**Justin Niermeier-Dohoney**

University of Chicago

Department of History and the College

Morris Fishbein Center for the

History of Science and Medicine

Social Sciences Building, Room 521

1126 East 59th St.

Chicago, IL 60637

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**PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

**Max-Planck Institute for the History of Science**

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department III, “Artefacts, Action, and Knowledge”

(September 2020-September 2023)

**University of Chicago**

Postdoctoral Social Sciences Teaching Fellow in the Department of History and the College

(September 2018-September 2020)

**Indiana University Southeast**

Adjunct Instructor of Humanities and Social Sciences in the Honors Program

(August 2016-August 2017)

**EDUCATION**

**University of Chicago**

Ph.D. in History (December 2018)

Master of Arts in Social Sciences (June 2013)

Dissertation: “A Vital Matter: Alchemy, Cornucopianism, and Agricultural Improvement in Seventeenth-Century England”

Committee: Adrian Johns (chair), Fredrik Albritton Jonsson, Robert J. Richards

Comprehensive Exam Fields: History and Historiography of Science; Early Modern Britain, the Atlantic, and the Environment; History and Philosophy of Natural History

**Clemson University**

Master of Arts in History (August 2011)

Thesis: “‘In So Many Ways Do the Planets Bear Witness’: The Impact of Copernicanism on Judicial Astrology at the English Court, 1543-1660”

Committee: Pamela Mack (chair), Alan Grubb, Megan Taylor-Shockley, Caroline Dunn

**Indiana University Bloomington**

Bachelor of Arts in History and English Literature (May 2004)

Minors in History and Philosophy of Science and Medieval Studies

**PUBLICATIONS, SUBMITTED PAPERS, AND WORKS IN-PROGRESS**

“‘To Multiply Corn Two-Hundred-Fold’: The Alchemical Augmentation of Wheat Seeds in Seventeenth-Century English Husbandry,” *Nuncius: Journal of the Material and Visual History of Science*, Vol. 35 (forthcoming, Winter 2020)

“Inversion, the Witch, and the Other: Conceptualizing Persecution in the Early Modern Witch-Hunts,” *Tuckasegee Valley Historical Review*, Vol. 16 (Spring 2010): 51-75.

**Other Publications**

“Agriculture and Astrology,” “Bruno, Giordano,” “*Centiloquium*,” “Jung, Carl,” “Paracelsus,” “Ptolemy,” and “Renaissance and Reformation Astrology” in *Astrology through History: Interpreting the Stars from Ancient Mesopotamia to the Present*, edited by William Burns(Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio/Praeger, 2018).

“Field Notes on Alchemy: Investigating Its Influence in Agriculture, Husbandry, and the Life Sciences,” *Dialogo: Social Sciences Blog*, 27 June 2016, https://socialsciences.uchicago.edu.

**Under Review**

“‘Rusticall Chymistry’: Saltpeter Projects and the Search for Artificial Fertilizers in Seventeenth-Century England”

“‘*Sapiens Dominabitur Astris*’: Defining the ‘Wise Man’ and Free Will in Astrological Debates, ca. 1270-1650”

**Works In-Progress**

“Prediction as Predication: Climatic Difference and Astrometeorological Reform in the Anglo-American Almanac, ca. 1650-1750”

“John Goad’s Astrometeorological Theory of Climate: Local Weather and Global Prediction”

“‘Nature Broke All to Pieces’: William Derham’s *Physico-theology* and the Origins of Ecological Thinking”

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Lectureships (Instructor of Record)**

**University of Chicago**

2020 Decolonizing Science (Online)

2020 European Civilization I

2020 The History of Alchemy

2019 Natural History and Empire, ca. 1400-1800

2019 Natural History of Humans/Human History of Nature (Intro to Deep History)

2019 Utopia, Dystopia, and Apocalypse in Western Culture

2019 Francis Bacon’s Philosophy of Nature

2019 European Civilization I

2018 Natural History and Empire, ca. 1500-1800

2015 Francis Bacon’s Science and the Uses of Nature

**Indiana University Southeast, Honors Program**

2017 Utopia, Dystopia, and Apocalypse: Imagining Futures in Western Science, Religion, and Culture

2016 Where Is Everybody? The Extraterrestrial Life Debate in History and Science, Antiquity to SETI

**Teaching Assistantships**

**University of Chicago**

2014 Science, Culture, and Society in Western Civilization, III: Modern Physical and Biological Sciences (James Evans)

2014 Science, Culture, and Society in Western Civilization, II: Early Modern Science (Adrian Johns)

2013 2013 Science, Culture, and Society in Western Civilization, I: Ancient Science (Robert J. Richards)

