

HOLGER DROESSLER

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Worcester Polytechnic Institute
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Humanities & Arts
Salisbury Labs 018

EMPLOYMENT

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| Worcester Polytechnic Institute , Worcester, MA Assistant Professor of History | 2019-present |
| Smith College , Northampton, MA Lecturer in History | 2018-19 |
| Bard College , Annandale-on-Hudson, NY Visiting Assistant Professor of History | 2016-18 |
| Tufts University , Medford, MA Lecturer, Department of History | 2015-16 |
| Harvard University , Cambridge, MA College Fellow in U.S. History | 2015-16 |

EDUCATION

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| Harvard University , Cambridge, MA Ph.D., History of American Civilization | 2015 |
| A.M., History | 2011 |
| Ludwig-Maximilians-University , Munich, Germany M.A., summa cum laude, American Cultural History | 2008 |

BOOK PROJECTS

Coconut Colonialism: Workers and the Globalization of Samoa (under contract with Harvard University Press, to be published Dec. 2021)

“War Workers: How Foreigners Built the U.S. Military from the Civil War to Iraq” (in progress)

DISSERTATION

“Islands of Labor: Community, Conflict, and Resistance in Colonial Samoa, 1889-1919”

Committee: Sven Beckert, David Armitage, Jennifer Roberts, Damon Salesa

Obama Dissertation Prize 2015, Transnational American Studies Institute, Mainz, Germany

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

19th- and 20th-Century U.S. History, Pacific History, Global History, Environmental History, History of Capitalism, Labor History

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

“Changes on the Plantation: An Environmental History of Colonial Samoa, 1880-1920.” In: *Migrant Ecologies: Environmental Histories of the Pacific*, edited by James Beattie, Edward Melillo, and Ryan T. Jones (Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2022).

“Copra World: Coconuts, Plantations, and Cooperatives in German Samoa.” In: *Journal of Pacific History*, Vol. 53, No. 4 (November 2018): 417-435.

“Afrodeutsche ‘Besatzungskinder’ im Nachkriegsdeutschland: Ein Interview mit Willi Meiler.” In: *The Black Diaspora and Germany/Deutschland und die Schwarze Diaspora*, edited by BDG Network, 144-158. Münster, Germany: edition assemblage, 2018.

“Colonialism by Deferral: Samoa Under the Tridominium, 1889-1899.” In: *Rethinking the Colonial State (Political Power and Social Theory, Vol. 33)*, edited by Søren Rud and Søren Ivarsson, 203-224. Bingley, UK: Emerald, 2017.

“Eveli Hau‘ofa.” In: *Encyclopedia of Imperialism and Anti-Imperialism*, edited by Zak Cope and Immanuel Ness, 55-58. London, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020 [2015].

“Germany’s El Dorado in the Pacific: Metropolitan Representations and Colonial Realities, 1884-1914.” In: *Imperial Expectations and Realities: El Dorados, Utopias, and Dystopias*, edited by Andrekos Varnava, 105-124. Manchester, UK: Manchester University Press, 2015.

“From A-Town to ATL: The Politics of Translation in Global Hip Hop Culture.” In: *The Journal of Hip Hop Studies*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (Summer 2015): 100-116.

“Performing Scientificity: Race, Science, and Politics in the United States and Germany after the Second World War.” In: *Black Knowledges/Black Struggles: Essays in Critical Epistemology*, edited by Jason R. Ambrose and Sabine Broeck, 145-169. Liverpool, UK: Liverpool University Press, 2015.

Book review on Vernadette Vicuña Gonzalez, *Securing Paradise: Tourism and Militarism in Hawai‘i and the Philippines* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2013). In: *Journal of Pacific History* 49:2 (2014), 239-240.

“The Life and Times of Taole: Whaling, Unfree Labor, and Lessons for U.S. History in the Pacific.” *U.S. History Scene*, Jan. 2014 <ushistoryscene.com/article/taole-pacific>.

“Whose Pacific? U.S. Security Interests in American Samoa from the Age of Empire to the Pacific Pivot.” *Pacific Asia Inquiry*, Vol. 4, No. 1 (Fall 2013): 58-65.

