RICHARD J. ROSS

312 W. Nevada Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801
(217) 344-2856

College of Law and Department of History
University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign)
504 E. Pennsylvania Avenue
Champaign, Illinois 61820
(217) 244-7890
Email: Rjross@illinois.edu

Academic Appointments

David C. Baum Professor of Law and Professor of History, College of Law and Department of History, University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign), 2017 to present; Professor of Law and History, 2004-2017; Associated Faculty, Program in Jewish Culture and Society 2013 to present.
- Director, Legal History Program
- Thomas M. Mengler Faculty Scholar (2006-2008)

Visiting Professor of Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School (Fall 2008 and Fall 2009)

Visiting Professor of Law, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel (May 2012)

Visiting Professor of Law, Tel Aviv University, Israel (May-June 2015)

Associate Professor of Law and History, Law School and Department of History, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2003-2004; Assistant professor, 2001-2003; Governing faculty for undergraduate Legal Studies program, 2001-2004

Associate Professor of Law, Indiana University School of Law, Indianapolis, 1999-2001

Assistant Professor of Law, University of Chicago Law School, 1993-99; Visiting assistant professor, 1992-93.

Education

Yale Graduate School, Ph.D., History Department (1987-1993, 1998): "The Commoning of the Common Law: Print, Memory, and the Intellectual History of Legal Communications, 1520-1640." (Dissertation advisor: John Demos)

Yale Law School, 1985-1989; J.D., May 1989
Symposium Editor and Senior Editor, Yale Law Journal (1987-88).

Yale University, 1980-1984; B.A., May 1984
Summa Cum Laude; Distinction in the history major; Phi Beta Kappa

Books

Justice in a New World: Negotiating Legal Intelligibility in British, Iberian, and Indigenous America (NYU Press, 2018) (volume of essays, co-edited with Brian P. Owensby)

Legal Pluralism and Empires, 1500-1850 (NYU Press, 2013) (volume of essays, co-edited with Lauren Benton)

Making an English Legal World: Anglicization of Law in America, Ireland, and India, 1540–1800 (under contract, Oxford University Press) (with Jane Ohlmeyer and Philip Stern)

The American Rule of Law: A Comparative History (under contract, Yale University Press) (with Steven Wilf)

Articles, Chapters, and Reviews

"Anglicization of and through Law: British North America, Ireland, and India Compared, 1540-1800," Journal of Modern History (in press, 2026) (with Jane Ohlmeyer and Philip Stern)

"Legal Orders," in The Cambridge History of the American Revolution, Volume 1: Revolutionary Contexts, eds. Marjoleine Kars, Michael McDonnell, and Andrew M. Schocket (Cambridge, 2026), I, 513-33 (with Steven Wilf)

"Making Law Intelligible in Comparative Context," in Justice in a New World: Negotiating Legal Intelligibility in British, Iberian, and Indigenous America, ed. Brian P. Owensby and Richard J. Ross (New York, 2018), 1-58 (with Brian P. Owensby)

"As Estruturas Administrativas, Jurídicas e Legais no Atlântico Norte" ["Administrative, Juridical, and Legal Structures in the North Atlantic"], in Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, Luiz Estevam de Oliveira Fernandes, and Maria Cristina Bohn Martins, eds., As Américas na Primeira Modernidade (1492-1750) (São Paulo: Editora Prismas, 2018), II, 181-211 [translated into Portuguese]

"Binding in Conscience: Early Modern English Protestants and Spanish Thomists on Law and the Fate of the Soul," Law and History Review 33 (2015): 803-37.

"Spanish American and British American Law as Mirrors to Each Other: Implications of the Missing *Derecho Británico Indiano*," in New Horizons in Spanish Colonial Law: Contributions to Transnational Early Modern Legal History, ed. Thomas Duve and Heikki Pihlajamäki (Frankfurt: Max Planck Institute for European Legal History, 2015), 9-28.

"Reconstructing Early Modern Notions of Legal Pluralism," in Legal Pluralism and Empires, 1500-1850, ed. Lauren Benton and Richard J. Ross (New York, 2013), 109-41 (with Philip Stern)

"Empires and Legal Pluralism: Jurisdiction, Sovereignty, and Political Imagination in the Early Modern World," in Legal Pluralism and Empires, 1500-1850, ed. Lauren Benton and Richard J. Ross (New York, 2013), 1-17 (with Lauren Benton).

