

## Serena Ruth Zabin

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### EDUCATION

Rutgers University, Department of History. Fall 1995-Summer 2000.

Ph.D. in Early American History, October 2000.

Minor fields: Gender and Women's History; Early Modern Europe.

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Department of Classics. Fall 1991-Spring 1995.

M.A. degree in Latin, May 1993.

*Thesis*: "Power and Poetics on Mt. Helicon," directed by Professor Sara Mack.

Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME. Fall 1987-Spring 1991.

B.A., *summa cum laude*, with High Honors in Classics.

### APPOINTMENTS

Carleton College, Stephen R. Lewis, Jr. Professor of History and the Liberal Arts,  
Fall 2025-present

Carleton College, Department of History. Fall 2020-Fall 2023  
Chair

Carleton College, Department of History. Fall 2015-Fall 2025  
Professor

Carleton College, American Studies Program. Fall 2017-Summer 2020  
Director

Carleton College, Center for Community and Civic Engagement, Fall 2019-Summer 2022  
Broom Fellow for Public Scholarship

Carleton College, Department of History. Fall 2009-Fall 2015  
Associate Professor

Carleton College, American Studies Program. Fall 2013-Fall 2015  
Associate Director

Carleton College, Department of History. Fall 2002-Spring 2009  
Assistant Professor

Carleton College, Department of History, 2000-2002  
Andrew W. Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow

### PUBLICATIONS

"1775: Society on the Brink of War" introduction and guest editor of *Transactions: Journal of the American Philosophical Society*, in progress

"Underrepresented Voices of the American Revolution," introduction and guest editor with Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai, *New England Quarterly*, in progress

"Revolution at 250: A Roundtable," in *The Journal of the Early Republic*, Winter 2025

“Empire and Protest,” in *The Cambridge History of the American Revolution* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).

“Reliability in Sources,” Document Case Study Brief on the Boston Massacre, for Adam Matthew Digital, 2022

*The Boston Massacre: A Family History* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2020; Mariner Paperback 2023). Winner *Journal of the American Revolution* prize; Amazon “Editor’s Pick” for best history in 2020.

“Women and the Long American Revolution,” in *The Companion to American Women’s History* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2020)

“War, Violence, and Gender in Colonial and Revolutionary North America,” in *The Oxford Handbook on Gender, War and the Western World since 1650* (Oxford University Press, 2020).

“Women and the Boston Massacre,” in *Women in the Age of the American Revolution* (University of Virginia Press, 2019).

“Conclusion: Writing To and From the Revolution.” The concluding essay for a special joint issue of *The William and Mary Quarterly*, 74, no. 4 (2017) and the *Journal of the Early Republic*, 37 no. 4 (2017).

“Women, Trade, and the Roots of Consumer Societies,” in *The Oxford Handbook of American Women’s and Gender History* (Oxford University Press, 2016)

“New York City” in *Oxford Bibliographies Online: Atlantic History* (2013).

*Dangerous Economies: Status and Commerce in British New York* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009; University Press Audiobooks, 2010; paperback, 2011).

“Women’s Trading Networks and Dangerous Economies in British New York City,” *Early American Studies*, 4.2, Fall, 2006. (excerpted in Karen O. Kupperman, *Major Problems in American Colonial History*, 3d edition, 2012)

*The New York Conspiracy Trials of 1741: Daniel Horsmanden’s “Journal of the Proceedings.”* (Bedford Books of St. Martin’s Press, 2004).

“The Boston Massacre” in *An Encyclopedia of the New American Nation*, ed. Paul Finkelman (Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2005).

“New York,” “New York City,” “Consumption” in *An Encyclopedia of Early American History*, ed. Gary Nash (Facts on File, 2002).

“Tudeae Benemerenti: Towards a Study of Jewish Women in the Western Roman Empire,” *Phoenix* 50, 1996.

Contributing author, *Latin Laughs* (Bolchazy-Carducci, 1997), a textbook with commentary, translation, video, and workbook on Plautus' *Poenulus*.

