

Whitney Barlow Robles

Curriculum Vitae

Program in American Studies
Harvard University
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Program in American Studies, Harvard University, 2019 (expected)

Dissertation: “Curious Species: How Animals Made Natural History, 1700–1820”

Committee: Joyce E. Chaplin (chair), Jennifer L. Roberts, Harriet Ritvo, Janet Browne

Secondary Field Certificate: Science, Technology, and Society (Advisor: Sheila Jasanoff)

B.A. American Studies, Yale University, 2011

Distinction in the major, *magna cum laude*

Thesis: “Putting Words in the Birds’ Mouths: The Role of Women in the Nature Fakers Controversy”

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Academic Publications

- 2017 “Flatness.” In *The Philosophy Chamber: Art and Science in Harvard’s Teaching Cabinet, 1766–1820*. Ed. Ethan W. Lasser. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Art Museums and Yale University Press, 2017.
- 2017 “Atlantic Disaster: Boston Responds to the Cape Ann Earthquake of 1755.” *The New England Quarterly* 90, no. 1 (March 2017): 7–35.
- 2014 Daan Witters, Bing Sun, Stefano Begolo, Jesus Rodriguez-Manzano, Whitney Robles, and Rustem F. Ismagilov. “Digital Biology and Chemistry.” *Lab on a Chip* 14 (2014): 3225–3232.

Web-Based Academic Publications

- 2018 “Natural History in Two Dimensions.” *Common-place: The Journal of Early American Life* 18, no. 1 (Winter 2018). <http://common-place.org/book/vol-18-no-1-robles/>.
- 2017 “A Naturalist in Historian’s Clothing.” *The Junto: A Group Blog on Early American History*. November 27, 2017. <https://earlyamericanists.com/2017/11/27/inspiration-roundtable-guest-post-by-whitney-barlow-robles-naturalist-in-historians-clothing/>.

Other Writing (Selected)

- 2012 “Calling All Senses: Why Flavor Is Not Just a Matter of Taste.” *Rotunda* 37, no. 4 (2012): 7–9.
- 2012 “‘Punk Eek,’ 40 Years Later.” *amnh.org*. May 21, 2012. <https://www.amnh.org/explore/news-blogs/research-posts/punk-eek-40-years-later/>.
- 2012 “Refining a Theory: Plate Tectonics in the 21st Century.” *Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory Alumni and Friends News* (Spring 2012): 7–9.
- 2012 “As Firefly Numbers Seem to Slide, Researchers Ponder Effects on Ecosystems.” *amnh.org*. May 4, 2012. <https://www.amnh.org/explore/news-blogs/on-exhibit-posts/as-firefly-numbers-seem-to-slide-researchers-ponder-effects-on-ecosystems/>.
- 2012 “Nabokov’s Type: *Lysandra cormion*.” *Rotunda* 37, no. 2 (2012): 4.
- 2012 “Notes on Planning Ahead.” *The Last Word on Nothing*. May 1, 2012. <http://www.lastwordonnothing.com/2012/05/01/guest-post-notes-on-planning-ahead/>.
- 2011 “Stray Western Hummingbird Visits the Museum’s Flowers.” *amnh.org*. December 16, 2011. <https://www.amnh.org/explore/news-blogs/news-posts/stray-western-hummingbird-visits-the-museum-s-flowers>.
- 2011 “The Physics of Cat Tongues.” *Yale Scientific*. April 3, 2011. <http://www.yalescientific.org/2011/04/the-physics-of-cat-tongues/>.

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Prizes

- 2018 Bowdoin Prize for “Natural History in Two Dimensions,” Graduate Essay in the Natural Sciences, Harvard University (\$10,000)
- 2018 Hakluyt Society Essay Prize for “‘A Different Species of Resistance’: When Corals Became Animals and Animals Had History,” The Hakluyt Society (£500)
- 2018 Finalist, Gene Wise–Warren Susman Prize for “The Lost Serpent: Enchanting Rattlesnakes in the Revolutionary Atlantic,” American Studies Association

Research Grants and Fellowships

- 2018 American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Fellowship, Boston Athenaeum
- 2018 Fothergill Research Award, Bartram Trail Conference
- 2018 Deakin-Royce Graduate Research Fellowship in Australian Studies, Harvard University
- 2017 Michael Kraus Research Grant, American Historical Association
- 2017 Baird Society Resident Scholar, Smithsonian Institution Libraries
- 2017 Jay T. Last Fund Research Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society
- 2017 Jacob M. Price Visiting Research Fellowship, The William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan

- 2017 Travel Grant, The Lewis Walpole Library, Yale University
- 2017 Travel Fellowship, Linda Hall Library
- 2017 Summer Research Grant, The Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History
- 2017 National Science Foundation Travel Grant, History of Science Society Meeting
- 2016 Jens Aubrey Westengard Fellowship, Harvard University
- 2016 GSAS Summer Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, Harvard University
- 2016 National Science Foundation Travel Grant, American Society for Environmental History Conference
- 2015 Research Fellowship, Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine
- 2015 Graduate Student Seed Grant, Center for American Political Studies