"Bargaining with the Soul at Stake: Early Modern Catholic Scholastics and Contract Law": Review of Wim Decock, Theologians and Contract Law: The Moral Transformation of the Ius Commune (ca. 1500-1650) (2012), in Jotwell Legal History Section [online review: http://legalhist.jotwell.com/]

"Distinguishing Eternal from Transient Law: Natural Law and the Judicial Laws of Moses," Past and Present 217 (2012): 79-115.

"The Relationship of Labor, Law, and Civic Identity in the British and Spanish Empires," William and Mary Quarterly 68 (2011): 707-12 (with Tamar Herzog).

"Seventeenth Century Law," in American Centuries, ed. John Demos (New York, 2011), 177-83.

Review of Lauren Benton, A Search for Sovereignty: Law and Geography in European Empires, 1400-1900 (2010), in Law and History Review 28 (2010): 1113-16.

Review of Christopher Brooks, Law, Politics and Society in Early Modern England (Cambridge, 2008), in Law and History Review 28 (2010): 538-40.

"Puritan Godly Discipline in Comparative Perspective: Legal Pluralism and the Sources of 'Intensity,'" American Historical Review 113 (2008): 975-1002.

"The Career of Puritan Jurisprudence," Law and History Review 26 (2008): 227-58.

"Legal Communications and Imperial Governance: British North America and Spanish America Compared," in Cambridge History of Law in America, Volume 1: Early America (1580-1815), ed. Christopher L. Tomlins and Michael Grossberg (Cambridge, 2008), 104-143.

Review of Michael Burrage, Revolution and the Making of the Contemporary Legal Profession: England, France, and the United States (Oxford, 2006), in Continuity and Change 23 (2008): 199-200.

Review of J. H. Elliott, Empires of the Atlantic World: Britain and Spain in America 1492-1830 (New Haven, 2006), in Law and History Review 25 (2007): 648-49.

"Communications Revolutions," Encyclopedia of Law and Society: American and Global Perspectives (Sage Publications, 2007), I, 212-14.

"Pre-Revolutionary Popular Constitutionalism and Larry Kramer's The People Themselves," Chicago-Kent Law Review 81 (2006): 905-910.

"The Ancient Constitution in the Old World and the New," in The World of John Winthrop: Essays on England and New England, 1588-1649, ed. Francis J. Bremer and Lynn A. Botelho (Boston, 2005), 237-289 (with James S. Hart).

"Communications Revolutions and Legal Culture: An Elusive Relationship," Law and Social Inquiry 27 (Summer 2002): 637-84
• Reprinted in: Law and Society Approaches to Cyberspace, ed. Paul Schiff Berman (Ashgate Publishing, 2007)

"Introduction: Intersecting Diasporas," William and Mary Quarterly 58 (October 2001): 849-54.

"The Memorial Culture of Early Modern English Lawyers: Memory as Keyword, Shelter and Identity, 1560-1640," Yale Journal of Law and the Humanities 10 (Summer 1998): 229-326.

"The Commoning of the Common Law: The Renaissance Debate over Printing English Law, 1520-1640," University of Pennsylvania Law Review 146 (January 1998): 323-461.

Review of A. G. Roeber, Palatines, Liberty, and Property: German Lutherans in Colonial British America (Baltimore, 1993), in Law and History Review 14 (Spring 1996): 170-173.

"The Legal Past of Early New England: Notes for the Study of Law, Legal Culture, and Intellectual History," William and Mary Quarterly 50 (1993): 28-41.

"Reflections on the Magic Mirror," review of Kermit L. Hall, The Magic Mirror: Law in American History (Oxford, 1989), in Ius Commune 18 (1991): 287-295.

Works in Progress

"The Rule of Law in British America: Thinking with Indians While Comparing to Spaniards"

"The Rule of Law and the *Estado de Derecho* in British and Spanish America"

Interviews and Podcasts

"Creating 'The People': Whig Legal Concepts Plus Lessons from Ireland and Spanish America," in "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness: 250 Years of the Declaration of Independence," podcast conducted by Andrew Sola and Amerikazentrum-Hamburg (with Steven Wilf) (October 2025). Available at:
https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/creating-the-people-whig-legal-concepts-plus-lessons/id1794790853?i=1000734180600
https://open.spotify.com/episode/1xjk3MXqxfeCPreoEzNgIx?si=6f56503a7d2847e1&nd=1&dlsi=5070e42ffea643e0
https://www.youtube.com/@DeclarationofIndependence250