## GRANTS AND HONORS

Robert C. Ritchie Distinguished Fellowship, Huntington Library (2024-2025)

Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati Fellowship, Massachusetts Historical Society (one month) for "Boston's Black Refugees" (2023)

Colonial Society of Massachusetts, election to membership (2020)

American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship (one year) for *An Intimate History of the Boston Massacre* (2016)

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship (one year) for *An Intimate History of the Boston Massacre* (2015-16)

John Brockway Huntington Foundation Fellowship, Huntington Library (one month) for *An Intimate History of the Boston Massacre* (2015)

Benjamin Franklin Stevens Fellowship, Massachusetts Historical Society (one month) for *An Intimate History of the Boston Massacre* (2013)

Election to the Society of Fellows, Massachusetts Historical Society (2013)

Faculty Development Endowment award, Carleton College (for one term of leave) for *An Intimate History of the Boston Massacre* (2011-12)

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend (two months) for *Occupying Boston: An Intimate History of the Boston Massacre Street Politics and the Boston Massacre* (2010)

New England Regional Consortium Fellowship, (two months) for research for *Street Politics and the Boston Massacre* in multiple archives in Boston. (2008)

Ruth R. & Alyson R. Miller Fellowship, Massachusetts Historical Society (one month) for research for *Street Politics and the Boston Massacre* (2008)

Hildebrandt-Higinbotham Fund, Carleton College, for archival research for *Street Politics and the Boston Massacre* (2007).

Wallin Research Fellowship. Carleton College (for two terms of leave) for *Dangerous Economies: Status and Commerce in Imperial New York* (2004)

Research Fellowship. New-York Historical Society, (one month) for *Dangerous Economies: Status and Commerce in Imperial New York* (2001)

Daughters of the American Revolution – New Jersey Chapter. Marnie Smith Prize for Early American Studies (2000)

American Dissertation Fellow. American Association of University Women (one year) for “Places of Exchange: New York City, 1700-1763,” (1999-2000)

Rosenwald Research Fellowship. New-York Historical Society (two months) for “Places of Exchange: New York City, 1700-1763,”(1999)

Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Grant in Women’s Studies Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation for “Places of Exchange: New York City, 1700-1763” (1999)

George E. Pozzetta Dissertation Research Award. Immigration and Ethnic History Society (1999)

Graduate School Language Study Grant. Rutgers University for study of Dutch in Leiden NL. (1998)

Excellence Fellowship. Rutgers University (one year) (1997-1998)

Excellence Fellowship. Rutgers University (one year) (1995-1996)

Phi Beta Kappa, Bowdoin College (1990)

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### National

Vice President, Teaching Division, American Historical Association, 2025-2028.

President, Society for the History of the Early American Republic, 2022-2023; Executive Council, 2021-2024

Editorial board, *Journal of American History*, 2022-2025

Conference Program Committee, “Public Dialogue, Relevance, & Change: Being in Service to Communities and the Nation,” Organization of American Historians, April 2024

George Washington Book Prize, Washington College and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, 2024

SHEAR Dissertation Prize Committee, 2022

Nominating Committee, Organization of American Historians, 2018-2020, chair 2019-20.

Conference Program Committee, “Underrepresented Voices in the American Revolution,” Massachusetts Historical Society, July 2022

Conference Program Committee, “Meanings of Independence,” American Philosophical Society, October 2021

Scholars committee, “Reimagining Revolutionary Spaces,” Revolutionary Spaces, 2020-2021

Stakeholder committee, “Revolutionary City Portal,” American Philosophical Society, 2020-2021.

Lead author for NEH/National History Day Curriculum Guide, “Building a More Perfect Union,” 2021. Also created an online lecture and participated in NHD Professional Development workshop for teachers (2021).

Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities, Documentary Editions, 2015; Fellowships, 2017

External Reviewer, Kenyon College History Department, 2017; Vassar College History Department, 2021; Reed College, 2022; Gettysburg College, 2023

Mary Kelley Book Prize, Society for the History of the Early American Republic, 2015-2017, 2021 (Chair, 2016-2017 and 2021).

