

PERRIN SELCER

EMPLOYMENT

University of Michigan

Associate Professor, Department of History and Program in the Environment (2019 -)
Assistant Professor, Department of History and Program in the Environment (2014 - present)
Director, Science, Technology, & Society Program, (2018 - 2020)

University of Texas-Austin

NSF Postdoctoral Fellow, 2013
Lecturer, Jan. 2011 – Dec. 2012

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Ph.D., History and Sociology of Science, May 2011
Dissertation: “Patterns of Science: Developing Knowledge for a World Community at Unesco”
Committee: M. Susan Lindee, Chair; Lynn Hollen Lees; Sarah Igo

M.A., History and Sociology of Science, May 2005

Field Exams: Science and Social Order; World History; Modern United States and the World

Mills College, Oakland, California

Secondary Teaching Credential, June 1998

University of Oregon, Clark Honors College, Eugene, Oregon

B.A. with Honors, English, September 1997
Honors Thesis: “Traveling in Theory”

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

Mellon New Directions Fellowship for retraining in the paleosciences (2020-2021)

Visiting Scholar, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, (June 2017)

Norman and Jane Katz Faculty Fellow, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan
(2016-17)

Faculty Fellow, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, University of Michigan (2015-16)

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Science, Technology, and Society Program, National Science
Foundation (2013)

Award for Best Dissertation, Forum for the History of the Human Sciences (2012)

School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
(2008-2009)

Dean’s Summer Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania (summer 2008, 2009 and 2010)

John C. Burnham Early Career Award, Forum for the History of the Human Sciences (2008)

International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (2007-2008)

Visiting Scholar, Science, Technology, and Public Policy Program, Gerald R. Ford School of
Public Policy, University of Michigan (2008-2010)

Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship, Council for European Studies at Columbia University
(Summer 2006)

William Penn Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania (2003-2008)

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PUBLICATIONS

Book

The Postwar Origins of the Global Environment: How the United Nations Built Spaceship Earth (New York: Columbia University Press, International and Global History Series, 2018).

Articles and Chapters

“Sociology,” in Mark Bevir, ed., *Modernism and the Social Sciences: Anglo-American Exchanges, cc. 1918-1980* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2017).

“Fabricating Unity: The FAO-UNESCO Soil Map of the World,” *Historical Social Research*, 40: 2 (2015), 174-201.

“As utilizações da inutilidade: o programa de investigação para as zonas áridas da UNESCO e as funções da Ciência Fundamental na comunidade internacional do pós-guerra,” in Miguel Bandeira Jerónimo and José Pedro Monteiro, eds., *Os passados do presente: Internacionalismo, imperialismo e a construção do mundo contemporâneo* (Lisboa: Almedina, 2015).

“Beyond the Cephalic Index: Negotiating Politics to Produce Unesco’s Scientific Statements on Race,” *Current Anthropology*, 53: supplement 5: *The Biological Anthropology of Living Human Populations: World Histories, National Styles, and International Networks* (April 2012), s173-s184.

"UNESCO, Weltbürgerschaft und Kalter Krieg" in *Macht und Geist im Kalten Krieg* (Studien zum Kalten Krieg, vol. 5), ed. Bernd Greiner, Tim B. Müller, and Claudia Weber (Hamburg: Hamburger Edition, 2011), 476-496.

“The View from Everywhere: Disciplining Diversity in post-World War Two International Social Science,” *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, 45: 4 (Fall 2009), 309-329.

“Standardizing Wounds: Alexis Carrel and the Scientific Management of Life during World War I,” *British Journal for the History of Science*, 42: 1 (March 2008), 73-107.

Reviews

Review of Nicholas B. Breyfogle, ed., “Eurasian Environments: Nature and Ecology in Imperial Russian and Soviet History,” *Isis* 111: 1 (2020).

Review of Jessica Lynne Pearson, “The Colonial Politics of Global Health: France and the United Nations in Postwar Africa,” *H-France* 19: 110 (2019), 5 pp.

Review of Nicolas Guilhot, ed., “The Invention of International Relations Theory: Realism, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the 1954 Conference on Theory,” *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, 49: 4 (2013), 438-440.

Review of Sarah Bridger, “Scientists and the Ethics of Cold War Weapons Research,” (PhD diss., Columbia University, 2011), *Dissertation Reviews* (online), Jan. 2013.

Review of Jake Lamar, ed., “Sixty Years of Science at UNESCO, 1945-2005,” *Isis*, 99: 1, (March 2008), 219-220.

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PRESENTATIONS, PANELS, AND WORKSHOPS

“Domesticating Diversity: The Cosmopolitan Origins of the Agricultural Revolution,” New Earth Histories Conference,” Sydney, Dec. 2019.

“The Place of the Humanities in the Anthropocene,” U-M – SJTU Environmental Humanities Meeting, Shanghai, March 2019.

“Stockholm 1972: Environment, Development, and the Search for a New International Order,” Plenary presentation, MUSE conference, Ann Arbor, Feb. 2019.

