MILES POWELL

Associate Professor of History

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EDUCATION

University of California, Davis. Ph.D., History, March 2013. Dissertation: “Vanishing Species, Dying

Races: A History of Extinction in America.” Committee Chair: Louis Warren. Readers: Ari Kelman and Alan Taylor.

Simon Fraser University. M.A. History, December 2006. Thesis: “Coming Full Circle: An Environmental

History of Herring Spawn Harvest Among the Heiltsuk.” Advisor: Joseph E. Taylor III.

Simon Fraser University. B. A. History (Honors, First Class), December 2004.

CURRENT POSITIONS

Associate Professor with Tenure, Department of History, NTU, Singapore.

Research Cluster Coordinator, Environmental Humanities, NTU, Singapore.

Visiting Scholar, Rachel Carson Center, Munich, Germany

Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany (commencing in July)

TEACHING AREAS

Environmental History, Environmental Humanities, Global History, Imperial History, History of Race and

Ethnicity, United States 19th and 20th Century History, Native American History, History of the North American West, Canadian Post-Confederation History, History of Science, Cultural and Intellectual History.

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

BOOKS:

*Apex Predators: Encounters with Sharks since 1900* (current project, under

contract, Harvard University Press).

Vanishing America: Species Extinction, Racial Peril, and the Origins of Conservation

(Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2016).

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS:

“Harnessing the Great Acceleration: Connecting Local and Global History at the Port of

Singapore” (forthcoming in *Environmental History*)

“‘How Would You Feel If Someone Were Allowed to Kill One of Your Grandparents?’: Kānaka

Maoli Opposition to the Hawaiian Shark Fin Trade,” invited chapter for *Not Just Green, Not Just White: Race, Justice and Environmental History*, Tracy Brynne Voyles and Mary E. Mendoza, Eds. (University of Nebraska Press, 2022 [expected publication date]).

“Singapore’s Lost Coast: Land Reclamation, National Development, and the Erasure of Human

and Ecological Communities, 1822-Present” *Environment and History* 27(4) (2021): 635-663.

“A World of Fins and Fences: Australian and South African Shark Management in the

Transoceanic South” *International Review of Environmental History* 3(2) (2017): 5-30.

"People in Peril, Environments at Risk: Coolies, Tigers, and Colonial Singapore's Ecology of

Poverty" Environment and History 22(3) (Summer 2016): 455-482.

"'Pestered with Inhabitants': Aldo Leopold, William Vogt, and More Trouble with Wilderness"

Pacific Historical Review 84(2) (May, 2015): 195-226.

“Divided Waters: Heiltsuk Spatial Management of Herring Fisheries and the Politics of Native

Sovereignty” Western Historical Quarterly 43(4) (Winter 2012): 463-484.

PIPELINE:

“From Guppy Shows to Dolphin Performances: A History of Singapore’s Public Aquariums”

(invited chapter submitted for publication in Timothy Barnard, Ed., *Singaporean Creatures*, NUS Press)

Co-authored with Dolly Jørgensen, “Extinction” (invited contribution, *Routledge Handbook of*

*Environmental History*)

BOOK REVIEWS:

“Review of Antoinette Burton and Renisa Mawani, Eds., Animalia: An Anti-Imperial Bestiary for

Our Times” *The Journal of Pacific History* (2021), 1-3.

“Review of Carolyn Merchant, The Anthropocene and the Humanities: From

Climate Change to a New Age of Sustainability” *Environment and History* 27(3) (2021), 499-501.

“Powell on Rozwadowski, 'Vast Expanses: A History of the Oceans'” H-Environment, H-Net

Reviews (June, 2020) URL: https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=54780

“‘Evading Arctic Heat Death’ Review of Bathsheba Demuth, Floating Coast an Environmental

History of the Bering Strait” *Reviews in American History* 48(4) (2020): 553-559.

“Review of David Biggs, Footprints of War: Militarized Landscapes in Vietnam” *Journal of*

*World History* 31(2) (2020): 652-654.

“Daegan Miller, *This Radical Land: A Natural History of American Dissent*” *Environment and*

*History* 25(2) (May 2019): 477-478.

“Ben A. Minteer, Jane Maienschein, and James P. Collins, *The Ark and Beyond: The Evolution of*

*Zoo and Aquarium Conservation”* Journal of the History of Biology 51(3) (2018), 609-611.

“Timothy P. Barnard, *Nature’s Colony: Empire, Nation, and Environment in the Singapore*

*Botanic Gardens*” *Environmental History* 23(3) (June, 2018), 608-609.

