Christopher M. MacMahon

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EDUCATION

University of California Santa Barbara

Ph.D. History In Progress

Dissertation: “Riparian Revolt: Ecological Change and Water Policy in Early Nevada, 1850-1890.

Fields: History of the American West, United States History, Environmental History, Public History  
Interdisciplinary Emphasis in the Environment and Society

University of California Santa Barbara

M.A. History 2018

California State University Channel Islands

B.A. History 2015

Magna Cum Laude

Capstone Thesis: “Mystery on the Mainline: What Wrecked the *City of San Francisco*?”

AWARDS

Donald Van Gelderen Memorial Award 2020

UCSB History Department Dissertation Fellowship 2020

Wilbur R. Jacobs Prize 2019

Charles Redd Fellowship Award in Western American History 2019

Excellence in Teaching Award: Honorable Mention 2019  
History Program Honors 2016  
Interdisciplinary Learning Community Grant 2015  
President of the United States’ Call to Service Award 2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of California Santa Barbara

Adjunct Instructor— “History of the American West” Summer 2020

Developed syllabus and overall course structure, and administered all grades.

Graduate Teaching Assistant 2018-Present

Courses: American People, 1490-1830; American People, 1830-1920; American People, 1920-Present;  
World History, 1500-Present; Great Issues in the History of Public Policy; History of the Middle East, 1800-Present

Collaborated on curriculum and exam development, met with students upon request, and graded all written work, including final exam papers.  
  
Santa Barbara City College

Adjunct Instructor— “History of the United States, 1865-Present” 2019, 2020

Developed syllabus and overall course structure, and administered all grades.  
  
Adjunct Instructor— “History of the United States, 1490-1865” 2020-Present

Developed syllabus and overall course structure, and administered all grades.

PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS

“Mystery on the Mainline: What Wrecked the City of San Francisco?”

*Nevada Historical Quarterly* 2016

“Age of Sail,” “Bikini Atoll (Nuclear Pacific),” and “Zheng He” in

*The World’s Oceans and Geography, History, and Environment* 2018

Conference Presentations

“Tapping Tahoe: Water Policy and 19th Century Pipe Dreams”

Western History Association October 2020

“Riparian Revolt” in Graduate Student Lightning Round

Western History Association October 2020

“Podcasting for Museums”

University of California Irvine Public Humanities Graduate Conference Cancelled, COVID-19

“All the Good Land: Environmental Impacts of Early Nevada Settlement”

Western History Association 2019

“All the Good Land: Environmental Impacts of Early Nevada Settlement”

Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association 2019

“Mystery on the Mainline: What Wrecked the City of San Francisco?”

Nevada Historical Society Bi-Annual Conference 2015

Invited Speaker

“Transnationalism and the Transcontinental Railroad”

Southern Pacific Historical and Technical Society October 2020

“Transnationalism and the Transcontinental Railroad”

Northeastern Nevada Museum 2019

“Transnationalism and the Transcontinental Railroad”

Nevada State Railroad Museum 2019

Professional organizations

Goleta Valley Historical Society

Secretary of the Board of Directors 2019-Present

Oversee organization’s short and long-term goals; assist in the creation and implementation of organization’s annual budget; develop and administer projects in coordination with organization staff; maintain organizational records; draft and distribute minutes for all board meetings; assist in the production of organization’s webpage; and collect and respond to official organization correspondence. Co-supervise site director as part of the board of directors.

**Education Committee Chair**Call, organize, and lead all education committee meetings; create educational programs for the organization and oversee their implementation to ensure learning outcomes are met.

Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum

Secretary of the Board of Trustees 2011-2013

Maintain organizational records; draft and distribute minutes for all board meetings; and collect and respond to official organization correspondence.

Member of the Board of Trustees 2007-2013

Oversee organization’s short and long-term goals; assist in the creation and implementation of organization’s annual budget; develop and administer projects in coordination with Museum staff.

Youth Programs Committee Chair 2007-2013

Developed and implemented program to recruit, educate, and train young adults to volunteer at the museum; worked with regional school districts to ensure program participants received academic credit in accordance with their service.

**Volunteer 1996-Present**Steam train operations; museum docent; educational programs