

SHAWN WILLIAM MILLER

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EDUCATION

Columbia University, New York City, New York

Doctor of Philosophy, History, February 1997
Distinguished Dissertation, 1997
Emphasis: Latin America, Brazil, Environment; Herbert S. Klein, advisor
Minor: Colonial U.S; Richard L. Bushman, advisor

Master of Arts, History, May 1992

Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

Bachelor of Arts, History, May 1990

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Brigham Young University

Associate Dean, Research, College of Family Home and Social Sciences, 2012-2015

Department Chair, Department of History, 2007-2010

Associate Chair, Department of History, 2003-2005

Associate Professor, Department of History, 2003-

Assistant Professor, 1997-2003

Mesa State College, Grand Junction, CO

Lecturer, Fall 1996

Drew University, Madison, NJ

Adjunct Lecturer, Spring 1994

CURRENT RESEARCH

Books

Panamericana: Bridges and Walls along the Long Unfinished Pan-American Highway

A Mobile Commons: Public Transportation in an Urbanizing Latin America

PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Street is Ours: Community, the Car, and the Nature of Public Space in Rio de Janeiro. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2018. 345 pp.

An Environmental History of Latin America. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007. 257 pp.

Awarded the 2008 Melville Book Prize for the best book on environmental history by the Conference on Latin American History.

In Korean: Title 오래된 신세계 다음 단계의 문명을 위하여 [The Old New World: Tropical American Civilization's Next Stage] Publisher: 너머북스 [Neomeobugseu], 2013.

In Chinese. Cambridge University Press and JianSu People's Publishing House, forthcoming July 2019.

Fruitless Trees: Portuguese Conservation and Brazil's Colonial Timber. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2000. 325 pp.

In Portuguese: *Árvores sem frutas: conservação Portuguesa e a madeira Brasileira colonial.* Translation rights purchased by Editora da Universidade do Sagrado Coração, São Paulo. No date yet projected.

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Chapters

“Automotive Enclosures. The “Nature” of Rio de Janeiro’s Streets and the Elite Domination of the Urban Commons, 1900–1960,” *Zeithistorische Forschungen / Studies in Contemporary History* 14:3 (2017): 487-510.

- “Minding the Gap: Pan-Americanism’s Highway, American Environmentalism, and Remembering the Failure to Close the Darién Gap,” *Environmental History* 19, no. 2 (2014): 189-216.
- “Latin America in Global Environmental History.” in *A Companion to Global Environmental History*, edited by J. R. McNeill, 116-31. Oxford: Blackwell Wiley Publishers, 2012.
- “‘Turning the Order of Nature on its Head:’ The Tropical American Origins of Modern Global Agriculture.” *Macalester International* 26 (Spring 2010): 73-93.
- “Stilt-root Subsistence: Colonial Mangrove Conservation and Brazil’s Free Poor.” *Hispanic American Historical Review* 83:2 (May 2003): 223-53.
- “O ensaio econômico e político sobre o Pará: uma crítica anônima.” *Revista do Instituto Histórico e Geográfico Brasileiro* 162 (January-March, 2001): 259-95.
- “Merchant Shipbuilding in Late-Colonial Brazil: The Evidence for a Substantial Private Industry.” *Colonial Latin American Historical Review* 9 (Winter 2000): 101-35.
- “Fuelwood in Colonial Brazil: The Economic Consequences of Fuel Depletion for the Bahian Recôncavo, 1549-1820.” In *Agriculture, Resource Exploitation, and Environmental Change*. Edited by Helen Wheatley, 135-59. Aldershot, Hampshire, Great Britain: Variorum, 1997.
- “Manoel Ayres de Casal. *Corografia brasileira, ou Relação histórico-geográfica do reino do Brazil*, (Rio de Janeiro: Imprensa Régia, 1817).” In *I Found It at the JCB: Scholars and Sources*, 132-33. Providence, RI: The John Carter Brown Library, 1996.
- “A madeira combustível na Bahia colonial: consequências sociais e econômicas da escassez de combustível, 1549-1820.” *Estudos Econômicos* [Universidade de São Paulo] 25 (January-April 1995): 115-45.
- “Fuelwood in Colonial Brazil: the Economic and Social Consequences of Fuel Depletion for the Bahian Recôncavo, 1549-1820.” *Forest & Conservation History* 38 (October 1994): 181-92.

