

## ADAM ARENSEN

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### EDUCATION

Yale University, Department of History, M.A. (2004), M.Phil. (2005), Ph.D. (2008).  
Harvard College, History and Literature of America, A.B., *magna cum laude* (2001).

### EMPLOYMENT

The University of Texas at El Paso, Assistant Professor of History (January 2009-present).

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Books:

*The Cultural Civil War: St. Louis and the Failures of Manifest Destiny*, Harvard University Press, forthcoming (expected late 2010/early 2011).

In the mid-nineteenth century, the conflict to define the promises of Manifest Destiny and the reach of slavery politics ignited a cultural civil war between advocates of the North, South and West, a conflict decades in coming and generations more in consequence. Throughout, St. Louis uniquely mirrored the nation's regional, political, and ethnic diversity, and its leaders tried, briefly succeeded, but ultimately failed to steer the course of the nation toward those solutions advocated by the West. Situated on the frontier of slavery, this borderland metropolis reveals the forgotten western agenda, essential to understanding the Civil War era beyond the clash of North and South.

*Frontier Cities*, co-editor, with Jay Gitlin and Barbara Berglund; under review by Oxford University Press.

The twelve essays in this edited volume argue for the intersections of colonial and frontier historiography; of the American West and global history; and of urban-studies and postcolonial modes of inquiry. Themes include the intimate negotiations in cities as homes to many cultures; the self-assertion of cities as cultural spaces; and the propinquity and environs essential to cities as economic sites. Co-wrote introduction and framing materials, and edited essays by Elliott West, Timothy Mahoney, Matthew Klinge, and Alan Galloway.

(cont.)

*After the Underground Railroad: African Americans Returning from Canada and the Forgotten History of Transnational Reconstruction*, research in progress.

Canada has been understood as a Promised Land for escaping slaves. Yet after the Emancipation Proclamation, many African Americans returned to the United States—and many went back to the South, following family ties, eager to join the fight against slavery and the struggle for racial equality. Using U.S. and Canadian Census records, pension files, newspaper clippings and the occasional autobiography or papers collection, this study recovers their story. It argues that their time in Canada gave African Americans the power of comparison: When struggling for access to social and political participation in the United States, they had a reference point for formulating of notions of freedom after slavery. This project places African American political actions and cultural arguments within a transnational, hemispheric context. It pieces together the meaning of the U.S.-Canada border to African Americans during the Civil War and Reconstruction, after the era of the fugitive slaves.

*Banking on Memories: California History through the Home Savings and Loans Mosaics*, research in progress.

For three decades, Millard Sheets and his studio artists created mosaics, murals, and sculptures for the Home Savings banks in California, often reflecting the Hispanic heritage of the region. This study recovers the place of this public art within local memory—and how the mosaics and the bank they represented fared through involvement in the savings-and-loan crisis of the 1980s, sale to Washington Mutual in 1999, and seizure by the federal government in 2008. It advances contemporary urban history by chronicling a corporate investment in public memory, and how this interplay of community banking and public art fostered community in California's notoriously spread-out suburbs.

#### Articles and Essays:

"Dred Scott versus the *Dred Scott Case*: The History and Memory of a Signal Moment in American Slavery, 1857-2007," in *The Dred Scott Case: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Race and Law* Paul Finkelman, David Konig, and Christopher Bracey, eds., Ohio University Press (in press, expected Spring 2010).

"The Double Life of St. Louis: Narratives of Origins and Maturity in Wade's *Urban Frontier*." *Indiana Magazine of History* 105.3, Richard Wade Special Issue (September 2009), 246-261.

"Freeing Dred Scott: St. Louis Confronts an Icon of Slavery, 1857-2007." *Common-place* 8.3 (April 2008). <http://www.common-place.org/vol-08/no-03/arenson/>

"A Cultural Barometer: The St. Louis Mercantile Library as National Institution, 1846-1871." *Missouri Historical Review* 102.2 (January 2008), 88-102.

(cont.)

"Anglo-Saxonism in the Yukon: The *Klondike Nugget* and American-British Relations in the 'Two Wests,' 1898-1901." *Pacific Historical Review* 76.3 (August 2007), 373-403.

"Libraries in Public before the Age of Public Libraries: Interpreting the Furnishings and Design of Athenaeums and Other 'Social Libraries,' 1800-1860," in *The Library as Place: History, Community and Culture* John Buschman and Gloria J. Leckie, eds., (Westport, Ct.: Libraries Unlimited-Greenwood Press, 2007), 41-60.