**Clemson University**

2011 The Kennedy Assassination and Watergate (Richard Saunders)

2010 The Historians’ Craft (Elizabeth Carney, Rachel Moore)

2010 The West and the World, Part II: 1492-Present (Steven Marks)

2009 The West and the World, Part I: Prehistory-ca. 1700 (Steven Marks)

**FELLOWSHIPS, ASSISTANTSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS**

**External**

2020-22 Science History Institute 80/20 Postdoctoral Fellowship (Declined)

2019 National Science Foundation Travel Grant (#1656205)

2019 Linda Hall Library Research Travel Fellowship

2017-18 Dibner Library, Smithsonian Institute, Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship (Declined)

2017 National Science Foundation Travel Grant

**University of Chicago**

2020 History Department “Course Spotlight” Feature for “The History of Alchemy”

2018-20 Postdoctoral Social Sciences Teaching Fellowship, Department of History

2018 Von Holst Prize Lectureship, Department of History

2017-18 T. Bentley Duncan Dissertation-Year Write-Up Fellowship

2016-17 Morris Fishbein Center for the History of Science and Medicine, Full-Time Graduate

Fellowship

2016 Nicholson Center for British Studies Research Travel Fellowship

2016 Division of Humanities, Arnaldo Momigliano Dissertation Research Travel Fellowship

2016 Division of Social Sciences Dissertation Research Travel Fellowship

2015 David and Alfred Smart Museum of Art, Education and Interpretation Fellowship

2014 Research Assistant to Dr. Alison Winter, University of Chicago

2013 Research Assistant to Dean John Boyer, University of Chicago

2013-16 Division of Social Sciences, History Department Full-Time Graduate Fellowship

**Clemson University**

2011 Ernest McPherson Lander Award in the School of Art, Architecture, and Humanities for Outstanding Graduate Work in the Department of History

2009-11 Schools of Art, Architecture, and Humanities; History Department Full-Time Graduate

Fellowship

**CONFERENCE, SEMINAR, AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS**

2020 “John Goad’s Astrometeorological Theory of Climate: Local Weather and Global Prediction,” Midwest Junto for the History of Science, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, 24 April (Canceled).

2020 “Sources of John Goad’s *Astrometeorology*: Local Weather, Universal Climate, Global Informants,” Social Sciences Teaching Fellows Writing Group Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, 12 February.

2019 “‘*Sapiens Dominabitur Astris*:’ Defining the ‘Wise Man’ and Free Will in Late Medieval and Early Modern Astrological Debates,” Social Sciences Teaching Fellows Writing Group Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, 16 October.

2019 “The Easy Transmutableness of Water: The Alchemy of Seed Steeps and ‘Fructifying Waters’ in Seventeenth-Century English Agriculture,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Utrecht, Netherlands, 25 July.

2019 “‘Rusticall Chymistry’: Saltpeter Projects and the Search for Artificial Fertilizers in Seventeenth-Century England,” Environmental Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, 5 April.

2018 “‘Turning Plow-Men into Philosophers: Gabriel Plattes, the Alchemy of Soil Fertility, and Agricultural Improvement,” Energy, Environment, and Anthropocene Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, 18 April.

2018 “Field-notes on Alchemy: Soil Fertility, Seed-Steeps, and ‘Transmutation’ in Agricultural Improvement, ca. 1638-1670,” Newberry Center for Renaissance Studies Multidisciplinary Graduate Conference, Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois, 26 January.

2017 “A Laboratory in the Field(s): Gabriel Plattes, Alchemy, and Agricultural Improvement, ca. 1638-1660,” (Al)chemical Laboratories: Imagining and Creating Scientific Work-Space, Eighth Annual Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry Postgraduate Conference, Chemical Heritage Foundation, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1 December.

2017 “‘Concerning the Transmutation & Improvements of Plants’: Vitalism, Alchemy, and Cornucopianism in John Beale’s Agricultural Writings,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 10 November.

2017 “A Vital Matter: Benjamin Worsley, the *Sal Nitrum* School, and the Scientific Practices of the Hartlib Circle,” Midwest Junto for the History of Science, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, 25 March.