Book Reviews

Review of David E. West. *Darwin’s Man in Brazil: The Evolving Science of Fritz Muller* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2016), in *Environmental*

History, April 2018.

Featured review of Stuart B. Schwartz, *Sea of Storms: A History of Hurricanes in the Greater Caribbean from Columbus to Katrina* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2015), in *The American Historical Review* 121 (2), (April 2016): 532-34.

Review of Martha Few & Zeb Tortorici, eds., *Centering Animals in Latin American History* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2013), in *The American Historical Review* 119 (2014): 1312–1314.

Review of Nicholas A. Robins, *Mercury, Mining, and Empire: The Human and Ecological Cost of Colonial Silver Mining in the Andes* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2011), in *The American Historical Review* 117: (2012): 1639-1640.

“Flying the Yellow Jack: Microbes in Defense of America.” A titled, extended review of J. R. McNeill, *Mosquito Empires: Ecology and War in the Greater Caribbean, 1620-1914* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010), in *Reviews in American History* 40 (March 2012): 1-5.

Review of Thomas D. Rogers, *The Deepest Wounds: A Labor and Environmental History of Sugar in Northeastern Brazil* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010), in *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 42 (Winter 2012): 489-91.

Review of Reinaldo Funes Monzote, *From Rainforest to Cane Field in Cuba: An Environmental History since 1492* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008), in *Colonial Latin American Review*, 18 (1) (March 2009): 142-43.

Review of Kenneth Maxwell, *Conflicts and Conspiracies: Brazil and Portugal, 1750-1808* (New York: Routledge, 2004), in *The Historian* 68 (Spring 2006), 152-53.

Review of E. N. Anderson and Felix Medina Tzuc, *Animals and the Maya in Southeast Mexico* (Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press, 2005), in *Ethnohistory* 53 (Fall 2006), 784-85.

Review of Hugh Raffles, *In Amazonia: A Natural History* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2002), in *Environmental History* 8 (October 2003), 685-86.

Reference

“Rubber.” In *The World History Encyclopedia*. Edited by Alfred J. Andrea.

Oxford: ABC-Clio, 2008.

“Dyes and Dyewoods;” “*Engenhos* [Sugar Mills];” “Environment and Conservation;” “Rubber;” “Ships and Shipbuilding;” all in *Iberia and the Americas: Culture, Politics, and History*. 3 Vols. Edited by J. Michael Francis. Oxford: ABC-Clio, 2005.

Other

“Voting Should Not Be a Burden,” op-ed, *Deseret News*, Nov. 7, 2018.

“Utah Doesn't Have Much Farmland — How Can the State Conserve It?” op-ed, *Deseret News*, June 2, 2018.

“Preserving our Remaining Farmland,” op-ed, *Daily Herald* (Provo, Utah), March 13, 2015.

[“They Shall Ask the Way to Zion,” \[August 13, 2010\] *Speeches: Brigham Young University, 2010-2011*,” Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University, 2011.](#)

“Queen of Mountain Biking: The Tabeguache Trail,” *Colorado Mountain West* (March-April 1997).

Conference Papers

“The Congested Common: Brazil’s Military and the Contest for the Utilities of Rio de Janeiro’s Streets, 1964-1974,” 7 January 2017, Denver, CO. American Historical Association Conference.

“Asphalt under the Anthropocene: The ‘Nature’ of Urban Space in Rio de Janeiro through the Automotive Transition, 1870-1930.” Paper presented at “Manufacturing Landscapes—Nature and Technology in Environmental History,” at Renmin University, Beijing, China, May 28-31, 2015. Sponsored by the Rachel Carson Center, Munich.

“The Street’s Last Hurrah: Competing Motives and Contesting Spaces on Rio de Janeiro’s Avenida Central, 1903-1920.” April 4, 2013, Toronto, Conference of the American Society for Environmental History. Panel “Between the Park and the Shantytown: Latin American Cities and the Environment during the Twentieth Century.”

