

# Whitney Barlow Robles

Curriculum Vitae

Program in American Studies  
Harvard University  
12 Quincy Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
wrobles@g.harvard.edu  
www.whitneybarlowrobles.com

## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

---

Junior Fellow and Lecturer, Society of Fellows, Dartmouth College (starting Fall 2019)

## **EDUCATION**

---

### **Ph.D. American Studies, Harvard University, 2019**

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)

### **A.M. History, Harvard University, 2019**

### **B.A. American Studies, Yale University, 2011**

Distinction in the major, *magna cum laude*

## **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” (£500)
- 2018 Finalist (Second Place), Gene Wise–Warren Susman Prize for “The Lost Serpent: Enchanting Rattlesnakes in the Revolutionary Atlantic,” American Studies Association

### **Research Grants and Fellowships**

- 2019 Eccles Centre Visiting Fellowship, The British Library
- 2018 American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Fellowship, Boston Athenæum
- 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)

**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

## **TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS**

---

### **Invited Talks**

- 2019 “Sleight of Hand: A Reverse Natural History of Raccoons.” Boston Athenæum. Boston, MA. June 25.
- 2019 “Rattlesnakes, Extinction, and Myth.” Bartram Trail Conference. Montgomery, AL. October 26.
- 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.
- 2017 “Flatness.” Gallery Talk in Philosophy Chamber Conversations Series. Harvard Art Museums. Cambridge, MA. September 9. Available as a podcast at <https://soundcloud.com/harvardartmuseums/philosophy-chamber-conversations-whitney-barlow-robles-on-flatness>.
- 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.

## **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*

## **PRESS**

---

- 2017 Featured in Peter Neill, “The Flattened Ocean.” *HuffPost*. July 5, 2017. [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/the-flattened-ocean\\_us\\_595d31b0e4b0cf3c8e8d55a0](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>.

## **SERVICE**

---

- 2019 Article Reviewer, *Graduate Journal of Food Studies*
- 2017 Professional Development Team, American Studies Program, Harvard University
- 2012 Final Round Judge, National Young Naturalist Awards, American Museum of Natural History

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

---

American Historical Association

American Society for Environmental History

National Council on Public History

Organization of American Historians

History of Science Society

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

Society for Historians of the Early American Republic

American Studies Association

Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture

Society for Social Studies of Science

The Hakluyt Society

## **LANGUAGES**

---

Spanish (proficient)

German (reading knowledge)