Toynbee Prize Foundation interview conducted by Nicholas Michael Chow Sy on *Justice in a New World* (2018) (with Brian Owensby) (April 2020). Transcript of the interview at: https://toynbeeprize.org/posts/justice-in-the-new-world-an-interview-with-brian-owensby-and-richard-ross/

New Books Network podcast interview conducted by Ryan Tripp on *Justice in a New World* (2018) (with Brian Owensby) (September 2018). https://newbooksnetwork.com/b-p-owensby-and-r-j-ross-justice-in-a-new-world-negotiating-legal-intelligibility-in-british-iberian-and-indigenous-america-nyu-press-2018/

Awards and Prizes

Carroll P. Hurd Award for Excellence in Faculty Scholarship (2013) (Presented by the University of Illinois College of Law for the best article published by a faculty member in the previous year. Awarded for "Distinguishing Eternal from Transient Law")

Sutherland Prize, Honorable Mention (1999) (Presented by the American Society for Legal History for the best article on English legal history published in the previous calendar year. Awarded for "Memorial Culture of Early Modern English Lawyers")

Best New Professor Award, Indiana University School of Law, Indianapolis (1999-2000) (Presented by vote of the student body for achievement in teaching)

Conferences Organized

Founder and Director, Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, Newberry Library (Chicago) [beginning in fall 2005, the Symposium will present every year or two a conference that gathers law professors, historians, and social scientists to explore a particular topic in comparative legal history in the early modern period, broadly defined (c.1492-1815)].

Organized: "Law, Theology, and the Moral Regulation of 'Economy' in the Early-Modern Atlantic World," Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, Newberry Library, Chicago (co-organized with Brian Owensby) (March 2022)

Organized: "Arguing for the Rule of Law: Using the Hebrew Bible and Caricatures of Foreigners in British and Spanish America," Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, Newberry Library, Chicago (co-organized with Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra) (October 2018)

Organized: "Anglicization of Law and through Law: Early Modern British North America, India, and Ireland Compared," Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History,

Newberry Library, Chicago (co-organized with Jane Ohlmeyer and Philip Stern) (April 2016)

Organized: "Meanings of Justice in New World Empires: Settler and Indigenous Law as Counterpoints," Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, Newberry Library, Chicago (co-organized with Brian Owensby) (October 2014)

Organized: "Law and the French Atlantic," Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, Newberry Library, Chicago (co-organized with Allan Greer) (October 2012)

Organized: "The Struggle for Land: Property, Territory, and Jurisdiction in Early Modern Europe and the Americas," Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, Newberry Library, Chicago (co-organized with Tamar Herzog) (April 2011)

Organized: "New Perspectives on Legal Pluralism," Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, Newberry Library, Chicago (co-organized with Lauren Benton) (April 2010)

Organized: "The Law of Nations and the Early Modern Atlantic World," Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, Newberry Library, Chicago (co-organized with Eliga Gould) (April 2009)

Organized: "Law, Religion, and Social Discipline in the Early Modern Atlantic World," Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, Newberry Library, Chicago (October 2006)

Organized: "Membership in Communities and States in the Early Modern Atlantic World: Legal Rules, Social Judgments, and the Negotiation of Citizenship," Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, Newberry Library, Chicago (October 2005)

Organized: "Owning Knowledge: The History of Modern U.S. Intellectual Property Law," Institute for Legal Studies, University of Wisconsin Law School (November 2004)

Organized: "Law, Family, and State Organization in the Early Modern Atlantic World," Institute for Legal Studies, University of Wisconsin Law School (November 2002)

Workshop and Conference Presentations

"Anglicization of and through Law: British North America, Ireland, and India Compared, 1540-1800" (written with Jane Ohlmeyer and Philip Stern). Presented at:
- Legal History Workshop, Tel Aviv Law School (April 2025)
- Keynote Address, Legal Histories of Empire Conference, Maynooth University, Ireland (June 2022)
- Empires and Atlantics Forum, University of Chicago (March 2022)

• Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture, annual conference (June 2021)
• Legal History Workshop, Stanford Law School (October 2019)

Commentator, "Authors Meet Readers: State-Building in the Early Modern World: Qing China and Beyond," American Society for Legal History conference (October 2023)