“Spaces in Time: Rio de Janeiro’s *Logradouro* and the Meanings of Public Space before the Automotive Age.” Paper presented at “Rethinking Brazilian History,” a Conference in Honor of Boris Fausto, May, 21, 2010, Stanford

University.

“Leaps of Faith across the Continental Gap: Ecological Causes for the Failure to Complete the Pan-American Highway.” 8 January 2010, San Diego. American Historical Association Conference. Panel Organizer: “Coastal Fisheries, Island Cities, and Continental Boundaries: Pan-American Dreams and Environmental Realities in Latin America”.

“Cuffing the Invisible Hand: Mercantilism and Monopoly as a Distinct, Conservationist Resource-Use Mode in Colonial Latin America.” 5 August 2009, Copenhagen, World Congress of Environmental History [joint meeting of the American Society for Environmental History and the European Society for Environmental History]

“Stilt-root Subsistence and Grass Roots Conservation: Brazil’s Mangrove Forests, 1550-1850.” 16 March 2000, Tacoma, Washington. Conference of the American Society for Environmental History.

“To Build, or Not to Build: The Suitability of Constructing Ocean-going vessels in Brazil for the Portuguese Marine,” 28 May 1998, Lisbon, Portugal. “Discovery, New Frontiers, and Expansion in the Luso-Iberian World,” hosted by the Mediterranean Studies Association.

“Tropical Brazilian Timber and the Portuguese Seaborne Empire, 1600-1800.” 15 May 1998, Charleston, South Carolina. “The Evolution of the Portuguese Atlantic: Quincentenary Reflections, 1498-1998,” hosted by the College of Charleston's Program in the Carolina Low Country and the Atlantic World.

Invited Talks

Brigham Young University: “Putting the Car in Carnival: Early Impacts of the Car on Rio de Janeiro’s Festive Streets,” Jan. 29, 2014, Provo, UT. Presented in the series “Brazil Beneath the Surface,” for the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

Columbia University: “A Destiny So Manifest: Pan-Americanism, American Environmentalism, and the Failure to Pave the Darien Gap,” 28 November, 2011, New York, NY. Presented in honor of Professor Herbert S. Klein.

Rice University: “Community on Cobblestone: Rio de Janeiro’s Streets as Public Space before the Automotive Age.” 26 January 2011, Houston, Texas. Invited lecture to College of Humanities faculty and students.

Macalester College: “‘Turning the Order of Nature on its Head:’ The Tropical American Origins of Modern Global Agriculture.” 9 October 2009, Saint Paul, MN. “Global Environment: The Eleventh Hour?” Macalester College 16th International Roundtable.

Stanford University: “Natural Monopolies: Brazilwood, Whales, and Diamonds and the Unintended Conservationism of Royal Greed in Colonial Brazil.” 23 October 2007, Stanford University. Invited talk given to the Stanford University Department of History and Bolívar House for Latin American Studies.

University of Utah: “Brazil's Mangroves and Colonial Peasants: Pushing Back the Origins and Reconsidering the Motives of New World Conservation.” 7 November 2007, University of Utah. Invited talk given for the Environmental History of Latin America Lecture, sponsored by the Latin American Studies Program, the History Department, the Tanner Humanities Center, and the Environmental Humanities Program.

Brigham Young University, Department of Biology: “History Meets Ecology: Human Dependence on Swamplands in Colonial Rio de Janeiro.” 2 November 2007.

Brigham Young University, Rey L. Pratt Center for Latin American Studies: “Mangroves as Sources of Subsistence and Ecological Conflict in Colonial Brazil.” 14 September, 2000. Brigham Young University.