Book Prize Committee Chair, *Berkshire Conference of Women Historians*, 2011-2014

Board of Academic Advisors, Old State House, Boston, 2014-present

Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities, Scholarly Editions and Translations, 2012

#### Carleton College

Phi Beta Kappa: President, 2022-24; Vice-President, 2020-22, Secretary, 2012-2014

Board of Carleton Humanities Center, 2014-2018; 2023-2024

Co-chair, Education and Curriculum Committee, 2013-2015

Chair, Junior Faculty Affairs Committee, 2005-2008

#### **RECENT INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

“American Affections: The Life, Loves, and Letters of Mary Fish,” Richie Distinguished Fellow Lecture, Huntington Library (2025)

“Boycotts to Bullets” Keynote address for “A Society on the Brink of War and Revolution,” Concord Museum, Massachusetts Historical Society and American Philosophical Society (2025)

“The Boston Massacre,” Lecture for the Sons of the American Revolution-Illinois and Newberry Library (2025)

“Could the Empire Be Saved?” Opening keynote address for “Empire and Discontent,”  
Massachusetts Historical Society and American Philosophical Society (2023)

“Everything Must Go: Property, Uncertainty, and Choice in the Evacuation of Boston”  
Presidential Address for the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (2023)

“Women in the Revolution,” A Life in Letters: A Celebration of Dr. Barbara Oberg, American  
Philosophical Society (2023)

“The Boston Massacre” National Council for History Education (2023)

“The American Revolution as Divorce,” South Carolina Historical Society (2023)

“Gender and the American Revolution,” Plenary session for “Historiographies of the American  
Revolution,” University of Lyon, France (2022).

“John Adams and the Boston Massacre,” Suffolk County (Massachusetts) Educational seminar  
(2022)

**Selected book talks about *The Boston Massacre*: (2020-22)**

Massachusetts Historical Society

Boston Public Library

Newport Historical Society

Concord Museum

Society of the Cincinnati

Daughters of the American Revolution (multiple chapters)

Gilder-Lehrman “Book Breaks”

Washington Library, Mt. Vernon

Museum of the American Revolution, Philadelphia

Waseca Public Library

Ocean County Library

Fergus Falls Public Library

Falmouth Historical Society and Museums on the Green

Lexington Historical Society

Flaschner Judicial Institute

Clements Library

Boston by Foot

“The Boston Massacre: A Family History,” The Guy F. Goodfellow Memorial Lecture,  
Washington College, 2022

“The Boston Massacre 250 Years Later,” American Philosophical Society, June 2021

“Drinking by the Numbers: Taverns, Ledgers, and Our History,” Third Annual Conservation  
Lecture, Lexington Historical Society, Lexington, MA (2018)

“An Intimate History of the Boston Massacre,” The Society of the Cincinnati Lecture, Virginia  
Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA (2018)

“The Boston Massacre: An Intimate History,” Hammond Family Lecture, Ohio State University, Columbus OH (2017)

“An Intimate History of the Boston Massacre,” University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN (2017)

“The Boston Massacre: An Intimate History,” The Society of the Cincinnati Lecture, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA (2016)

Scholar talk, opening night of *Blood on the Snow*, Old State House, Boston (2016 and 2017)

“An Intimate History of the Boston Massacre,” The Simons Lecture, University of Florida, Gainesville (2016)

“Intimate Ties and the Boston Massacre” at the Miller Center For Historical Studies, University of Maryland. Baltimore, MD (2015)

“An Intimate History of the Boston Massacre” at the McNeil Center Seminar. Philadelphia, PA (2015)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Were Patriots the Revolutionary-era Minority?: 10 Things to Know about the Revolution,” Lightning Session for Society of Historians of the Early American Republic, Providence (2025)

“What Scholars Would Like the Public to Know About the American Revolution,” Roundtable for Omohundro Institute ‘For 2026’ Conference, Williamsburg (2023)

“Presenting America’s Founding,” biennial conference of the Society of Early Americanists, College Park, (2023)

“The Future of History at Liberal Arts Colleges: A Chairs’ Roundtable,” American Historical Association Meeting, Philadelphia (2023)

“Gender and the American Revolution,” a plenary address for *Historiographies of the American Revolution*, Lyon (2022)

“Reflections on the Past; Ideas for the Future” Closing Keynote (speaker and moderator) for American Philosophical Society, “Meanings of Independence,” Philadelphia (2021)

“Staking Claims in Contested Spaces: Households and Gender in Colonial and Revolutionary America” Chair and Comment, For the Omohundro Institute Annual Conference. Zoom (2021)

