

Rachel Crockett Kirby, PhD
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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Lecturer, History & Literature, Harvard University, 2022-Present

EDUCATION

Ph.D. American Studies, Boston University, May 2022

Dissertation: "Consuming the South: Representations of Taste, Place, and Agriculture"

M.A., Folklore, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, May 2016

Thesis: "Interpreting Historic Site Narratives: Duke Homestead on Tour"

B.A., Art History, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, May 2013

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed

[Under Review] Co-written with Claire Bunschoten. "Scents of Place: A Peanut Perfume Crafting a Multisensory South," for *Southern Cultures*.

Co-written with Anthony Bak Buccitelli, "'The Quintessence of the Humanities': Folklore and Mythology at Harvard." In *Folklore in the United States and Canada: An Institutional History*, eds. Patricia Sawin and Rosemary Lévy Zumwalt. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2020.

"Unenslaved through Art: Rice Culture Paintings by Jonathan Green," *Panorama: Journal of the Association of Historians of American Art* 6, no. 1 (Spring 2020).

Book Reviews

Review of *Hear Me Now: The Black Potters of Old Edgefield, South Carolina*, edited by Adrienne Spinozzi and *Praise Songs for Dave the Potter: Art and Poetry for David Drake, with Artwork by Jonathan Green and Poetry by Glenis Redmond*, edited by P. Gabrielle Foreman and foreword by Kwame Dawes. Afterword by Evie Shockley. *Journal of Southern History* Vol. 90, No. 1 (February 2024), 149-150.

Public Scholarship

"Multisensory Material Culture: Tasting Place in Objects and Images," *Ampersand: An American Studies Journal*. Vol. 1, Issue 2 (February 2022)

"The Life and Times of Mr. Peanut," *Contingent Magazine*, February 13, 2020.

"Melanie Newman & Suzie Cool: Salem Red Sox' New Female Broadcast Team Making History." *Red Sox Magazine*. 4th edition (September 2019).

"Putting Some Real Juice in the Game." *Medium.com* blog. July 31, 2019.

“The Green Behind the Monster.” *Medium.com* blog. July 18, 2019.

Co-written with Gordon Edes. “The Great Popcorn Machine Fire of ’74.” *Medium.com* blog. June 12, 2019.

“UNC’s Ambiguous Memorial: A Living List of Names,” *Names in Brick & Stone: Histories from the University’s Built Landscape*. 2015.

“‘Carr Building Presented:’ A Monument to Julian Shakespeare Carr,” *Names in Brick & Stone: Histories from the University’s Built Landscape*. 2015.

“Boat by James ‘J.P.’ Scott,” *Grace the Table: An Exploration of Food and Civil Rights in Southern Folk Art from the Collection of Ann Marshall and Scott Blackwell*, Southern Foodways Alliance Symposium. 2014.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, and AWARDS

2024	Provostial Fund for the Arts and Humanities, Harvard University
2023	Provostial Fund for the Arts and Humanities, Harvard University
2023	“Reconstructing the Black Archive. South Carolina as Case Study 1739-1895,” National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute
2022	Mary Kelley Prize, New England American Studies Association
2021	Johnson Grant, Boston University
2020-2021	P.E.O. Scholar Award
2019	John Furr Fellowship for JWT Research, J. Walter Thompson Archives, Hartman Center, Duke University
2019	Chase Family Travel Grant for Visiting Graduate Scholars, P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida
2019	Boston University Graduate Student Organization Travel Grant
2018	PhD Oral Qualifying Exam passed with honors, Boston University, American & New England Studies Program
2018	Ambassadors Award, Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting
2017	Pamela H. Simpson Presenter’s Fellowship, Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting
2016-2017	Dean’s Fellowship, Boston University
2015	Archie Green Fellowship in Occupational Folklife
2015	The Daniel W. Patterson Fellowship for Folklore Fieldwork

PRESENTATIONS and PANELS

“Elevating the Groundnut: Two Approaches to Promoting Peanuts in the Early Decades of the Twentieth Century.” Session: “Unearthing the Ground Rules: Interrogating the Social and Political Lives of

- Archives.” American Studies Association. Baltimore, MD. (November 2024).
- Participant and session co-organizer, “At the Edges of Food Studies,” Association for the Study of Food and Society and the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society Conference. Boston, MA. (June 2023)
- “Tasting the South: Multisensory Explorations of Visual and Material Culture.”; Session organizer: Methodologies from the Multisensory South. American Studies Association. New Orleans, LA. (November 2022)
- “‘I’ll Admit that Black is White’: Mr. Peanut’s Accessorized Shell as a Racialized Body.” New England American Studies Association. Pittsfield, MA. (June 2022)
- “The Materiality of Mr. Peanut: Agriculture, Aristocracy, and Minstrelsy in Planters’ Anthropomorphic Nut.” American Studies Association. Virtual. (November 2021)
- “Exporting Citrus, Importing Tourists: The Florida Orange as an Icon of Commodified Labor-Turned-Leisure.” American Studies Association. Honolulu, HI. (November 2019)
- “The Florida Orange as an Icon of Commodified Labor-Turned-Leisure.” Americanist Forum. American & New England Studies Program Graduate Student Association. Boston, MA. (October 2019)
- “Documenting Sense of Place.” Roundtable co-organizer and participant. Vernacular Architecture Forum. Philadelphia, PA. (June 2019)
- “Painting Away the Shackles of Slavery: Exploring Jonathan Green’s Depictions of an ‘Unenslaved’ Lowcountry.” The Vesey Conspiracy at 200: Black Antislavery and the Atlantic World, College of Charleston, SC. (February 2019)
- “Painting the ‘Unenslaved’: Jonathan Green’s Visualizations of Land, Labor, and Life in the Lowcountry.” Southern Studies Conference. Auburn University Montgomery. Montgomery, AL. (February 2018)
- “From Maids to Mary King: Stories and Spaces of the Nichols House Employees.” Nichols House Museum. Boston, MA. (September 2017)
- “An Island of Opportunity: The Boston Farm School and the City’s Civic Landscape.” Vernacular Architecture Forum. Salt Lake City, UT. (June 2017)
- “Virginia’s Paradox on Parade: Mr. Peanut as Southern Agriculture and Aristocracy.” Americanist Forum. American & New England Studies Program Graduate Student Association. Boston, MA. (February 2017)
- “Working and Eating in the Piedmont.” Carolina Cornucopia: A Conference on Foodways of the Tar Heel State. Chapel Hill, NC. (May 2015)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2022- Lecturer, History and Literature, Harvard University