TEACHING

Courses Taught

History 200—The Historian's Craft
History 202—World Civilizations since 1500
History 251—Conquest and Colonization of Latin America
History 252—Modern Latin America
History 290—Nature and History: The Earth's Environmental Past
History 356—History of Brazil
History 390R—The City in Brazil: A Very Urban History (in preparation)
History 390R—Human and Urban Biographies of Spain (Spain Study Abroad)
History 490—Historical Research and Writing
History 495R—Directed Research (various topics)
History 498R—Directed Readings (various topics)
LAS 211—Introduction to Latin American Studies (team-taught)

Course Written

History 202—World Civilizations since 1500, Independent Study, Brigham Young University, 2000; revised 2006, 2011, 2019.

Class Project

“*Lloyd’s Register* as a Statistical Source for late 18th and early 19th century Atlantic Shipping: an Electronic Database.” Completed, multi-year, in-class project with my History 200 sections. One article published.

Teaching Improvement

Faculty General Education Academy on Teaching and Learning, 2001.

Seminar for Teaching Advanced Writing in the Disciplines, 27 Apr-1 May 1998, which focused on the role of writing as a learning tool critical to sound thinking.

Various workshops and presentations organized by the College of Family Home and Social Sciences, Brigham Young University.

Honors Theses Advised

Lauren Wake, “Faith-based Utilitarianism: Early LDS Perceptions of the Salt Lake Valley,” Honors Thesis, Brigham Young University, Dept. of History, May 2017.

Douglas Larsen, “Intervention, Mormons and the Orozco Revolution,” Honors Thesis, Brigham Young University, Dept. of History, June 1999.

Dean Cecil Bahr, “Brazilian Energy Policy in the Twentieth Century,” Honors Thesis, Brigham Young University, Department of History.

Workshop

“Teaching Environmental History.” Presented at the University of Utah to the faculty of the Department of History, the Latin American Studies Program, and the Environmental Humanities Program, November 7, 2007.

CITIZENSHIP

Department

Faculty Student Mentoring Supervisor, 2016-

Chair, Rank & Status Committee, 2015-2016

Department Chair, 2007-2010

Rank & Status Committee, 2006-2007

Associate Chair, 2003-2005

Undergraduate Coordinator, 2002-2003

Policy Advisory and Curriculum Committee, 2000-2003

Chair, Campbell Fellowship Search Committee, 2001-2002

Campbell Fellowship Search Committee, 2000-2001

Chair, Latin America Caucus, 2000-2002

Chair, Subcommittee for Teaching Assistant Reforms, 1999-2000

“Russell B. Swensen Lecture” Committee, 1999-2000

Latin America Search Committee, 1999-2000

Collegiality Committee, 1997-1999

Chaired and served on various search committees

College

Chair, Committee to Assess the Implementation of the Family, Home, and Social Science Futures Committee’s Recommendations, 2018

Associate Dean, Research, April 2012- July 2015

Chair, Marjorie Pay Hinckley Endowment Committee, 2012-2015

Chair, Board of Directors, New World Archaeological Foundation, 2012-2015

Board of Directors, Museum of Peoples and Cultures, 2012-2015

College Rank & Status Committee, 2010-2012

Committee for the Evaluation of the Dean, 2012

Agent Chair, American Heritage Committee, 2008- 2010

Chair, Advisory Council to the Center for Family History & Genealogy, 2008-2010

Chair, College Faculty Awards Working Committee, 2002-2003

College Committee for Faculty Awards and Student Support, 2002-2003

ORCA Grant Reviewer, various years

College Computing Committee, 2001-2002

University/International Studies

Chair, Foreign Language Area Studies Scholarship Committee, 2019-

Director, Spain Study Abroad Program, Winter 2017

BYU MRI Facility Executive Advisory Board, 2013-2015

Advisory Committee, Madrid Study Abroad Program, 2010-2014

Director, London Centre Study Abroad Program, Spring 2011

Director, Madrid Study Abroad Program, Winter 2007

Committee of the Whole, Latin American Studies, 2003-present

International Relations Faculty Committee, 2004-

Committee to Develop the Major in International Relations, 2002

Faculty Advisor, Haitian Creole Club, Brigham Young University, 2013-2019

Faculty Advisor, Sleeping Minds Writing Club, Brigham Young University, 2017-present

Professional

Reviewer, book manuscripts, *ad-hoc*:

Cambridge University Press

Oxford University Press

University of New Mexico Press

Berghahn Books

Reviewer, journal manuscripts, *ad-hoc*:

Environmental History (frequent)

Hispanic American Historical Review

Environment & History

The Americas: A Quarterly Review of Latin American History

Agricultural History

Luso-Brazilian Review

Journal of Historical Geography

Journal of Iberian and Latin American Research

History Compass

Chair, Bolton-Johnson Book Prize Committee, Conference on Latin American History, 2018.