"The Rule of Law in British America: Thinking with Indians While Comparing to Spaniards" Presented at:
• Comparing Early Modern Colonial Laws series, Faculty of Law, University of Helsinki, Finland (April 2023)
• The Max-Planck Lecture in Legal History and Legal Theory, Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory, Frankfurt, Germany (June 2022)
• Center for the Study of Law and Society, University of California, Berkeley School of Law (November 2020)
• British Legal History Conference, University of St. Andrews, Scotland (July 2019)
• Legal History Workshop, American Bar Foundation, Chicago (March 2019)
• Institute for Advanced Study, Hebrew University, Israel (March 2019)
• American Society for Legal History, annual conference (November 2018)
• Conference on "Arguing for the Rule of Law: Using the Hebrew Bible and Caricatures of Foreigners in British and Spanish America," Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, Newberry Library, Chicago (October 2018)

Commentator, "Global Histories of Normative Knowledge," American Society for Legal History conference (November 2022)

"Panel Discussion: The Future of Legal Humanities," University of Illinois Humanities Research Institute (February 2022)

"Christian Hebraism and the Problem of Legal Pluralism," Jewish Law Students's "Lunch and Learn," University of Illinois College of Law (November 2021)

Commentator, Andrea Katz paper on "The Lost Promise of Progressive Formalism," Faculty Workshop, University of Illinois College of Law (February 2021)

"Revolutionary Mobilization and Eighteenth-Century Legal Orders—Learned, Vernacular, and Comparative" (written with Steven Wilf), Early American History Graduate Seminar, SMU (December 2020)

Commentator, "The Legal Origins of European Humanitarianism, c. 1500–c. 1800," American Society for Legal History conference (November 2019)

"The 'Rule of Law' and the '*Estado de Derecho'* in British and Spanish America." Presented at:
• Legal History Workshop, University of Minnesota Law School (November 2017)
• Conference on "Law and Empire in the Longue Durée," Downing College, Cambridge University (March 2018)

Commentator and Chair, "Sino-Western Encounters in Transnational Legal History: Reframing the Intercultural Politics of Law," American Society for Legal History conference (October 2016)

Commentator on Adam Hofri, "How Harmful is Trust Proliferation?," Comparative Law Work-in-Progress Workshop, University of Illinois College of Law (April 2016)

"Binding in Conscience: Early Modern English Protestants and Spanish Thomists on Law and the Fate of the Soul." Presented at:
- Legal History Workshop, University of Haifa Law School, Israel (June 2015)
- Legal History Workshop, Tel Aviv University Law School, Israel (May 2015)
- Constitutional Agendas Symposium, Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, Israel (May 2015)
- Faculty Workshop, University of Indiana-Indianapolis Law School (November 2014)
- Conference on "Between Courts and Communities: Placing Legal Practices from Asia to the Americas," University of Wisconsin Law School (March 2014)

Speaker, Panel on "Negotiation and Law in Latin American History: New Connections," Midwest Workshop on Latin American History, University of Illinois (April 2015)

Commentator, Panel on "An Experimental Test of Civil Recourse Theory," University of Illinois College of Law Faculty Retreat (May 2014)

Speaker, "Panel Discussion on Academic Boycotts of Israel," American Association of University Professors, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (May 2014)

"The Beginnings of Law in America: A Comparative Study." Presented at:
- Legal Studies Workshop, University of Wisconsin Law School (March 2014)
- McNeil Center Salon, University of Pennsylvania (January 2010)

Commentator and Chair, Panel on "Entangled Legal Histories: Following Threads Between Europe and the US," American Society for Legal History annual conference (November 2013).

Commentator and Conference "Wrap Up" Speaker, Conference on "New World(s) of Faith: Religion and Law in Historical Perspective, 1500-2000," University of Pennsylvania Law School (June 2013)

"Spanish American Law in Transnational Perspective: A View from the British Empire," conference on "New Horizons of Spanish Colonial Law," Max Planck Institute for European Legal History, Berlin, Germany (June 2012)

"Modern and Early Modern Notions of Legal Pluralism." Presented at:
- American Society for Legal History, annual conference (November 2012)
- Van Leer Institute Workshop, Jerusalem, Israel (June 2012)

• Legal History Workshop, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel (May 2012)
• Legal History Workshop and Global British History Workshop, Triangle research universities (Duke University, University of North Carolina, North Carolina State) (January 2012)
• Research Incubator, University of Illinois College of Law (June 2011)

