig Economy”, *Washington Post*, March 30, 2021

Interview with BBC Global for *The Forum: Luxuries and Obsessions*: [“Pearls: Treasure of the Sea”](#), May 16, 2019

SELECT FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Invited Fellowships

Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation Fellowship, The John Carter Brown Library, Brown University (October 2017)

Nationally and Internationally Competitive Grants

Short Term Fellowship, The John Carter Brown Library, January-March 2025

Keck Foundation and Mayers Fellowship (January-April 2024, declined)

Long Term Fellowship, The Huntington Library, Pasadena, CA (Sept 2019-May 2020, declined)

Short Term Fellowship, The Huntington Library, Pasadena, CA (June-July 2017)

NEH Postdoctoral Fellow, Omohundro Institute for Early American History & Culture, Williamsburg, VA (2010-2012)

Research Grant, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (2008)

Atlantic Seminar Grant, Harvard University (2006-2007)

Fulbright Student Grant (Portugal, 2005-2006)

Jacob K. Javits Fellowship (2003-2007)

SELECT CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP

Convener and Program Chair, 2026 meeting of the Forum on Early-modern Empires and Global Interactions (FEEGI), Rutgers University, April 10-11, 2026

Molly A. Warsh, University of Pittsburgh

Chair, Local Arrangements Committee, Annual Meeting of the American Society for Environmental History (ASEH), Pittsburgh, PA April 9-12, 2025

Convener (with Ruth Mostern, History Department, University of Pittsburgh), 2023 annual meeting of the World History Association, Pittsburgh PA, June 2023

Program Committee Co-chair (with Akin Ogundiran, Northwestern University), 2023 Annual Conference of the American Historical Association, Philadelphia, PA, January 2023

Co-organizer (with Carla Pestana, History Department, University of California, Los Angeles), conference on “The Early Modern Global Caribbean”, Huntington Library, Pasadena, CA, Sept. 18-19, 2020 (held virtually due to Covid-19)

Chair, Program Committee, annual meeting of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 13-16, 2019

Co-organizer (with Carla Pestana, History Department, University of California, Los Angeles), “The Early Modern Global Caribbean: A Symposium at the John Carter Brown Library.” Brown University, Sept. 20-22, 2018

Co-organizer (with Olivia Bloechl, Music Department, University of Pittsburgh), conference on “Race and Empire in Global Music History,” University of Pittsburgh, March 30-31, 2018

SELECT SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Chair and Organizer, “Global Maritime Knowledge in the Early Modern World”, Annual meeting of the American Historical Association, New Orleans, LA January 7-10, 2027

Panelist, “History for the 21st Century: Teaching U.S. History in Global Context”, Annual meeting of the American Historical Association, New Orleans, LA January 7-10, 2027

Panelist, “Liminal Ecologies and Their Multispecies Inhabitants in the Early Modern World”, Annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, San Francisco, CA February 19, 2026

Chair, “The Early Modern Atlantic World”, *The J.H. Elliott Forum for History: An Inaugural Symposium: “Early Modern History in the Making”*, Oxford University (U.K), June 5-6, 2025

“The Material Realities of Itinerancy in a Caribbean Context”, *Early Global Caribbean: Materialities*, Clark Library, University of California, Los Angeles, April 11, 2025

Chair and Discussant, “Pests and Plantations: Forging New Environments in the Era of Scientific Agriculture”, Annual Meeting of the American Society of Environmental History, Pittsburgh, PA, April 10, 2025

Chair, “Secrecy, Lies, and Misinformation in Primary Sources” Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, New York City, NY, January 4, 2025

Organizer and panelist, “Multispecies Colonialism: Human-Animal Encounters in the Sixteenth Century Iberian Atlantic World”, Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, January 5, 2025

Chair and co-organizer (with Ann Little, History Department, Colorado State University), “Ecofeminism, Reproductive Labor, and Gender in the Human and non-Human World: Carolyn

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Merchant's Enduring Legacy”, Annual meeting of the American Society for Environmental History, Denver, CO, April 6, 2024

Co-organizer (with Ann Little), “Sex, Race, and Carolyn Merchant’s Scientific Revolution”, Annual Meeting of the American Society for Environmental History, Denver, CO, April 6, 2024

Panelist, “Exploring Early Modern Ocean History”, Annual Meeting of the American Society for Environmental History, Boston, MA, March 24, 2023