“Leonardo Ortíz.” In: *Encyclopedia of Blacks in European History and Culture*, edited by Eric Martone, 397-398. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2009.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

“American Samoa has succeeded in fighting covid-19 while the U.S. government failed: Historical awareness can save lives.” *Washington Post*, Made by History, July 27, 2020.

American Samoa Affairs Editor at *Pasquines* (news website on U.S. territories) 2020-present

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA

U.S. History, 1877-1920 (HI 2314)
Pacific Worlds (HI 3344)
United States & Territories (HI 1313)
20th-Century U.S. Foreign Relations (HI 2316)
Decolonial Thought & Practice (HI 3341)
U.S. Empire and Technology (HI 1313)
Inquiry Seminars: Working, Oceans

Smith College, Northampton, MA

Lecturer in History, 2018-19. Designed and taught various history courses:
Citizenship in the United States, 1776-1877
The United States since 1877
Gender and U.S. Imperialism
Labor and Capital in Modern America
Pacific Worlds

Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

Visiting Assistant Professor of History, 2016-18. Designed and taught various history courses:
North America & Empire, 1600-1900
North America & Empire, 1900-present
The United States in the 20th Century
On the Move: The United States from 1890 to the Present
From Wastelands to Wal-Mart: U.S. Labor History in Global Perspective
American Environmental History
Dominion: Empire and the Environment in Modern History
Pacific Worlds

Bard Prison Initiative, Eastern Correctional Facility, Napanoch, NY

Faculty, 2017-18. Designed and taught two history courses on North America & Empire, 1600-1900 and U.S. Labor History in Global Perspective.

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Faculty, Oxbridge Summer School, Harvard Law School, summer 2016. Designed and taught Speech & Debate class for high school students from around the world.

Writing Tutor, Harvard Summer and Extension School, summer 2014, 2016. Helped students of various ages and language levels compose academic papers.

History Prize Instructor, fall 2013. Designed and taught history seminar “The Pacific World.”

Teaching Fellow, Dr. Tryg Throntveit, spring 2012. Advised papers for junior research seminar “Woodrow Wilson’s America.”

Teaching Fellow, Prof. Marcyliena Morgan, spring 2012. Taught two discussion sections for “Hiphop and Don’t Stop: Spirituality, Morality, and Religion.”

Head Teaching Fellow, General Education Program, Profs. John Stauffer and Timothy McCarthy, fall 2011. Taught two discussion sections for “American Protest Literature: From Tom Paine to Tupac.”

Tufts University, Medford, MA

Lecturer, Department of History, 2015-16. Designed and taught two history courses “History of U.S. Foreign Relations, 1600-1900,” and “History of U.S. Foreign Relations, 1900-present.”

Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, Germany

Teaching Assistant, Prof. Michael Hochgeschwender and Dr. Meike Zwingenberger, 2005-08. Taught tutorials for “Theory in American Studies” and “Introduction to American Cultural History, 1492-2000.”

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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| Certificate of Teaching Excellence, Bok Center, Harvard | 2015 |
| Obama Dissertation Prize, Transnational American Studies Institute, Mainz, Germany | 2015 |
| Postdoctoral Fellow, Dahlem Humanities Center, Berlin | Summer 2015 |
| Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard | 2014-15 |
| Term-Time Dissertation Research Grant, Warren Center, Harvard | Spring 2014 |
| History Prize Instructorship, History Department, Harvard | Fall 2013 |
| Graduate Summer Research Fellowship in Global History, Harvard | Summer 2013 |
| GSAS Merit/Term-Time Research Award, Harvard | Spring 2013 |
| Doctoral Fellowship, German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C. | Fall 2012 |
| Graduate Student Affiliate, Weatherhead Initiative on Global History, Harvard | 2012-15 |
| Graduate Student Affiliate, Center for European Studies, Harvard | 2012-15 |
| Weatherhead Mid-Dissertation Fellowship, Harvard | Summer 2012 |

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| GSAS Pre-Dissertation Summer Travel Fellowship, Harvard | Summer 2011 |
| Bavarian American Academy Fellowship, Gilder Lehrman Center, Yale | Fall 2008 |
| Fulbright Scholarship, University of Massachusetts Amherst and Amherst College | 2006-07 |

PRESENTATIONS

“The Invisible Army: Third-Country Nationals and the U.S. Military in Iraq, 2003-Present,” Labor and Working-Class History Association, Durham, NC (May 2019).