"Distinguishing Eternal and Transient Law in Early Modern England: The Judicial Laws of Moses and Natural Law." Presented at:
• Shalem Center Faculty Seminar, Jerusalem, Israel (May 2012)
• Law School Faculty Colloquium, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel (May 2012)
• British Legal History Conference, University of Cambridge, England (July 2011)
• Faculty Retreat, University of Illinois College of Law (May 2011)
• Yale Legal History Forum (March 2010)
• Harvard Legal History Colloquium (March 2010)

"The Relationship of Labor, Law, and Civic Identity in the British and Spanish Empires: A Comment on Christopher Tomlins' Freedom Unbound," presented at a conference on "The Struggle for Land: Property, Territory, and Jurisdiction in Early Modern Europe and the Americas," Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, Newberry Library, Chicago (April 2011)

"The Interdisciplinary Study of Law and History," Center for Jewish Life and Contemporary Civilization, Cardozo Law School (March 2011)

Commentator and Chair, Panel on "The Development of Legal Pluralism in the British Empire from the Seventeenth through Nineteenth Centuries," conference on "New Perspectives on Legal Pluralism," organized by Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, Newberry Library, Chicago (April 2010)

Keynote Address: "Law: Continuity and Change in the Early Modern Period," Early Modern Workshop in Jewish History, Yeshiva University, New York (August 2008)

Commentator, Conference on Legal Transplantations, Institute for Advanced Study, Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University, Israel (June 2008)

"Puritan Godly Discipline in Comparative Perspective: Legal Pluralism and the Sources of 'Intensity.'" Presented at:
• Early Modern Studies Workshop, University of Pennsylvania History Department (October 2008)
• Ad Hoc Workshop, University of Pennsylvania Law School (October 2008)
• New York University Legal History Colloquium (August 2008)
• Oxford Legal History Forum, Faculty of Law, Oxford University, England (March 2008)
• British History in the Seventeenth Century Workshop, Institute for Historical Research, London, England (October 2007)
• University of Tel Aviv Legal History Workshop (March 2007)

• Stanford Law School Legal History Workshop (February 2007)
• Center for the Study of Law and Society, Berkeley Law School (February 2007)
• American Society for Legal History, 2006 Meeting (November 2006)
• Conference on "Law, Religion, and Social Discipline in the Early Modern Atlantic World," Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, Newberry Library, Chicago (October 2006)
• Triangle Legal History and Early American History workshops (September 2006)
• Law and Society Association conference (July 2006)

Chaired Panel on "Law and Power in U.S. History," Law and Society Association conference (July 2006)

"Pre-Revolutionary Popular Constitutionalism and Larry Kramer's The People Themselves (2004)," Symposium on Larry Kramer's The People Themselves: Popular Constitutionalism and Judicial Review, Chicago-Kent Law School (November 2005)

Chaired Panel on "Crime and the Law in England, 1750-1850," North American Conference of British Studies (October 2005)

Commentator and Chair, Panel on "Indigenous Peoples, Empire, and Law," 10th Anniversary Conference, Harvard University's International Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World, 1500-1825 (August 2005)

Commentator, Conference on "Britain and Political Mobilization," Nicholson Center for British Studies, University of Chicago History Department (May 2005)

"Legal Communications and Imperial Governance in Colonial British and Spanish America." Presented at:
• London Legal History Seminar, University College, London (December 2007)
• Imperial History workshop, Institute for Historical Research, London, England (November 2007)
• USC Legal History Workshop (October 2007)
• Duke Law School Faculty Workshop (September 2006)
• Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture conference (June 2005)
• Yale Law School Legal History Forum (April 2005)
• University of Connecticut School of Law Faculty Workshop (April 2005)
• University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) Workshops in Early American and Latin American History (October 2004)
• Northwestern Law School (October 2004)
• Midwest Law and Society Retreat (October 2004)
• American Bar Foundation Seminar (May 2004)
• American Society for Legal History, 2003 Meeting (November 2003)

"Legal Communications in the Early Modern Atlantic World." Presented at:
• Conference on "Atlantic Legalities, 1500-1825," Harvard University's International Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World, 1500-1825 (April 2005)

• University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) Workshop in Early Modern European History (April 2005)

Commented on panel entitled, "Law, Family, and State Organization in Early America," for the Law, Family, and State Organization in the Early Modern Atlantic Word conference, University of Wisconsin Law School (November 2002).