"Ansel Adams's *Eucalyptus Tree, Fort Ross: Nature, Photography, and the Search for California*," *California History* 82.4 (2005), 10-25.

"The Role of the *Nossa Senhora Aparecida* Festival in Creating Brazilian American Community," *New York Folklore Journal* 24.1-4 (1998), 1-30.

### Reviews:

Review of *Empire's Edge: American Society in Nome, Alaska 1898-1934* by Preston Jones. *Pacific Historical Review* 77.2 (May 2008), 330-332.

### **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

United States History, 1776-1917  
Slavery, Civil War, and Reconstruction  
Cultural and Intellectual History  
The Writing of History

Urban Studies  
The American West and its Borderlands  
in Comparative Perspective

### **TEACHING**

The University of Texas at El Paso:

Undergraduate Courses:

"The Civil War and Reconstruction Era," Spring 2010.

"History of the United States to 1865," Fall 2009.

"Junior/Senior Research Seminar: Civil War Battlefields," Spring 2009.

Graduate Courses:

"The Writing of History," Spring 2010.

"Methods in Urban History and Preservation," Fall 2009.

"Understanding the Nineteenth Century United States" Spring 2009.

Yale University:

Teaching Fellow for courses on Environmental History, The American Revolution, and The Civil War and Reconstruction Era (2005-2007).

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Lewis E. Atherton Dissertation Prize, State Historical Society of Missouri, for the best dissertation in Missouri history or biography in the previous year (2009).  
Participant, "The Large Class Dashboard: Incorporating Technology to Promote Student Success in Large Classes," Transforming Undergraduate Education grant, University of Texas Board of Regents (2009-present).  
Subgrantee, Enhancing Writing Skills in History Courses, "An Integrated Approach to Strengthening Student Writing (K-18)" grant, Sid W. Richardson Foundation (2009-present).  
Tesoro-Kinney Fellow, Howard R. Lamar Center for the Study of Frontiers and Borders (2007-2008).  
Bill Lane Center for the Study of the North American West, the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West, and the Institute for the Study of the American West at the Autry National Center Joint Dissertation Workshop (2007).  
William E. Foley Research Fellowship, Missouri State Archives (2007).  
Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition Graduate Research Fellowship (Summer 2007).  
Yale Graduate Assembly Conference Travel Fund Award (2007).  
Richard S. Brownlee Fund Grant, State Historical Society of Missouri (2006-2007).  
St. Louis Mercantile Library Research Fellowship (Spring 2006).  
Jacob K. Javits Fellowship for the Humanities (2002-2006).  
Phi Beta Kappa, Harvard (Winter 2000).

## LECTURES & PANEL DISCUSSIONS

"Ralph Waldo Emerson North and South: Slavery and the 'Conduct of Life' Lectures in Rochester and St. Louis." Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Washington (April 2010).

"City of Manifest Destiny: St. Louis and the Cultural Civil War." Chicago History Museum Urban History Seminar (February 2010).

"Back from Canada: African Americans Return to the South." Roundtable Presentation, Association for Canadian Studies in the United States, San Diego (November 2009).

"After the Underground Railroad: African Americans Returning from Canada and Transnational Reconstruction." UTEP History Seminar Series (October 2009).

"A Battle of Loyalties and Suspicions: The Civil War in St. Louis." The Civil War Round Table of New York (December 2008).

"Where South Meets West: The Rise and Fall of St. Louis as National City, 1848-1877." Urban History Association, Houston (November 2008). (cont.)

“Gateway to Many Wests: St. Louis, the City of Manifest Destiny – Home of the Bent Brothers.” Tesoro Foundation Historic Dinner & Lecture Series, The Fort, Morrison, Colorado (May 2008).

“A National City: St. Louis’s Quest to Lead the United States Empire, 1848-1877.” American Studies Association, Philadelphia (October 2007).

“A Central Park in the West: Dividing City and County while Creating St. Louis’s Forest Park.” Western History Association, Oklahoma City (October 2007).

Opening Comments, “Frontier Cities” conference, Howard R. Lamar Center for the Study of Frontiers and Borders, Yale University (September 2007).

“City of Manifest Destiny: St. Louis and the Cultural Civil War, 1848-1877.” St. Louis Area Religious Archivists and Association of St. Louis Area Archivists (July 2007).

“The Local Impact of the *Dred Scott Case*: 1857-2007.” Invited Panelist, “The *Dred Scott Case* and its Legacy: Race, Law, and Equality,” Washington University School of Law, St. Louis (March 2007).

“Nativism and Nonpartisanship: The Work of William Greenleaf Eliot and his Congregation.” Yale American Religious History Working Group (February 2007).