Editorial Board, “Latin American Landscapes” book series. University of Arizona Press, 2010-present.

Reviewer of proposal to create a “Latin American Landscapes” book series at the University of Arizona Press, May 2009.

Chair, Elinor Melville Book Prize Committee, Conference on Latin American History, 2009-2012, chaired the last year

External Department Program Reviewer, Department of History, Brigham Young University—Hawaii, November, 2010

Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend Grant Applications, 2006.

External peer reviewer of rank and status files: University of Kansas (full), Boise State (full), Stonehill College (tenure).

Professional Associations

Conference on Latin American History

American Society for Environmental History

Sociedad Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Historia Ambiental

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Commissioner, Provo Agricultural Commission, 2016-present.

Member, Utah County Agricultural Toolbox Steering Committee for Farm Preservation, 2015-2016, organized by Envision Utah, Utah County.

Secretary, Utah Valley Earth Forum, 2014-2017.

Member, Community Connections Committee, Provo City Center Focus Initiative, Vision 2030 Project, 2009-2011.

Presentation: "Strategies for Preserving Local Farms: An Invitation to West-side Landholders." Open meeting with Provo's West-side neighborhood chairs and Provo City Council members. March 22, 2018, Sunset Elementary School, Provo, Utah.

Presentation: "Saving Utah Valley's Farms: A Past and a Future," Caring for the Earth Series, Orem Public Library, October 19, 2016, Orem, UT. Also presented to the Provo Rotary Club, Nov. 17, 2016.

Presentation: "Preserving Provo's few Remaining Farms: Easements and other Strategies," Provo West Side Planning Committee, October 11, 2016, Provo, UT.

Lecture: "The Future of this Old House: Building Greener Homes—Past, Present, and Future," Provo Public Library, Utah Valley Earth Forum, April 20, 2016, Provo, UT.

Presenter and Panelist, "Provo Walkability Conference," Utah County Association of Realtors, The Mayor's Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee, Nov. 19, 2014, Provo, UT.

Lecture: "Un-walkability in our Cities: Historical Causes and Potential Solutions," Utah Valley Earth Forum, September 17, 2014, Provo, UT.

Lecture: "The Prospects for a Beloved Public Space on Provo's Center Street," Utah Valley Earth Forum, May 21, 2014, Provo, UT. Reprised for the Provo Rotary Club Inc., July 31, 2014, Provo, UT.

HONORS & AWARDS

Elinor Melville Memorial Book Prize for *An Environmental History of Latin America* (Cambridge, 2007), for best book on environmental history. Awarded by the Conference on Latin American History, affiliate of the American Historical Association.

Young Scholar Award, in recognition of outstanding promise and contributions by faculty in the early stages of their academic careers, Brigham Young University, 2006.

Class of '49 Young Faculty Award, in recognition of meritorious service in

teaching at Brigham Young University, 2006.

Dissertation of Distinction, Columbia University, 1997

Fellow of the Center for New World Comparative Studies, The John Carter Brown Library, 1995

Tinker Foundation Summer Field Research Fellow, 1993

President's Fellow, Columbia University, 1992-1993

Research Assistantship, Columbia University, 1992-1993

GRANTS & LEAVES

Professional Development Leave, College of Family Home and Social Sciences, Brigham Young University, Winter 2011.

Professional Development Leave, College of Family, Home and Social Sciences, Brigham Young University, Fall 2005.

FHSS Research Grants, College of Family, Home and Social Sciences, Brigham Young University, 1998, 2000, 2005, 2011, 2015.

David M. Kennedy Center for International and Area Studies, Research Grant, 2005.