“The UN’s 1968: Environment, Development, and the Search for a New International Order,” Invited talk, History Department Colloquium, Michigan State University East Lansing, Feb. 2019.

“Environments and Adaptation in Ancient China: Recent Advances and Global Context,” roundtable discussant, U-M Center for Chinese Studies, Ann Arbor, Feb. 2019.

“Confronting a Climate of Despair: Transformative Pedagogies for the Anthropocene,” Workshop co-organizer, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, Ann Arbor, Feb. 2019.

“The Postwar Origins of Global-scale Environmental Crisis,” U-M Institute for the Humanities, Ann Arbor, Nov. 2018.

“Constructing Spaceship Earth,” invited lecture, Asia and the Anthropocene Workshop, Association for Asian Studies, Ann Arbor, August 2018.

“From Soil Erosion to Global Warming: The Postwar International Origins of Global-scale Environmental Crisis,” American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference, Irvine, CA, March 2018.

“UNESCO and the Statements on Race in the Making,” Presidential Panel, American Historical Association, Washington, D.C., Jan. 2018.

Panel Commenter, “Science and the State II: Cold War Economic Orders,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Toronto, Nov. 2017.

Chair, “Global Ideological Encounters in East Asia,” Global Cultural Encounters Workshop—Between the Material and Immaterial,” U-M, Aug. 2017.

“The UN and the Science of World Community,” Public Lecture, Histories of Internationalism and Regime Change—A Global Perspective, Erfurt University, Germany, June 2017.

“Social Sciences, Democracy, and the American University,” commentary for panel discussion at University of Michigan Bicentennial event, 1917, Feb. 2017.

Conversation with Susan Parrish on *The Flood Year, 1917*, U-M Author’s Forum, Feb. 2017.

“Energy History,” Abrams Sustainability Seminar, U-M, May 2016.

“Climate Change and Crisis in the Middle East,” Co-organizer of mini-conference, U-M, March 2016.

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“Development as a Moral Equivalent of War,” American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference, Seattle, March 2016.

“The Meaning of Spaceship Earth,” Society for the History of American Foreign Relations Annual Conference, Washington D.C., June 2015.

“Placing the Global Environment,” Making Knowledge and the Problem of Place: A Midwest Conference on Science and Technology Studies, Northwestern, May 2015.

“Developing Community: The Postwar Career of Community Development,” 9th Agence Nationale de la Recherche Workshop: Cross-disciplinary Research Ventures in the Post-war American Social Sciences, Center for International Research in the Humanities, NYU, Oct. 2014.

“History in the Anthropocene: The Environment, Natural Sciences, and Planetary Narratives,” Roundtable organizer, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, University of Michigan, Sep. 2014.

“To Battle with the Known Knowns,” Roundtable on Blind Spots in STS, Post-normal STS: University of Michigan Science, Technology, and Society Mini-conference, May 2014.

“Men against the Desert: Arid Lands Research and the Growth of Development,” American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference, San Francisco, March, 2014.

“Arms Control and Climate Change Negotiations: Shared Lessons and Possibilities,” Co-organizer of workshop, Austin, TX, Jan. 2014.

“Developing Community: The Postwar Career of Community Development,” National History Center Sponsored Panel, “The Knowledge of Development: Internationalism, Imperialism, and Social Change,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., Jan. 2014

“The Cold War Origins of Spaceship Earth,” Dark Matters: Contents and Discontents of Cold War Science, Barcelona, May-June 2013.

“Science for Society,” Modernism and the Social Sciences: Anglo-American Exchanges, cc. 1918-1980, Berkeley, May 2013.

“Fabricating Unity: The FAO-Unesco Soil Map of the World,” Climate and Beyond: Knowledge Production about Planet Earth and the Global Environment as Indicators of Social Change,” Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research, Bern, Switzerland, Jan. 2013

“The Post-WWII Organization of the International Community,” Governance Networks, 18th century to Present, Workshop at Institute for Historical Studies, University of Texas, Austin, Dec. 2012.

“Lessons on Lesson Planning” and “Introduction to Perspectives on Science and Math,” 6th Annual UTeach Institute-NSMI Conference, Austin, May 2012.

“Soft Science in Hard Times: Unesco, World Citizenship and the Cold War,” Intellectual History of the Cold War Conference Series, Hamburg Institute for Social Research, Sep. 2010.

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“Biological Populations and Scientific Communities: Unesco’s Statements on Race,” *The Biological Anthropology of Modern Human Populations: World Histories, National Styles, and International Networks*, Wenner Gren Foundation, Teresópolis, Brazil, March 2010.

“Mapping Soils to Cultivate Scientists: The Soil Map of the World and the Politics of Scale in Postwar International Science,” Green College Science and Society Lecture Series, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Jan. 2010; History of Science Colloquium, University of Texas, Oct. 2010.