“Exploring the Role of Disasters in St. Louis History: A Panel Discussion” Invited Panelist, “What is a City?,” The Center for the Humanities, University of Missouri-St. Louis (October 2006).

“Profiting from Disaster: St. Louis’ ‘Great Fire’ in History and Memory.” Western History Association, St. Louis (October, 2006).

“Libraries in Public before the Age of Public Libraries: Interpreting the Furnishings and Design of ‘Social Libraries,’ 1800-1860.” Vernacular Architecture Forum, New York (June 2006).

“Reading the Barometer: Competing National Visions in St. Louis, 1848-1877.” St. Louis Mercantile Library Colloquium, University of Missouri-St. Louis (June 2006).

“A Fond Destruction: St. Louis’ ‘Great Fire’ of 1849 and Images of Urban Disasters.” Mid-American American Studies Association, St. Louis (April 2006).

“The Transition to Yukon America: The *Klondike Nugget* in Dawson and Worldwide Anglo-Saxon War, 1898-1901.” Western History Association, Scottsdale (October 2005).

(cont.)

"Emerson of the Newspapers: Fame and Censorship in the Reviews of 'The Conduct of Life' Lectures in Rochester and St. Louis, 1851-1860." American Journalism Historians Association-AEJMC History Division Joint Spring Meeting, New York (March 2005).

"At the Periphery and the Center: Race, Nation and Self-Fashioning in the Klondike, 1898-1900." Canadian Historical Association, Winnipeg (June 2004).

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Writing History Beyond, co-founder (2008-present).

Making History Podcast, Interview with John Demos (June 2008),

<http://makinghistorypodcast.com/2008/06/05/episode-7-john-demos/>

Writing History Colloquium, Yale University (2002-2008).

Coordinator, (2004-2008).

Participant (2002-2008).

Telluride Association Board of Directors (2001-present).

Chair, Telluride Association Awards Committee (2009-present).

Telluride Association Summer Program Committee (2005-2009; chair 2006-2008).

Chair, Telluride Association-Deep Springs History Project (2002-2006).

## **MEDIA APPEARANCES**

### Commentaries:

"Saving the Bank's Artistic Assets," *Edge of the American West* (April 24, 2009).

<http://edgeofthewest.wordpress.com/2009/04/24/saving-the-banks'-artistic-assets/>

"Celebrate their freedom, not the ugly case bearing their name," [Dred and Harriet Scott] *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (May 21, 2007).

"The Power of Oklahoma City," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (April 20, 2006).

### Interviews:

"The Dred Scott Decision," *The Electric Drum*, February 10, 2007, WYBC 94.3 FM  
Appearance arranged by the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition.

"Disasters in St. Louis," *St. Louis on the Air*, October 24, 2006, KWMU 90.7 FM

### Profiles:

*The Barriger Flyer: News from the John W. Barriger III National Railroad Library*  
(April 2006).

*Yale Graduate School Newsletter* (November 2005).

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association  
Organization of American Historians  
American Studies Association  
Urban History Association  
Western History Association

Society of Civil War Historians  
St. Louis Mercantile Library  
State Historical Society of Missouri  
Southern History Association  
Association for Canadian Studies in the  
United States

## DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UTEP Faculty Senate Representative (beginning January 2010).  
Graduate Program Committee (2009-present).  
Undergraduate Program Committee (2009-present).  
Mexican Revolution Centennial Committee (2009-present).  
Graduate Student Mentor and Portfolio Committee Member (2009-present).  
Undergraduate Advisor, UTEP History Department (Spring 2009).  
Overseeing Honors Program work for undergraduates (Fall 2009-present).  
Invitation and Arrangement for class visits and public lecture by Brian DeLay  
(February 2009).  
Responding to History Day and history-project inquiries from El Paso public-  
school elementary and junior-high students (Spring 2009).  
Participant, Transforming Undergraduate Education grant (2009-present).  
Consultant, Enhancing Writing Skills in History Courses initiative (2009-present).  
UTEP Center for Effective Teaching and Learning Workshops (2009-present):  
--mentoring for new faculty  
--improving student reading comprehension  
--encouraging active learning  
--teaching and modeling good writing practices  
--creating a training program for classroom peer evaluations  
--documenting your scholarly accomplishments

## REFERENCES

David Blight, Yale University, [david.blight@yale.edu](mailto:david.blight@yale.edu)  
John Mack Faragher, Yale University, [john.faragher@yale.edu](mailto:john.faragher@yale.edu)  
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