

LAURA EARLS

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46 W. Delaware Ave
Newark, DE 19716

EDUCATION

- PhD** University of Delaware, History of American Civilization Expected May 2023
Committee: Zara Anishanslin (advisor), Dael Norwood, Rebecca Davis
Dissertation title: “Mundane Monstrosities: Gender, Reproduction, and Embodiment in the British Atlantic World, 1585-1815”
Qualifying exam fields: Atlantic World, ca. 1500-1820 (major field); American Women, Gender, and Sexuality, 1600-1900 (minor field); American Material Culture (minor field)
- MA** University of Delaware, History May 2019
Certificate in Museum Studies
- BA** Binghamton University, History (High Honors), Music May 2016
Summa Cum Laude
Minor in Japanese Studies
Thesis: “Defining Autonomy: Women Navigating Economic, Political, and Intellectual Spaces in Boston, 1770-1779”
Committee: Dael Norwood (advisor), Robert Parkinson

MUSEUM AND PUBLIC HISTORY EXPERIENCE

- Mellon/ACLS Scholars and Society Program** 2022 – 2023
Graduate Research Assistant
- Under the supervision of Dr. Zara Anishanslin (2021 Mellon/ACLS Fellow), I conduct material culture and archival research for a forthcoming podcast and her forthcoming monograph, *Under the King’s Nose*.
- Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, Winterthur, DE** 2020 – 2021
Registration Department Graduate Assistant
- Duties included: database management (EMu), multimedia digitization, condition reporting for loans and collections objects
- Delaware Historical Society, Wilmington, DE** 2019 – 2020
Curator (Contract)
- I was brought in to conduct additional research, craft displays, write label copy and panels, and install the exhibit “Collecting Wilmington: Place, Perspective, and Memory.”

Delaware Historical Society, Wilmington, DE January 2019
University of Delaware Museum Studies SWAT Program Volunteer

- Rehoused paper collections

Delaware Historical Society Research Library, Wilmington, DE 2018 – 2019
Graduate Assistant

- Duties included: preliminary research for “Collecting Wilmington: Place, Perspective, and Memory,” catalogued collections, database management (Cuadra Star), rehoused a collection for digitization

Museum of the American Revolution, Philadelphia, PA Summer 2018
Curatorial and Collections Intern

- Duties included: some research for the exhibit “Cost of Revolution: The Life and Death of an Irish Soldier,” meeting with outside experts, preliminary research for additional exhibitions, assisting with object accessioning and updating information in the museum’s database system (PastPerfect)

New Castle Historical Society, New Castle, DE Summer 2018
Collections Intern

- Edited PastPerfect files

Rockwood Museum and Park, Wilmington, DE January 2018
University of Delaware Museum Studies SWAT Program Volunteer

- Edited PastPerfect files
- Organized artifact storage

Nemours Estate, Wilmington, DE 2017 – 2018
Graduate Assistant

- Duties included: evaluating historical consumer patterns at the estate, processing archival material, working with staff to revise interpretation materials, editing and updating museum database files (PastPerfect)

Shaker Museum Mount Lebanon, New Lebanon, NY Summer 2016
Tour Guide

- Gave 90-minute walking tours of the historic Shaker central ministry site at Mount Lebanon

Schenectady County Historical Society, Schenectady, NY Summer 2014
Collections Management Intern

- Created and edited database records for over 1,400 artifacts in the museum’s database system (PastPerfect)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Delaware, Newark, DE 2022

History Department Graduate Student Instructor

- HIST 105 – U.S. History to 1865 (Fall 2022)

University of Delaware, Newark, DE 2020 – 2021

History Department Teaching Assistant

- HIST 135 – Introduction to Latin American History (Fall 2021)
- ARTH 201/HIST/MSST 203 – Introduction to Museums (Spring 2020)
- MSST 402/602 – Archives and Paper Collections: Curatorship and Management (Spring 2020)

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Publications

“‘by her needle maintain herself with reputation:’ Philadelphia Quaker Women and the Materiality of Piety, 1758-1760,” *Madison Historical Review*, Vol. 18, Spring 2021, pp. 34-59, <https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/mhr/vol18/iss1/>.

“Defining Autonomy: Women Navigating Transatlantic Intellectual Connections in Boston, 1770-1779,” *Binghamton Journal of History*, Vol. 17, Fall 2016, pp. 37-62.

Public History Writing

“The solution to formula shortage isn’t calling for more breastfeeding,” *The Washington Post: Made by History*, May 18, 2022, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2022/05/18/solution-formula-shortage-isnt-calling-more-breastfeeding/>.

“Augmenting the Maternal Breast in the British Atlantic,” *Lady Science Magazine*, December 16, 2021, <https://www.ladyscience.com/features/augmenting-the-maternal-breast-2021>.

“Success to America.” *Museum of the American Revolution: Read the Revolution*, August 2018, <http://www.amrevmuseum.org/read-the-revolution/history/success-america>

“The Great Stone Barn and the Shakers: Intersections of Architecture and Utopia.” *UpstateHistorical*, December 2017, <http://www.upstatehistorical.org/items/show/6>

PRESENTATIONS

“‘a Woman chain’d down upon a Table:’ Anatomical Models and Gendered Obstetric Knowledge in the British Atlantic World,” International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies 16th International Congress for Eighteenth-Century Studies, July 3-7, 2023. Paper accepted.