"Law as Communication in Early America," Section on Legal History, American Association of Law School's Annual Meeting (January 2001)

Commented on and chaired panel entitled, "Natural Law Thought in British North America," American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting (October 2000)

"The Midwives and Morticians of Puritan Jurisprudence: The Law of Early Massachusetts in History and Historiography." Presented at:
• North American Conference of British Studies (October 2004)
• University of Wisconsin Law School (May 2002)
• Newberry Seminar in Early American History, Newberry Library, Chicago (October 2000)
• Conference on "John Winthrop's Worlds: England and New England, 1588-1649," Millersville University (September 1999).

Commented on legal history panel and participated in concluding round table discussion for a conference on "The Uses of Script and Print, 1300-1700," University of Exeter, England (April 2000)

"Methods and Approaches in Early American Legal History," Northwestern University History Department (December 1999)

"Print and Electronics: The Effect of Communications Revolutions on Legal Culture." Presented at:
• University of Wisconsin Law School (November 1999)
• Indiana University School of Law, Indianapolis (February 2000)
• Chicago-Kent School of Law (February 2000)

Commented on a paper on "Noachic and Natural Law among German-Speakers in Early Modern North America," for a conference on "Jews and Pietists in Dialogue in Enlightenment America," Pennsylvania State University (October 1999)

"Legal Culture and Legal Communications," prepared for a festschrift panel entitled, "Studies in Social-Legal History in Honor of Lawrence Friedman, II: Comparative Legal Cultures," Law and Society Association Annual Meeting (May 1999)

Invited Lecture: Kane Lecture in Legal History, University of Kansas Law School: "History of the Book and the Law: Connections and Opportunities" (October 1998).
Paper also presented at:

- University of Southern California Law School (August 1999)
- Chicago-Kent College of Law (November 1998)

"Authority and Legal Authorship, 1500-1800," American Society for Legal History, 1998 Meeting (October 1998)

Commented on panel, "Writing Law and Laws about Writing," Law, Culture and the Humanities Conference (March 1998)

"The Memorial Culture of Early Modern English Lawyers: Memory as Keyword, Shelter and Identity, 1560-1640." Presented at:
- Yale Law School Legal History Forum (November 1997)
- Georgetown Law School Legal History Workshop (November 1997)
- University of Chicago Law School Work-in-Progress Series (November 1997)
- University of Chicago Legal History Workshop (January 1998)
- Princeton University American Studies Colloquium on Law and Society (February 1998)
- New York University Law School Legal History Workshop (February 1998)

"Why Did Common Lawyers Become Uneasy about the Printing Press a Hundred Years after its Introduction?" Presented at:
- Harvard Law School Legal History Workshop (April 1996)
- New York University Law School Legal History Colloquium (April 1996)
- University of Pennsylvania Legal History Workshop (December 1996)
- University of Chicago Comparative Legal History Workshop (January 1997)
- University of Chicago Law School Work-in-Progress Series (Spring 1997)

"The Intellectual and Political Challenges of Print in Early Modern English Legal Culture," American Society for Legal History, 1995 Meeting.

Commented on panel, "Justice, Honor, and Identity: New Work in North American Legal History," Law and Society Association Annual Meeting (June 1995)

Commented on panel, "Telling the Truth: Evidence in Seventeenth-Century England and America," American Society for Legal History, 1994 Meeting.

Delivered talk on "Trends in American Legal History," Haifa University Law School, Haifa, Israel (July 1994).

Commented on panel, "Seditious Libel and Partisan Politics in Colonial America," American Society for Legal History, 1993 Meeting.

"Law in Early American History," Comparative Legal History Workshop, University of Chicago History Department (October, 1993).

"The Problem of Memory in Early Modern Anglo-American Legal Literature." Presented at:

- American Society for Legal History, 1992 Meeting
- Boston University Law School Legal History Workshop (February 1993)
- American Bar Foundation Workshop (February 1993)

"The Legal Past of Early New England--An Evaluation and Some Suggestions for the Future," New York University Law School Legal History Colloquium (March 1992).

"New Views of the Colonial Legal Past," American Society for Legal History, 1991 Meeting.

