

MELISSA CHARENKO

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2018- Assistant Professor, Lyman Briggs College and Department of History,
Michigan State University (MSU)

EDUCATION

2018 Ph.D., History of Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2012 M.A., Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology
(IHPST), University of Toronto
2009 Honors B.A. & B.Sc., Arts and Science, McMaster University

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Under Contract *Science as Prophecy: Measuring Climates Past and Future*, University of Chicago Press

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Chapters

Forthcoming “American Blitzkrieg or Ecological Indian,” in *New Earth Histories*, Alison Bashford, Adam Bobbette, Emily Kern (eds.), University of Chicago Press (expected publication 2023)

Forthcoming “Until there is a World without Prisons: Books for LGBTQ People,” in *Prison Book Programs*, Moira Marquis, David Mac Marquis (eds.), University of Georgia Press (expected publication Summer 2023)

2022 “Blowing in the Wind: Calibrating Pollen’s Mobility as a Challenge to Measuring Climate by Proxy, 1916-1939,” *Journal of the History of Biology* 55, 465-93.

2020 “Reconstructing Climate: Paleoecology and the Limits of Prediction during the 1930s Dust Bowl,” *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences* 1-2:50, 90-128.

2020 with Jeanie Austin, Michelle Dillon and Jodi Lincoln, “Systematic Oppression and the Contested Ground of Information Access for Incarcerated People,” *Open Information Science* 4, 169-186.

2015 “A Historical Assessment of the World’s First Business Improvement Area (BIA): The Case of Toronto’s Bloor West Village,” *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 24:2, 1-19.

Book Reviews

Forthcoming “Review of Roy Plotnik’s *Explorers of Deep Time*,” *Isis*.

2019 “Review of Nancy Langston’s *Sustaining Lake Superior*,” H-Net Water.

2016 “Review of Martin J.S. Rudwick’s *Earth’s Deep History*,” *Annals of Science*, 73:3, 335-336.

Teaching Publication

2019 with Ellie Louson, “We fire all our scientists: The Sheepfarmer Case as Engaged Learning,” *Communiqué* 90 (Winter)

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

External Fellowships and Grants

2023 Residential Fellowship, Max Planck Institute for History of Science (€15,000)

2020-2021 Residential Fellowship, The Institute for Historical Studies, University of Texas at Austin (\$33,700)

2017 Predoctoral Fellow, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (\$10,000)

2017 Mellon-Wisconsin Summer Fellowship (\$6,768)

2017 Grey Towers Scholar-In-Residence, USDA Forest Service (\$1,500)

2016-17 Consortium for the History of Science Research Fellow (\$2,400)

2012-14 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Doctoral Fellowship (\$40,000)

2014 Girl Guides of Canada National Scholarship Fulltime (\$2,000)

2011-12, 2010-11 Ontario Graduate Scholarships (\$15,000 per award)

Internal Grants and University Fellowships

2022 with JP Lawrence and Marisa Brandt, “American Colonialism and the Creation of Biodiversity,” Faculty-Directed Education Abroad Program Innovation Fund, (\$5,000)

2022-2023 Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center Fellowship (\$2,000)

2021-2022 Humanities and Arts Research Program Development Grant (\$25,000)

2021 with Alison Dobbins, Megan Reilly, and Shondrika Moss-Bouldin, Humanities without Walls Seed Grant (\$2000)

2018 William Coleman Dissertation Fellowship (\$10,250)

2016-17 Graduate School Fellow, UW-Madison (\$20,304)

2015-16, 2012-13 University of Wisconsin Fellowships (\$18,756 per award)

2012 Vilas Welcome Award (\$600)

2011-12, 2010-11 University of Toronto Fellowships (\$14,061.32 per award)

Research and Archival Grants

2023 Baker Fellowship, Durham Residential Research Library (£1,800) (declined)

2016 University of Wisconsin Graduate School Research Grant (\$1,200)

2016 Howard T. Odum Research Travel Grant (\$1,500)

2016, 2015 Centre for Culture, History and Environment Graduate Student

- Research and Travel Grants (\$810, \$2,500)
- 2014 Elmer L. Andersen Research Scholars Award, University of Minnesota (\$800)
- 2014 Network in Canadian History of Environment Grant (\$1,500)