“‘a Woman chain’d down upon a Table:’ Anatomical Models and Gendered Obstetric Knowledge in the British Atlantic World,” American Association for the History of Medicine Annual Meeting, May 11-14, 2023. Paper accepted.

“‘To make or frame curious Figures in Wax-work:’ Nostalgia and the Miniature in Eighteenth-Century Women’s Work,” The History of Women, Gender, & Sexuality Seminar at the Massachusetts Historical Society, January 26, 2023. Paper accepted.

“‘a Woman chain’d down upon a Table:’ Anatomical Models and Gendered Obstetric Knowledge in the British Atlantic World,” The Social Lives of Things: Brown University History Graduate Student Association Annual Conference, October 14, 2022.

“‘they could hardly persuade themselves they were not human Creatures:’ Women Waxwork Sculptors and Reproduction in the British Atlantic World,” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies 52nd Annual Meeting, March 31, 2022.

“‘occasioned by the rash Wish of a poor beggar Woman!:’ Mrs. Salmon, Motherhood, and the Monstrous Materiality of Wax,” Means and Meaning of Materiality in the Zoom Age Workshop, Graduate Symposium, Department of Art & Archaeology, Princeton University, March 24, 2022.

“‘To make or frame curious Figures in Wax-work:’ Nostalgia and the Miniature in Eighteenth-Century Women’s Work,” James A. Barnes Graduate Student History Conference, Temple University, March 19, 2022.

“The True Demon Barber(-Surgeon) of Fleet Street: A Case Study in the University of Delaware Libraries,” HIST 135: Introduction to Latin American History Guest Lecture, University of Delaware, November 17, 2021.

“‘their Affections are alienated from the Mothers who bore them, and their Minds are ill turned:’ Monstrosity and the Materiality of Maternity in the Atlantic World,” British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Postgraduate and Early Career Researcher Seminar Series, August 26, 2021.

“The Whales and the Bees: Wax, Monstrosity, and Breastfeeding in the Atlantic World,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Spring 2021 Lecture Series: Objects as Cultural Artifacts, May 5, 2021.

“‘They are greatly Diligted with puppets:’ The Materiality of Wax and the Body in Atlantic Encounters,” Materializing Race: An “Unconference” on Objects and Identity in #VastEarlyAmerica, August 24-25, 2020.

“‘rude and inartificial:’ Waxwork Figures in the British Atlantic World, 1733-1779,” Popular Culture Association National Conference, April 15-18, 2020. Paper accepted, conference canceled due to COVID-19.

“‘rude and inartificial:’ Waxwork Figures in the British Atlantic World, 1733-1779,” James A. Barnes Graduate Student History Conference, Temple University, March 20-21, 2020.

“Dolls on Display: Girlhood Representations of Power in the Atlantic World, 1577-1789,” Graduate Exchange Program in Visual and Material Culture, Queen Mary University of London and the University of Delaware, September 12-13, 2018.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Center for Women’s History Early Career Workshop

New-York Historical Society
October 8, 2021 – May 20, 2022

Description: Doctoral candidates and recent PhDs who study American women’s and gender history meet once a month to discuss their writing with each other and senior scholars from the Center’s Scholarly Advisory Board.

Delaware Public Humanities Institute (DELPHI)

Center for Material Culture Studies, University of Delaware
May 26 – June 4, 2020

Description: This series of workshops helped participants write and speak about their academic research for the general public.

British Design History, 1530-1930

Winterthur Museum and University of Delaware
Winterthur, DE and London, England
January 14 – February 4, 2019

Description: This course is required for MA students in the Winterthur Program and is open to graduate students in other departments by application only. We studied British material culture through the Winterthur Museum’s collections before embarking on a two-week field study in England.

SERVICE

University of Delaware, Newark, DE 2020 – present
History Department Graduate Student Mentor – “Historians Helping Historians”

University of Delaware, Newark, DE 2021 – 2022
Center for Material Culture Studies – Co-Convener, Methods in Material Culture Graduate Student Working Group

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

Robert L. McNeil Jr. Fellowship (Short-Term) Historical Society of Pennsylvania and Library Company of Philadelphia	2022 – 2023
John C. Carson Fellowship for the History of Medicine (Short-Term) The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens	2022 – 2023
Graduate Research Travel Fund Award Center for Material Culture Studies, University of Delaware	2022
Bassett-Ferguson Fellowship History Department, University of Delaware	2021
COVID-19 Relief Dissertation Writing Grant Center for Material Culture Studies, University of Delaware	2021
Delaware Public Humanities Institute (DELPHI) Center for Material Culture Studies, University of Delaware	2020
Edward Ezell Fellowship History Department, University of Delaware	2018
Edward Alexander Internship Award University of Delaware	2018
Amy M. Gilbert Prize for Excellence in History Binghamton University	2016

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, 2021-Present

American Historical Association, 2017-Present

Phi Beta Kappa, 2016-Present

Phi Alpha Theta – National History Honor Society, 2014-Present

Mu Phi Epsilon – Professional International Music Fraternity, 2013-Present

Phi Sigma Iota – International Foreign Language Honor Society, 2015-Present

SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Collections Management: PastPerfect, EMu, Cuadra Star

French: Intermediate reading and writing, limited speaking proficiency

Japanese: Intermediate reading and writing, limited speaking proficiency