Teaching Awards

- 2017 Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (for “Tangible Things: Harvard Collections in World History”)
- 2017 Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (for “The Great Experiment: A History of the United States”)

Grant Writing Experience

- 2014 Grant Writer and Manager, “Chemistry to Enable Global Monitoring of Influenza,” Caltech Innovation Initiative (\$250,000)
- 2013 Grant Writer and Manager, “Digital Single-Molecule LRS Diagnostics on SlipChip,” DARPA (\$15,500,000)

TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- 2018 “The Lost History of Rattlesnakes.” Museum of Comparative Zoology Seminar Series. Harvard University. Cambridge, MA. November 14.
- 2018 “Natural History in Two Dimensions.” STS Circle. Harvard University. Cambridge, MA. September 10.
- 2012 “Putting Words in the Birds’ Mouths: The Role of Women in the Nature Fakers Controversy.” John Burroughs Nature Writing Conference & Seminar Series. Oneonta, NY. June 4.

Panels Organized

- 2018 “Animals in the Early Modern Atlantic World.” American Historical Association Meeting. Washington, DC. January 5.
- 2017 “Animals in the Early Modern Atlantic World.” History of Science Society Meeting. Toronto, ON. November 11.

Conference Papers Presented

- 2018 “The Lost Serpent: Enchanting Rattlesnakes in the Revolutionary Atlantic.” American Studies Association Meeting. Atlanta, GA. November 9.
- 2018 “The World Builders: Centering Corals in Early American Natural History.” Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture Meeting. Williamsburg, VA. June 15.
- 2018 “‘Little More Room Than a Drawing’: Flattening Animals and Reconstructing Craft Practice in the British Atlantic, 1740–1820.” American Historical Association Meeting. Washington, DC. January 5.
- 2017 “The Flounder and the Ray: Flattening Natural History in the Eighteenth Century.” History of Science Society Meeting. Toronto, ON. November 11.
- 2017 “‘A Different Species of Resistance’: Early American Animal Frameworks.” Lenses and Contacts: Framing Early America. McNeil Center Biennial Graduate Student Conference. Philadelphia, PA. October 6.
- 2017 “Mixed Media: Flattening Sea Life in Eighteenth-Century Natural History.” Water History Conference. Grand Rapids, MI. June 14.
- 2017 “Curious Species: How Animals Made Natural History, 1700–1820.” Colonial Society of Massachusetts Graduate Student Forum. Boston, MA. May 19.
- 2016 “‘Liberty Rendered Him Insolent’: Raccoon Pet-keeping as a Laboratory in Early America.” Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture Meeting. Worcester, MA. June 25.
- 2016 “Paper Fishes: Flattening Life at Eighteenth-Century Harvard.” Joint Atlantic Seminar for the History of Biology. Cambridge, MA. April 2.
- 2016 “Appendix to an Earthquake: Revising Disaster in Eighteenth-Century New England.” American Society for Environmental History Meeting. Seattle, WA. March 31.
- 2015 “Dormant Bears, Latent Capital: Biovaluing the Tardigrade.” Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Meeting. Denver, CO. November 13.
- 2015 “Creatures, Compressed: Illustration-like Specimens in Harvard’s Philosophy Chamber.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) Meeting. Moscow, ID. June 27.

TEACHING

Teaching Experience

- 2017 Teaching Fellow and Guest Lecturer, “Tangible Things: Harvard Collections in World History,” Laurel Thatcher Ulrich and Sara J. Schechner, Fall 2017
- 2017 Teaching Fellow and Syllabus Development, “The Great Experiment: A History of the United States,” Jill Lepore, Spring 2017

PUBLIC HISTORY AND PRESS

- 2017 “Flatness.” Gallery Talk in Philosophy Chamber Conversations Series. Harvard Art Museums. Cambridge, MA. September 9, 2017. Available as a podcast at <https://soundcloud.com/harvardartmuseums/philosophy-chamber-conversations-whitney-barlow-robles-on-flatness>.
- 2017 Featured in Peter Neill, “The Flattened Ocean.” *HuffPost*. July 5, 2017. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/the-flattened-ocean_us_595d31b0e4b0cf3c8e8d55a0.
- 2017 Featured in “A Late Discovery from the Philosophy Chamber.” *Index*. January 20, 2017. <https://www.harvardartmuseums.org/article/a-late-discovery-from-the-philosophy-chamber>.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2016 Harvard Art Museums, Curatorial and Teaching Fellow, *The Philosophy Chamber: Art and Science in Harvard’s Teaching Cabinet, 1766–1820*
- 2012–2014 California Institute of Technology, Scientific Editor and Writing Advisor
- 2011–2012 American Museum of Natural History, Editorial Assistant
- 2011 American Museum of Natural History, Exhibition Editorial Assistant, *Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas*

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2017 Professional Development Team, American Studies Program, Harvard University

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association
American Studies Association
Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture
Organization of American Historians
History of Science Society
American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
Society for Historians of the Early American Republic
American Society for Environmental History
National Council on Public History
Society for Social Studies of Science
The Hakluyt Society

LANGUAGES

Spanish (proficient)

German (reading knowledge)

DIGITAL SKILLS

WordPress; content management systems (eZ Publish, Drupal); basic HTML; general website development