Courses Taught: Sophomore Tutorial: Archives, Memory, and Narratives for Living in North America (Spring 2024, co-taught with Morgan Ridgway)
 The South: Histories of a U.S. Region (Fall 2023)
 Sophomore Tutorial: Archive, Memory, and Imagination in North America (Spring 2023, co-taught with Morgan Ridgway)
 Junior Tutorial (Fall 2022; Spring 2023; Fall 2023; Spring 2024)
 Senior Tutorial (Fall 2022; Spring 2023; Fall 2023; Spring 2024)
 Tasting Place: Food and Culture in America (Fall 2022)

2021-22 Graduate Writing Fellow, Writing Program, Boston University

Courses Taught: Writing, Research, & Inquiry with Digital/Multimedia Expression; Topic: Tasting Place (Spring 2022)
 First-Year Writing Seminar; Topic: Are We What We Eat?: Food and Culture

(Fall 2021)

2020 Instructor of Record, Boston University

Course taught: Introduction to American Studies Topic: Boston's Pastime: The Red Sox and their City (Summer 2020)

2017-2019 Teaching Fellow, Boston University

History and Theory of Landscape Architecture (Spring 2019)

Arts in America (Fall 2018)

History of International Relations, 1900-1945 (Fall 2017)

2014-2016 Teaching Assistant, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Approaches to Southern Studies (Spring 2016)

Shalom Y'all: The Jewish Experience in the American South (Fall 2015)

Introduction to the American South (Spring 2015)

Introduction to Folklore (Fall 2014)

Invited Lecturer or Speaker

Speaker, Professional Development Seminar, American & New England Studies Program, Professor Ross Barrett (February 20, 2023)

"Minstrelsy and Mr. Peanut," Twentieth Century Stuff, Professor Katherine Lennard (February 10, 2022)

RESEARCH and PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Oct. 2019-May 2020 **Archive Intern**, Boston Red Sox, Boston, MA

May-August 2019 **Graduate Intern**, Gordon Edes, Red Sox historian, Boston, MA *Sponsored by the Boston University Center for the Humanities and the Office of the Associate Provost for Graduate Affairs*

April-July 2018 **Interim Office Administrator**, American & New England Studies Program, Boston, MA

Spring 2018 **Editorial Assistant**, *Buildings & Landscapes: The Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum*

Summer 2017-Spring 2018 **Research Assistant**, Professor Melanie Hall, Boston University, Boston, MA

Summer 2017 **Julie Linsdell and George Linsdell Enders Research Fellowship**, Nichols House Museum, Boston, MA

Summer 2016 **Transcriber**, Coastal Voices: An Oral History of the Outer Banks and Down East, NC

Summer 2015 **Research Assistant**, Professor Bernard Herman, Chapel Hill, NC

September 2013-July **Public Programs Intern**, Preservation Society of Charleston, SC

2014

PEDAGOGICAL and STUDENT-FOCUSED TRAINING

Writing Program, Boston University

2021 – 2022 Collaborative Mentoring Initiative

Fall 2021 Teaching College Writing, semester long seminar

Spring 2021 Teaching College Composition, semester long seminar

Center for Teaching and Learning, Boston University

March 2020 Summer Term HUB Instructors “Bootcamp,” day-long workshop

August 2017 Graduate Student Teaching Day, day-long workshop

Behavior Medicine Department, Boston University

September 2017 Terriers Connect, workshop on supporting students in distress

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS and SERVICE

Memberships

2022- Association for the Study of Food and Society

2022- New England American Studies Association

2021- Southern Historical Association

2018- Southern Foodways Alliance

2016- American Studies Association

2016- Vernacular Architecture Forum

Service

2023-2024 President, New England American Studies Association

2022-2024 Committee on Instruction, History & Literature, Harvard University

2022-2023 Vice President, New England American Studies Association

2022- New England American Studies Association Council Member

2019-2020 President, American & New England Studies Graduate Student Association
(AMNESP GSA)

2018-2019 Vice President, AMNESP GSA

2017-2018 Social and Professional Development Coordinator, AMNESP GSA

2015-2016 Co-Chair, Speaker Series and Colloquium, UNC Department of American
Studies

MEDIA COVERAGE

December 16, 2019 Siena Giljum, “[A Summer at Fenway](#),” *Arts & Sciences Magazine – Boston University*

Summer 2019 [2019 Awardee](#). The Chase Family Award for Visiting Graduate Scholars at the P.K. Yonge Library.