“Frederick H. Swanson, *Where Roads Will Never Reach: Wilderness and Its Visionaries in the*

*Northern Rockies*” *Pacific Historical Review* 85(4) (November, 2016), 632-634.

“Jen Corrinne Brown, *Trout Culture: How Fly Fishing Forever Changed the Rocky Mountain*

*West*” *Western Historical Quarterly* 47(2) (May, 2016), 223-224.  
  
“Kurkpatrick Dorsey, *Whales and Nations: Diplomacy on the High Seas*” *Environment and*

*History* 22(2) (May, 2016): 304-306.

"Marco Armiero and Lise Sedrez, A History of Environmentalism: Local Struggles, Global

Histories" Environment and History 22(1) (February, 2016): 142-145.  
  
“MacLaren, I. S., ed., Culturing Wilderness in Jasper National Park: Studies in Two Centuries of

Human History in the Upper Athabasca River Watershed” Pacific Northwest Quarterly.

100(1) (Winter, 2008-2009): 47-48.

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS:

“Native Hawaiian Shark Conservation: Indigenous Knowledge Meets Global Environmentalism”

(invited Zoom talk at Renmin University, Beijing, China, 15 June, 2021)

“Singapore’s Buried Coast: Lost Cultural Connections and the Struggle to Preserve a Hybrid

Shore” (paper presented at the European Society of Environmental History Conference, 22-25 August 2019, Tallinn, Estonia).

"Environmental Histories of the Malay World: Legacies of Peter Boomgaard" (roundtable

presentation at ICAS 11 (Eleventh Convention of Asia Scholars) (16-19 July 2019, Leiden, Netherlands)

“Teaching the Environment at Fudan University, Shanghai and Nanyang Technological

University, Singapore” (roundtable presentation at “Beyond Despair: Theory and Practice in Environmental Humanities” (April 3-5, 2019, National Humanities Center, North Carolina, United States).

“Singapore’s Lost Coast: Human and Ecological Displacements during 200 Years of Land

Reclamation” (paper presented at “From ‘Pelagic Empire’ to EEZs: The Transformation of Asia’s Pacific since the 19th Century” (24-25 January 2019, Asia Research Institute, Singapore).

“When Wilderness Was White: Preserving Nature and Race in Turn-of-the-Century America”

(invited talk at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada, November 29, 2018).

“An Invented Tradition? The History and Ecological Impact of Shark’s Fin Soup” (invited talk at

the University of Oregon, Eugene, United States, October 25, 2018).

“Native Hawaiian Perceptions of Sharks: History, Resilience, and Legislative Significance” (paper

presented at CLASS Symposium “Environmental Humanities: Paving the Way Towards a Sustainable Future,” NTU, Singapore, October 12-13, 2018).

“Soup and Slaughter: An Environmental History of the Pacific Shark Fin Industry” (paper

presented at the 6th International Environmental History Conference [co-Sponsored by the Rachel Carson Center and Sun Yat-sen University] Guangzhou, China, May 24-26, 2018)

“People in Peril, Environments at Risk: The History of Tigers in Singapore” (invited talk at the

National Museum of Singapore, April 9, 2017).

“Sea Flows: Mobility, Boundaries, and Scale in Marine Environmental History” (paper presented

at the American Society for Environmental History, Chicago, March 29-April 1, 2017).

“Historicizing the Western Australian Shark Cull: Fish, Boundaries, and Mobile Nature” (paper

presented at the Asian Association of World Historians Annual Congress, Singapore,

May 29-31, 2015).

“‘A Very Paradise for Boys’: Joseph LeConte’s Reimagining of the Plantation as a Pioneer

Outpost” (paper presented at the Western History Association Conference, Denver,

Colorado, October 4-7, 2012).  
  
“Preserving the Frontier” (chapter presented at Western History Dissertation Workshop,

Huntington-USC, June 2011).  
  
“A Wilderness Panacea: B.C. Landscapes as Respite from Modernity in the Fiction of Bertrand W.

Sinclair” (paper presented at Qualicum History Conference, Qualicum, BC, January 28th,

2005).

PEER REVIEW:  
  
I have served as a peer reviewer for Environment and History, Environmental History, the

American Historical Review, the Journal of World History, Maritime Studies, the Western Historical Quarterly, *Arcadia*, the University of Pittsburgh Press, the University of Hawaii Press, and Bloomsbury Press.

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND OTHER DISTINCTIONS

January 2022, NTU2025 Seed Grant, “The Future of Planetary Health: Lessons from a Global Pandemic”

(collaborator).

September-December 2021, Racheal Carson Center Fellow, Munich Germany.

August 2016, Tier 1 Grant, “Red Dot, Blue Sea: An Environmental History of Singapore’s Coastal

Spaces,” Singapore Ministry of Education.