External Academic Awards

- 2012 Hadden Prize for Best Student Paper, Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

- 2021 (x2), 2022 (x2) Introduction to History, Philosophy, and Sociology of Science, MSU
- 2020 North American Environmental History, MSU
- 2020 Science and the Public, MSU
- 2023, 2022, 2020, 2019 Senior Seminar, MSU
- 2019-2020 Honors Research Seminar, MSU
- 2019 Historical Methods and Skills, MSU
- 2019, 2018 Science and the Environment, MSU
- 2017 Biology and Society, Colby College
- 2015 Views of a Changing Planet, Colby College

Teaching Assistant

- 2015 Biology and Society, 1950-Today, UW-Madison
- 2014 Environmental Studies: The Humanistic Perspective, UW-Madison
- 2014 The Making of Modern Science, UW-Madison
- 2013 Science in the Twentieth Century, UW-Madison
- 2011 History of Medicine, University of Toronto
- 2010 Scientific Revolutions, University of Toronto
- 2009 Comparative Literature, McMaster University

Teaching Award

- 2013 Honored Instructor Award, UW-Madison

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations

- 2022 "Science as Prophecy," University of Guelph History Department, Guelph, ON
- 2021 "Climate change, Environmental Crises and Public Participation," Earth and Environmental Sciences Working Group, Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, online
- 2019 "Overkill, Paleoecological Reconstructions, and Questions of Human Nature," Reconstructing the Past, Paris, France
- 2018 "Science as Prophecy," STS Seminar Series, York University, Toronto, ON
- 2017 "Paleo-perspectives on Environmental Change," Ludwig-Maximilians Universität History of Science Colloquium, Munich, Germany

- 2017 “Histories of the Future,” Nelson Institute Earth Day, Madison, WI
- 2017 “Ecology’s Deep History,” STS Colloquium, Colby College, Waterville, ME
- 2016 “The Science of Prophecy?” Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine Symposium, Philadelphia, PA

Panels Organized

- 2020 co-organized with J. Schlag, “A Guide to the Natural Archive,” American Society for Environmental History, Ottawa, ON (cancelled)

Refereed Conference and Symposia Presentations

- 2023 “Changing Climate and Overcoming Arid Environments,” American Society for Environmental History, Boston, MA (scheduled)
- 2022 “Troubling Temporalities: Approaches to Narrating and Historicizing Deep Time,” History of Science Society, Chicago, IL
- 2022 “Changing Climate and Overcoming Inhospitable Environments,” Habitability and Empire Conference, Dublin, Ireland
- 2022 “Reading Climate Through Proxies,” American Society for Environmental History, Eugene, OR
- 2021 “The Natural Archives and the Remaking of Climate and Time,” Meeting of the Social Studies of Science, Toronto, ON
- 2021 “Measuring Climate by Proxy,” Climate in Context Conference, Institute for Historical Studies, University of Texas at Austin
- 2021 “Perceptions of Climate and Time in the Natural Archives,” The Material Life of Time, 2nd Annual International Temporal Belongings Conference, online.
- 2020 “Overkill as a Baseline for Restoration,” Toolbox of Environmental Governance, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2020 “Proxy Perceptions of Climate and Time,” History of Science Society, New Orleans, LA (cancelled)
- 2020 “Climate Manifestations and Earth’s Future,” Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Science, London, ON (cancelled)
- 2019 “American Blitzkrieg or Ecological Indian?” New Earth Histories Conference, Sydney, Australia
- 2018 “No Analog Situation,” History of Science Society, Seattle, WA
- 2018 “Pleistocene Extinctions,” Shifting Baselines Workshop, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin
- 2018 “The Politics of Overkill,” American Society for Environmental History, Riverside, CA
- 2017 “Comparing Place: The Challenges of Deep Time to Ecological Reconstructions,” History of Science Society, Toronto, ON