“The Seductions of 0/1: Digital Storytelling and the Boston Massacre” For the Society of the History of the Early American Republic. Philadelphia (2016)

- “An Intimate History of the Boston Massacre” For the Massachusetts Historical Society conference “‘So Sudden an Alteration’: The Causes, Course, and Consequences of the American Revolution.” Boston, MA. (2015)
- “Mapping the Early Republic” Roundtable. Society for the History of the Early American Republic, New Haven (2016)
- “Nine Months in Philadelphia: British Occupation in America’s Revolutionary Capital,” Panel Comment. For the Society of the History of the Early American Republic, Raleigh, NC (2015)
- “Women and the Boston Massacre” For Sons of the American Revolution conference “Women in the Era of the American Revolution.” Williamsburg, VA. (2014)
- “War, Violence, and Gender in Colonial and Revolutionary North America” For “Gender War and Culture: From Colonial Conquest, Standing Armies and Revolutionary Wars to the Wars of Nations and Empires.” Chapel Hill, NC (2014)
- “On the Edges of Trade: Women, Commerce, and Space in the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Anglo-Atlantic World.” Panel Chair. For the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, Toronto. (2014)
- “Occupying Boston: An Intimate History of the Boston Massacre.” For the Early American History Seminar, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, MA (2013)
- “There goes the Neighborhood: The Regulars Move into Boston” For the conference “Alternative States”. Berkeley, CA (2013)
- “Desertion, Military Families, and the Boston Massacre.” For the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture. Pasadena, CA (2012)
- “Intimate Networks in Occupied Boston” For the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians. Amherst, MA (2011)
- “Occupying Boston.” For the Colonial Society of Massachusetts. Boston, MA (2011)
- “The Slave Trade as a Destabilizing Force in Early America.” Panel comment. For the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture. New Paltz, New York. (2011)
- “Social Networks in the Boston Massacre.” For the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture. Oxford, MS (2010)
- Dangerous Economies.* For the Herbert H. Lehman Center for American History Columbia University. New York City (2010)
- “Gendering Religion in Early America.” Panel chair. For the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Minneapolis. (2008)

- “Republicanism Across Borders.” Panel Chair. For the Society for the History of the Early American Republic. Worcester, MA (2007)
- “The Work-Life Tightrope at a Liberal Arts College.” For the American Historical Association Meeting. Atlanta, GA. (2006)
- “Cheats and Rogueries: Gender and the Making of an Eighteenth-Century Atlantic Market.” For the Newberry Library Seminar in Early American History and Culture. Chicago. (2004)
- “Women’s Trading Networks and Dangerous Economies.” For a conference on Women’s Economies in Early America, at the Program in Early American Economy and Society, Philadelphia. (2004)
- “Dancing on the Atlantic Rim.” For the Columbia Seminar in Early American History, New York. (2003)
- “Reselling Gentility: Working Women and the Consumer Revolution in Eighteenth-Century New York.” For the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Storrs, Connecticut. (2002)
- “Dangerous Economies: Sex and Goods in Colonial New York City.” For the Gotham Center History Festival, New York City. (2001)
- “Pistoles and Death Threats: Women’s Shares in the Storehouse.” For the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, Glasgow. (2001)
- “The Spanish Prisoner: Foreign Black Sailors in New York City.” For the Organization of American Historians Conference, St. Louis. (2000)
- “Balls for Peace: Dancing on the Atlantic Rim.” For the “Speaking in Signs” Conference, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Philadelphia. (1999)
- “Simple Simon in the Howling Wilderness: Violent Women in the Colonial Imagination.” For the Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference, Boston. (1997)

## **PRESS AND INTERVIEWS FOR *THE BOSTON MASSACRE: A FAMILY HISTORY***

- “This Week in History,” ABC Radio Australia, March 6, 2022
- “Familiar Story of the Boston Massacre Becomes Familial,” *Washington Post*, May 14, 2020
- “The Boston Massacre’ Review: Colonial Boston’s Civil War,” *Wall Street Journal*, February 28, 2020
- “Talking about a Revolution,” *The Economist*, March 5, 2020
- “A Q&A with Serena Zabin,” *The Christian Science Monitor*, April 7, 2020
- “Behind the Scenes at the Boston Massacre,” *Lexington Colonial Times*, April, 2020
- “A Fresh Look at the Boston Massacre,” *Smithsonian Magazine*, March 5, 2020
- “The Boston Massacre: Deadly Squabble was not quite as Propaganda Portrayed it”, *Boston Globe*, March 5, 2020
- “The Lives Behind the Massacre”, *New Criterion*, March 5, 2020