2017 “The Stewardship of Dominion: Baconian Science, Cornucopian Ambitions, and the Scientific Practices of the Hartlib Circle, 1626-1660,” Religion and Conflict Graduate Student History Conference, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, 17 February.

2015 “Information Vegetable, Animal, and Mineral: Immanent Vitalism and Alchemical Cornucopianism in Hartlib Circle Projects, 1630-1665,” Early Modern Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, 30 November.

2015 “Baconian Science, Cornucopian Ambitions, and Utopian Dreams: The Dominion and Stewardship Theses Reconsidered,” Religious Ideas and Scientific Thought Graduate Student History Conference, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada, 26 September.

2015 “The Hermaphroditical Salt: Immanent Vitalism, Alchemical Cornucopianism, and Hartlib Circle Saltpeter Projects,” History and Philosophy of Science Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, 22 May.

2013 “Predicting the Unpredictable: Astrological Reform, Meteorology, and the Anglo-American Almanac, ca. 1650-1750,” Atlantic Worlds, ca. 1600-1800 Seminar Presentation, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, 23 March.

2012 “How to Represent Your Dragon: Problems of Naturalism, Observation, and Credibility in Early Modern Scientific Images,” Science and Aesthetics, 18th-21st Centuries Seminar Presentation, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, 22 March.

2011 “Patronage and Practicality: Copernicanism and Astrology in Sixteenth-Century England,” Chapter 3 of Masters Thesis, Ernest McPherson Lander Award Seminar Presentation, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina, 13 April.

2010 “Religious Syncretism and Social Reform in the Cosmologies of Giordano Bruno and Domenico Scandella,” Sixth Annual North Carolina State Graduate Student History Conference, Raleigh, North Carolina, 13 February.

**SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**University of Chicago**

2020 Participant in Social Sciences and Humanities Teaching Fellows Online Pedagogy Workshop Series

2019 History of European Civilization, Curriculum Development Staff

2019 BA Thesis Reader, School of Public Policy, Kristen Lubawski, “From Wood to Coal, From Coal to Renewables: A Study of the Role of Public Law in Nineteenth-Century Energy Transition from Biomass to Coal Power”

2019 Participant in Early Modern English Paleography Intensive Workshop

2018-19 Participant in Social Sciences Teaching Fellows Pedagogy Workshop Series

2018-19 Participant in the “Making History Work” Workshop Series

2018-19 Discussant, Environmental Studies Workshop

2015-16 Certificate in University Teaching, History Department Pedagogy Workshop Series, Chicago Teaching Center

2015-16 Co-coordinator of the Early Modern Workshop

2015 Project Assistant, Chicago Public Schools Teacher Training Program, Smart Museum of Art

2014-16 Discussant, History of the Human Sciences Workshop

2014-16 Discussant, History and Philosophy of Science Workshop

2014-16 Discussant, Early Modern Workshop

2013 Discussant, African Studies Workshop

2012-15 Tutor and Curriculum Developer, The Black Star Project

**Clemson University**

2010-11 President of the History Graduate Student Association

2009-10 Senator, Dean’s Council of Students

**RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2015 University of Chicago, David and Alfred Smart Museum of Art

*Education and Interpretation Fellow*

2015 University of Chicago, Regenstein Library

*Google Books Project Assistant*

2012-15 The Black Star Project

*Tutor/Curriculum Developer/Fundraiser/Project Assistant*

2009 Measured Progress

*Essay Grader*

2007-09 East Lansing/Ingham County Public Schools

*Building Substitute Teacher in Language Arts and Social Studies*

2006-07 Video Monitoring Services

*Research Editor/Video Editor/Copy Editor*

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS**

American Historical Association

History of Science Society

Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry

**LANGUAGES**

**English** (native)

Advanced reading knowledge of **French**

Basic reading knowledge of **Latin**

**REFERENCES**

**Adrian Johns**

Allan Grant Maclear Professor of History, the Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science, and the College Chair, Committee on Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science

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Chicago, IL 60637

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West Tower, Room 602   
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**Fredrik Albritton Jonsson**

Associate Professor of British History, Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science, and the College

Department of History

University of Chicago

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Chicago, IL 60637

Social Sciences Research Building, 217

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**Robert J. Richards**

Morris Fishbein Distinguished Service Professor of the History of Science and Medicine; Professor of History, Philosophy, Psychology, and the College; Member of the Stevanovich Institute on the Formation of Knowledge; and Director of the Fishbein Center

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