“The View from Everywhere and the View from Above: Using Science to Build a World Community after World War Two,” Science, Technology, Medicine and Society Colloquium Series, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Oct. 2009.

“The Cautious Optimism of Scientific Propaganda: The University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland Chair of Race Relations,” UNESCO History Conference: UNESCO and Issues of Colonization and Decolonization, Dakar, Oct. 2009.

“The View from Everywhere: Disciplining Diversity in Postwar International Social Science,” Economix: Workshop on History of Economics as History of Science, École Normale Supérieure de Cachan, Paris, June 2009.

“Do Epistemologies Have Politics? Science for a World Community after World War Two,” History and Sociology of Science Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Feb. 2009.

“Men against the Desert: Arid Lands Research and the Growth of Development, 1948-1964,” *Towards a Global History of Development: Interweaving Culture, Politics, Science and the Economy of Aid*, Zurich, Oct. 2008.

“Patterns of Science: The Development of Social and Environmental Sciences in the Postwar International Community,” SSRC-ACLS International Dissertation Research Fellowship Workshop, Albuquerque, Sep. 2008.

“Coordinating the View from Everywhere: From Imperial Science to International Science,” Three Societies History of Science Conference, Oxford, June 2008.

“Cell Culture, Tissue Culture, Organ Culture, Mouse Culture: Alexis Carrel and the Manipulation of Milieu,” Joint Atlantic Seminar for History of Biology, March 2007.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Grant Panel Reviewer, Science, Technology, and Society Program, National Science Foundation.

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Science, Technology and Society Program, University of Michigan (2017-2018)

Co-Chair, Science, Technology, Medicine, and Society Speakers Series, STS Program, University of Michigan (2014-16)

Dissertation Award Prize Committee, Forum for the History of the Human Sciences (2014)

Faculty Sponsor, Environmental History Interest Group, Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop, University of Michigan (2014-)

Peer Reviewer, *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*, Cambridge University Press, *Centaurus*, *Serendipities*, *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, Routledge, *Journal of Policy History*

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Coordinator, History and Sociology of Science Workshop, University of Pennsylvania (Fall 2005-Spring 2007)

Member, History of Science Society

Member, American Society for Environmental History

Member, American Historical Association

Member, Society for the History of American Foreign Relations

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan (2014-)

HIST 197: Stories from Deep Time

HIST 285/RcSSci 275: Science, Technology, Medicine, and Society

HIST/ENVIRON 237: Global Environmental History

HIST/EARTH/ACABS/AAPTIS 238: Zoom: A History of Everything

HIST 401/INTSTD 407: The Conquest of Nature

History 491/ENVIRON 462: Env. Justice HistoryLab: Great Lakes Areas of Concern

HIST 610: Global and World History

HIST 617: Global Environmental History

Hist 619: Knowledge/Power/Practice: Science, Technology, Medicine, and Society

University of Texas

Lecturer, History Department (Spring 2011-Fall 2012)

HIS 329U: Perspectives on Science and Math-UTeach

HIS 350L: The Conquest of Nature

HIS 350L: Science, Technology, and War

HIS 333M: U.S. Foreign Relations, 1914-Present

Graduate Students

Jacques Vest (History, Dissertation Committee, defended March 2018)

Daniel Williford (History, Prelim Committee and Dissertation Committee)

Esther Ladkau (History, Prelim Committee and Dissertation Committee)

Omer Sharir (History, Dissertation Committee)

Xiaoyue Li (History, Dissertation Committee)

Kristen Connor (Anthropology and History, Prelim and Dissertation Committee)

Matthew Villeneuve (History, Prelim Committee)

Diçle Taskin (Architecture, Prelim Committee)

Amit Sadan (History, Prelims and Dissertation Committee)

Ren Chao (History, Prelims and Dissertation Committee)

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Berkeley Biotechnology Education, Inc.

Senior Coordinator of Youth Development and Training (2001-2003)

Cultivated partnerships with biotechnology companies, hospitals, and university laboratories to provide 100 summer internships for high school students and 30 year-long jobs for community college students. Worked with high school and community college teachers and administrators to develop biotechnology-training curriculum for students under-represented in the sciences.

Fremont High School, Oakland Unified School District

English Teacher (1998-2000)

Taught in Health & Bioscience Academy. Developed curriculum for high school juniors that enhanced reading and writing skills while exploring themes in the history and philosophy of

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biology. Taught freshmen through juniors reading, writing, and oral communication skills through project-based learning.

Literacy Coach (1999-2000)

Organized school-wide literacy program to improve reading comprehension. Led inter-departmental teacher training workshops. Participated in developing district and state reading and writing standards.

ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS AND AWARDS

“Failing Our Kids: The View from the Bottom Quartile,” *East Bay Express*, 28 Apr. 2000, 7.

“Reform This!” *East Bay Express*, 7 May 1999, 7.

George Washington Carver Award for “exemplary service and personal sacrifice and innovative leadership in connecting youth to the world of science,” Berkeley Biotechnology Education, Inc., Dec. 2002.