“Six Things Everyone Gets Wrong about the Boston Massacre”, *Boston Magazine*, March 2, 2020  
“The Story Behind the Book”, *Boston Globe*, February 28, 2020  
“Carleton College researcher uncovers the Boston Massacre’s human element,” *Minnesota Public Radio*, February 20, 2020  
“Review: The Boston Massacre”, *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, February 14, 2020

## VIDEO AND PODCAST APPEARANCES RELATING TO *THE BOSTON MASSACRE*

“The Boston Massacre” Federalist Society, 2022  
“The Boston Massacre,” C-Span Book TV, March 4, 2020  
“The Massacre That Made America’ *Fox Nation*, March 5, 2020  
“Beyond the Bloody Massacre,” City of Quincy Productions, in production.  
[Axelbank Reports History and Today](#), May 20, 2021  
[Ben Franklin’s World](#), March 2, 2021  
[The Writer’s Bone](#), January 2021  
[Most Notorious](#), June 15, 2020  
[Dr. Joseph Warren Historical Society](#), with J.L. Bell, October 15, 2020  
[Revolution 250](#), October 20, 2020

## REVIEWS

### Book reviews for

*American Historical Review*  
*Business History Review*  
*Journal of American History*  
*William and Mary Quarterly*  
*Reviews in American History*  
*H-Atlantic*  
*H-Net*  
*Common-Place*  
*New-England Quarterly*  
*Itinerario*  
*Journal of Interdisciplinary History*  
*Journal of the Early Republic*  
*Journal of Social History*  
*Massachusetts Historical Review*

### Manuscript reviews for

Johns Hopkins University Press  
University of North Carolina University Press  
Oxford University Press  
Yale University Press  
Cornell University Press  
Wiley-Blackwell  
*William and Mary Quarterly*  
*Early American Studies*  
*Atlantic Studies*

*Journal of American History*  
*Massachusetts Historical Review*  
*Journal of the Early Republic*

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### At Carleton College

HIST 100: Trials in Early America  
HIST 110: Antebellum Reform Movements  
HIST 110: Natives & Newcomers in Early America  
HIST 120: Rethinking the American Experience: American History, 1607-1865  
HIST 208: The Atlantic World: Columbus to the Age of Revolutions, 1492-1792  
HIST 211: Revolts and Resistance in Early America  
HIST 212: The Era of the American Revolution  
HIST 213: Politics and Protest in the Early Republic  
HIST 216: History Beyond the Walls  
HIST 298: Junior-year History Colloquium  
HIST 315: America's Founding  
HIST 316: Telling America's Founding  
HIST 395: Political Culture in a New Nation  
HIST 395: Topics in American History: Liberty, Equality and Power: America 1607-1865  
HIST 395: American Legal History, 1607-1865  
HIST 398: Advanced Historical Writing

AMST 100: History and American Culture  
AMST 345: Theory and Method of American Studies  
AMST 396: Research Seminar (American Empire)

### K-12 Teacher Workshops

"America at 250: The Boston Massacre and the American Revolution" College in the Schools, University of Minnesota (2025)  
"The Boston Massacre," Wilderness Education Project (Kentucky) (2025)  
"History Source: The Boston Massacre," Advisor for Massachusetts Historical Society (2023)

"The Boston Massacre," Massachusetts Historical Society (2020)

"Women in the Era of the American Revolution," For the Massachusetts Historical Society for a Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati Grant. (2016)

"The Native Ground," for Southern Minnesota social studies teachers' continuing education. (2008)

"Early Minnesota," for the Minnesota History Center (2006)

"Represented in the New Nation," For "Shaping the American Nation: Immigration and its Historical Impacts" for a Teaching American History Grant, Northfield Public Schools (2004)

## REFERENCES

Dr. Carolyn Eastman  
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Virginia Commonwealth University  
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