May 2013, Canadian Aboriginal History Article Award for “Divided Waters: Heiltsuk Spatial Management

of Herring Fisheries and the Politics of Native Sovereignty,” Western Historical Quarterly (winter

2012).  
  
October 2012, Bert M. Fireman Award for “Divided Waters: Heiltsuk Spatial Management of Herring

Fisheries and the Politics of Native Sovereignty,” Western Historical Quarterly (winter 2012),

selected as the journal’s best student paper for 2012.   
  
June 10-11, 2011, Western History Dissertation Workshop – one of four applicants selected from as far

abroad as Australia to participate in an all-expenses-paid dissertation workshop hosted at The

Huntington Library, University of Southern California, and sponsored by The Huntington-USC

Institute on California and the West, the Research Division of The Huntington Library, The

Hemispheric Institute of the Americas at the University of California, Davis, The Howard R.

Lamar Center for the Study of Frontiers and Borders at Yale University, the Institute for the Study

of the North American West at the Autry National Center, and the Bill Lane Center for the Study

of the North American West at Stanford University.  
  
2007-2010, SSHRC Canada PhD Fellowship.   
  
2008, Emile G. Scholz Essay Prize for “Vanishing Species, Dying Races: Environment, Science, Race, and

Class in the Writings of William T. Hornaday,” voted the best preliminary research project of my

cohort by UC-Davis’s history faculty.   
  
2007, Reed Smith Fellowship, UC-Davis, awarded to an incoming graduate student showing outstanding

potential.   
  
2005, SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship – Master’s.   
  
2005, Graduate Fellowship – Master’s, Simon Fraser University.   
  
2005, William and Jane Saywell Graduate Scholarship in History.   
  
2005, Leon J. Ladner Graduate Scholarship in B.C. History.   
  
2004, Margaret Ormsby Essay Prize for best Canadian history essay by an SFU undergraduate student.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

April, 2021 - Present, Head of Department, History, Nanyang Technological University.

October, 2019 - Present, Associate Professor of History with Tenure, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

February, 2018 – Present, Coordinator, Environmental Humanities Research Cluster, Nanyang

Technological University.

July, 2022 – December, 2022, Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin,

Germany

January, 2022 – Present, Visiting Scholar, Rachel Carson Center, Munich, Germany

October, 2017 – Present, Editorial Board Member, *Environment and History* (Journal of the European

Society for Environmental History).

August, 2021 – December, 2021, RCC Fellow, Rachel Carson Center, Munich Germany

August, 2013-October, 2019, Assistant Professor of History, Nanyang Technological University,

Singapore.

August, 2016 – October 2018, Admissions Coordinator, Department of History, Nanyang Technological

University.

August, 2018 – December, 2018, Visiting Scholar, Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest, University of Washington, Seattle

September, 2013-August 2016, Graduate Coordinator, Department of History, Nanyang Technological

University.

Summer, 2013, Co-instructor, Sliammon Field School, Powell River, British Columbia, Co-Sponsored by

University of Saskatchewan and Simon Fraser University.   
  
Spring, 2013, Instructor, HIST/FNST 326: North American Aboriginal History Since 1850, Simon Fraser

University.  
  
Spring, 2013, Instructor, HIST 109: United States History Since 1865, Capilano University.  
  
2007-2011, Substitute Lecturer, University of California, Davis.  
  
2007-2010, Teaching Assistant, University of California, Davis.  
  
2009-2010, UC-Davis History Library Proctor.  
  
2009, Research Assistant for American Environmental History, Louis Warren, Ed.  
  
2009, Graduate Student Co-Chair, Africanist Search Committee, UC-Davis.  
  
2005-2006, Teaching Assistant, Simon Fraser University.

REFEREES

Dolly Jørgensen, Professor of History, University of Stravanger. Email: dolly.jorgensen@uis.no.

Address: HG O-239, Universitetet i Stavanger Postboks 8600 Forus 4036 Stavanger, Norway.

Ari Kelman, Chancellor’s Leadership Professor of History, University of California, Davis. Email:

akelman@ucdavis.edu. Address: Department of History, 3201 Social Science and Humanities, 1 Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616, USA.

Louis S. Warren, W. Turrentine Jackson Professor of Western U.S. History, University of

California, Davis. Email: lswarren@ucdavis.edu. Address: Department of History, 3201 Social Science and Humanities, 1 Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616, USA.

Joseph E. Taylor, III, Professor, Departments of History and Geography, Simon Fraser

University. Email: taylorj@sfu.ca. Address: Department of History, Simon Fraser University, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada, V5A 1S6.