Competitive Fellowships

Visiting Research Fellow, American Bar Foundation, Chicago (spring semester 2004)

Fellow, Institute for Research in the Humanities, University of Wisconsin, Madison (fall semester 2003)

Spencer Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, Newberry Library, Chicago (fall semester 2000)

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Postdoctoral Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts (1999-2000) (declined in order to accept the Spencer fellowship)

Law and History Fellowship, Yale Law School (1991-92)

Littleton-Griswold Grant for Research in American Legal History, American Historical Association (1991)

Mellon Fellowship, Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University (1990-91) (enabled graduate students to read social theory outside of their home discipline)

Research Fellowship, Massachusetts Historical Society (1990-91)

Professional Activities and Affiliations

Visiting Scholar, New York University History Department (2009-2010)

Visiting Scholar, Harvard University History Department (1995-96)

Associated Researcher, Institut D'Études Politiques de Paris [Sciences-Po] (2007-2008)

Associate Editor, Law and Society Review (2004-2007); Editorial Advisory Board (2004-2007)

Editorial Board, Law and History Review (2010-2017)

Editorial Board, Comparative Legal History (2012-)

Editorial Board, Oxford Legal History book series (Oxford University Press, 2016-)

Advisory Board, Law and Religion in the Early Modern Period / Recht und Religion in der Frühen Neuzeit book series (Ferdinand Schöningh Press, 2019-22)

Corresponding Editor, e-Legal History Review (2005-) [online legal history journal covering the United States, Latin America, England, France, Germany, Portugal, and Italy; edited by Dr. José Manuel Pérez-Prendes Muñoz-Arraco (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)].

Contributing Editor, Legal History Section, Jotwell [online journal] (2010-2017)

Program Committee, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture annual meeting (2014-15)

Program Committee, American Society for Legal History's Annual Conference (1998-2000, 2016-17, 2018-19)

Selection Committee, John Reid Prize, American Society for Legal History (2012-16, 2017-20; chair, 2014-16, 2018, 2020)

Nominating Committee, American Society for Legal History (2011-14; chair, 2012-13)

Board of Directors, American Society for Legal History (2002-2005, 2019-22; Executive Committee of the Board, 2002-2005, 2021-22)

Selection Committee, Cromwell Prize, American Society for Legal History (2004-09; chair, 2008-09)

Selection committee, Surrency Prize, American Society for Legal History (2000-2003 and 2006-2008; chair, 2000-2003)

Willard Hurst Memorial Fund Committee, American Society for Legal History (2002-2006)

Local Arrangements Committee, American Society for Legal History (2019-20)

Selection Committee, Hurst Prize, Law and Society Association (2004-2005)

Chancellor's Advisory Council on Campus Jewish Life, University of Illinois (2022-24)

Reviewer of book manuscripts for: Cambridge University Press; Oxford University Press; Stanford University Press; Yale University Press

Reviewer of article manuscripts for: American Journal of Legal History; American Literary History; Early American Studies; Journal of the History of Ideas; Journal of Legal

History; Journal of Law and Religion; Law and History Review; Law and Social Inquiry; Law and Society Review; Law, Culture, and the Humanities; Review of Law and Economics; William and Mary Quarterly.

Evaluator of grant proposals for: American Council of Learned Societies; Israel Science Foundation; Killam Program, Canada Council for the Arts; Newberry Library Fellowship Program; University of Leuven [Belgium] Research Council

Visiting Scholar, Research Group on "Rethinking Early Modern Jewish Legal Culture: New Sources, Methodologies and Paradigms," Institute for Advanced Study, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel (February-March, 2019)

Academic Advisory Board, DePaul Center for Jewish Law and Judaic Studies

Co-Coordinator, "Early America and the Atlantic World" Workshop and Reading Group, University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) (with Max Edelson) (2005-2008)

Faculty Senate, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (2013-15) (elected by College of Law)

Faculty Senate, University of Wisconsin, Madison (2001-2004) (elected by History Department)

Governance Committee, Center for Law, Society, and Justice, University of Wisconsin, Madison (2001-2004)

Executive Committee, Legal History Section, American Association of Law Schools (2000-2003)

Awarded Ross and Helen Workman Law Research Grant, University of Illinois College of Law (2005)

Member of Connecticut Bar since 1989

Courses Taught

Property

Trusts and Estates

American Legal and Constitutional History

The Legal Cultures of Early America, 1600-1760

The Rule of Law

Research Seminar in American legal history