“War Workers: Pacific Islanders and the U.S. Military in WWII,” Labor and Working-Class History Association, Seattle, WA (June 2017).

“Rethinking the Colonial State from the South Pacific: Euro-American Diplomats and Samoan Administrators, 1889-1899,” Reanalyzing the Colonial State: Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives, workshop at University of Copenhagen (August 2016).

“The Education of Miss Pepe: Samoan Nurses and the Politics of Colonial Care, 1900-1924,” Circulation of (Post)Colonial Knowledge: A Transpacific History, 1800-1980, workshop at University of Zurich (March 2015).

“Coals for Empire: The Building of the U.S. Naval Station in American Samoa and the Roots of Anti-Colonial Resistance, 1899-1920,” Labor and Empire Conference, UC Santa Barbara (November 2014).

“From Copra Hands to Casino Tourists: Chinese Workers and the Making of Empire in Samoa, 1903-2013,” Fourth European Congress on World and Global History, Paris (September 2014).

“Germany’s El Dorado in the Pacific: Images and Realities, 1884-1914,” Association for Asian Studies Conference, San Diego, CA (March 2013).

“Whose Pacific? U.S. Interests and Samoan Livelihoods from the Age of Empire to the Present,” American Studies Association Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico (November 2012).

“Apia Calling: How the Telegraph Came to German Samoa,” invited lecture at Goethe-Society, Auckland, New Zealand (August 2012).

“‘A Cable to Bring Peace’: Telegraphic Imperialism in Samoa,” Northeastern University Graduate Conference Empires and Technologies in World History in Boston (March 2012).

“‘And God Has a Long Memory’: Looking at Time in the Short Fiction of Edward P. Jones,” CAAR Conference Black States of Desire: Dispossession, Circulation, Transformation, Paris (April 2011).

“Resistant Bodies: Towards an Analytics of the Body in African Diaspora Studies,” Inaugural Workshop Transcending Diaspora: Whiteness, Performativity, and the Politics of the Body of the DFG Young Scholars Network Black Diaspora and Germany at the University of Muenster (December 2010).

“What Difference Does Difference Make? A Transatlantic Perspective on Policing Interracial Relationships in the United States and Germany,” British Association for American Studies Conference, Nottingham, UK (April 2009).

“Searching for Order in the ‘White Atlantic’: Racism, Nationalism, and Interracial Relationships in the United States and Germany, 1877-1917,” Brown Bag Series at the Gilder Lehrman Center, Yale University (December 2008).

“Afro-German Hiphop and the Construction of (Trans)National Identity in Postwar Germany: The Case of B-Tight’s Der Neger,” conference on Community Building and Identity Formation in the African Diaspora, Boston University (March 2007).

RELATED ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Reviewer for: *American Journal of Legal History, Labor History* 2019-present

Reader for AP U.S. History Exam, ETS 2017-present

Convener of History of Capitalism Workshop, Bard College 2016-18
Founded and organized monthly workshop for faculty and students to discuss readings in the history of capitalism; organized inaugural conference in April 2018.

Research Assistant for Sven Beckert, Harvard History Department 2012-15
Coordinated edited volume *Global History Globally* (Bloomsbury, 2018); researched primary sources and secondary literature for *Empire of Cotton* (Knopf, 2014).

Research Assistant for Alex Keyssar, Harvard Kennedy School Summer 2014
Researched primary sources and composed memos for book on U.S. electoral college (Harvard UP, 2020).

Weatherhead Initiative on Global History, Graduate Student Coordinator 2012-15
Arranged guest presentations and conferences, including conference on “Global Agrarian Labor Regimes” at Harvard in April 2013.

Co-organizer of Harvard American Studies Workshop 2011-12
Organized guest faculty and student presentations.

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association (AHA)
German Research Foundation (DFG), Young Scholars Network “Black Diaspora and Germany”
German Association for American Studies (DGfA)
Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA)

LANGUAGES

German native

English fluent
Spanish advanced
French reading
Latin reading
Samoan basic
Mandarin basic

REFERENCES

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