Organizer and chair, “Perceiving and Writing Agency in the Early Modern World: Interpretative Challenges”, Annual meeting of the American Historical Association, Philadelphia, PA, Jan. 6, 2023

Panelist, “Publishing in Early Modern Journals”, Annual meeting of the Sixteenth Century Society & Conference, Minneapolis, MN, Oct 29, 2022

Panelist, “Itinerant Labor and the Making of the Modern World: Personal Histories and Global Patterns”, Annual meeting of the World History Association, Bilbao, Spain, June 24, 2022

SELECT INVITED ENGAGEMENTS

Invited participant in “Human/Being, 1400-1800, Conference 2: Human/Animal” at Clark Library, UCLA, February 19, 2027

Invited participant, Environmental History Symposium, University of Pennsylvania, Sept. 18, 2026

“Reconsidering the Early Modern *Mesta* from the Perspective of Environmental History”, workshop hosted by the JHE Elliott Forum at the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), Princeton, NJ, Nov. 6, 2026

“‘Breedlings’ and the ‘most sad Fenns’: Perceptions of Untameable Places and People in Samuel Pepys’s England”, 2026 Samuel Pepys Lecture at UCLA, Los Angeles CA, March 2, 2026

“Servants of the Seasons: An Experimental Essay on Temporary Mobilities in the Past and Present” Cambridge University (U.K.) American History Seminar, February 21, 2025

Invited lecture, “Oceanic Itinerants: Transformation and its Limits in the Early Modern Spanish Tuna Fisheries”, History Seminar, Louisiana State University, Jan. 31, 2025

Keynote speaker at "La sueur et la poussière. Une histoire environnementale des mondes du travail" ("Sweat and Dust: an Environmental History of Work and Labour"), conference organized by RUCHE (*Réseau Universitaire de Chercheurs en Histoire Environnementale*), University of Toulouse, France, June 19-21, 2024

Keynote speaker at symposium on “Early Modern Environmental History”, Rutgers University, April 25, 2024

SELECT PEDAGOGY-FOCUSED INITIATIVES

Convener, *Teaching the History of Guns in World Historical Context*, professional development workshop for teachers at all levels sponsored by the Alliance for Learning in World History (ALWH), University of Pittsburgh May 30, 2026

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Convener, “Truth, Misinformation, and Technology in World History”, professional development workshop for teachers at all levels sponsored by the Alliance for Learning in World History (ALWH), University of Pittsburgh June 1, 2024

Convener, “Teaching Energies in World History”, professional development workshop for teachers at all levels sponsored by the Alliance for Learning in World History (ALWH), held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the World History Association, hosted by the World History Center at the University of Pittsburgh, June 23-24, 2023

Convener, “It’s Not Either/Or!”, roundtable discussion featuring four University of Pittsburgh undergraduates with interdisciplinary majors and minors, April 19, 2023

Panelist, “How Can History for the 21st Century Help You in Your World History Course?”, Annual meeting of the World History Association, Pittsburgh, PA June 24, 2023

Panelist, “History for the 21st Century: New Teaching Materials for Inquiry-Based World History Lessons” Annual meeting of the World History Association, Pittsburgh, PA June 24, 2023

Panelist, “Roundtable: World History in Graduate Education”, Annual meeting of the World History Association, Pittsburgh, PA June 24, 2023

Moderator, “Undergraduate Lightning Round: Research Across the Fields”, Annual meeting of the American Historical Association, Philadelphia, PA, Jan. 7, 2023

SELECT SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Director, [Alliance for Learning in World History](#) (University of Pittsburgh), 2018-present

Advisory board, [H21 project](#) (San Francisco State University), 2019-present

History Gateways Advisory Committee (American Historical Association), 2019-2023

Advisory Board, [World History Project](#) (Gates Ventures), 2018-2024

Advisor, [World History Commons](#) (George Mason University), 2018-2021

Reviewer, Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowship competition, 2026

Board Member, J.H. Elliott Forum, 2023-present

Selection Committee, Jerry Bentley Prize, American Historical Association, 2020-2022, Chair 2022

Selection Committee, Alice Hamilton Prize, American Society for Environmental History, 2020-2022, Chair 2022

LANGUAGES

Spanish, fluent; Portuguese, advanced; French, proficient (reading); Modern Greek, basic