- 2017 “Paleo Perspectives on the Nature of Historical Change,” Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, Toronto, ON
- 2016 “What to do about scale? Challenges for interdisciplinary research at multiple Scales,” Philosophy of Science Association, Atlanta, GA
- 2016 “Re-scaling Proxy Data to Answer Questions about Anthropogenic Change,” Society for the History of Technology, Singapore
- 2015 “Paleoecologists and Discussions of Global Change Science,” History of Science Society, San Francisco, CA
- 2015 “The Scale of Change,” Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, Ottawa, ON
- 2014 “Pollen Diagram,” Anthropocene Slam, Madison, WI
- 2014 “Telling Digital Stories,” Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, St. Catherines, ON
- 2014 “The Second Coming and Environmentalism,” History of Science Society, Boston, MA
- 2013 “Business Improvement Areas: The Case of Bloor West Village,” The Society for American Cities and Regional Planning History, Toronto, ON
- 2012 “The Evolution of Case Studies in Philosophy of Science: A Path towards Integrated HPS?” (in collaboration with X. Lanao and A. Djedovic), International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science, Halifax, NS
- 2012 “Illuminating Turn of the Century Physics at the U of T,” Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, Waterloo, ON
- 2011 “The Reception of Darwin’s Malthusian Metaphor in Canada,” International Society for History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology, Salt Lake City, UT

Campus Presentations

- 2020 “Proxy Pollen and the Nature of Climate,” Institute for Historical Studies, University of Texas at Austin
- 2018 “Science as Prophecy?” Institute for Research in the Humanities, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2018 “Environmental Change Through Deep Time,” History of Science Colloquium, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Teaching Presentations

- 2021 “Team Adaptive Performance through a Cooperative Board Game: Pandemic Legacy,” w Heba Nazmy, Spring Conference on Student Learning and Success, Michigan State University
- 2019 “Engaging Students through Stakeholder Roleplay,” with E. Louson, Spring Conference on Student Learning and Success, Michigan State University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Service to the Profession

Referee	Rutledge (2019), Oxford University Press (2020), <i>Social Studies of Science</i> (2020, 2021), <i>Journal of the History of Biology</i> (2020), <i>Journal of the History of Knowledge</i> (2022)
Member	History of Science Society Committee on Membership (2020-)
Co-facilitator	Graduate Student Publishing Workshop, Workshop for the History of Environment, Agriculture, Technology, & Science (2019)

Michigan State University

2022-	College Advisory Council, Lyman Briggs College
2021, 2019	HPS Search Committee, Lyman Briggs College
2019-2021	Awards Committee, Lyman Briggs College
2020-	HPS Minor Advisor (Emily Bourgeois)
2019-2020	Mentor, Undergraduate Research Award (Claire Smith)
2020	Committee on Annual Review Policy, Lyman Briggs College
2019	Martin Luther King Jr. Advancing Inclusion through Research Awards Committee
2018-2019	Colloquium Committee, Department of History
2018	Interdisciplinary Curriculum Committee, Lyman Briggs College

University of Wisconsin-Madison

2017	Center for Culture, History and Environment, Place-Based Workshop Organizing Committee
2014-15	History of Science, Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty
2014-15	Center for Culture, History and Environment, Graduate Associate Organizing Committee
2014	Faculty Search Committee, Graduate Student Representative
2013, 2014, 2015	Darwin Day Event Volunteer
2012	Workshop Organizer, "What is an Individual?"
2012-14	Program in HSTM Community and Alumni Relations Committee

University of Toronto

2010-12	IHPST Curriculum Committee, Student Representative
2011-12	Graduate Student Union, Volleyball League Coordinator

External

2013-	LGBT Books to Prisoners, Organizing Collective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grants authored and received: Fueling Philanthropy grant (2019); OPEN grant (2016); National Book Foundation Innovation in Reading Prize Honorable Mention (2016); New Harvest Foundation (2012) (lead author on each)
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- **Awards:** Network for Peace and Justice LGBTQ Advocacy Award (co-awarded to Melissa Charenko and Irene Toro Martinez) (2014)
- **Media:** [Madison.com](#), [National Council of Teachers of English](#), [Bustle](#), [Badger Herald](#)

2017-2018

Chicago Books to Women in Prison, Board Member

2013-16

Canadian Guider Editorial Committee