

HOLGER DROESSLER

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Worcester Polytechnic Institute
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Worcester, MA 01609

Humanities & Arts
Salisbury Labs 018

PERSONAL

1) Education

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

2) Work Experience

Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA Assistant Professor of History	2019-present
Reader for AP U.S. History Exam, ETS	2017-present
Writing Tutor, Harvard Writing Center	2013-present
Convener of History of Capitalism Workshop, Bard College Founded and organized monthly workshop for faculty and students to discuss readings in the history of capitalism; organized inaugural conference in April 2018.	2016-18
Research Assistant for Sven Beckert, Harvard History Department Coordinated edited volume <i>Global History Globally</i> (Bloomsbury, 2018); researched primary sources and secondary literature for <i>Empire of Cotton</i> (Knopf, 2014).	2012-15
Research Assistant for Alex Keyssar, Harvard Kennedy School Researched primary sources and composed memos for book on U.S. electoral college.	Summer 2014
Weatherhead Initiative on Global History, Graduate Student Coordinator Arranged guest presentations and conferences, including conference on “Global Agrarian Labor Regimes” at Harvard in April 2013.	2012-15
Co-organizer of Harvard American Studies Workshop Organized guest faculty and student presentations.	2011-12

TEACHING

1) Teaching Experience

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

2) Teaching Innovations at WPI (registered students/capacity)

B22	HU 3900 Hiphop (13/12)
A22	HI 3344 Pacific Worlds (20/20)
B21	HU 3900 Hiphop (12/12)
D21	HI 2914 Capitalism and Its Discontents (21/20)
B20	HI 3344 Pacific Worlds (10/20)

3) Courses Taught at WPI (registered students/capacity)

B22	HI 2316 20 th -Century USFR (35/35)
A22	HI 1313 United States & Territories (25/25)
D22	HI 3341 Decolonial Thought & Practice (12/20)
D22	HU 3900 Oceans (13/12)
C22	HI 2314 U.S. History, 1877-1920 (49/50)
B21	HU 3900 Hiphop (12/12)
B21	HI 2316 20 th -Century USFR (51/50)
A21	HI 1313 United States & Territories (25/25)
D21	HU 3900 Oceans (13/12)
D21	HI 2914 Capitalism and Its Discontents (21/20)
C21	HI 2314 U.S. History, 1877-1920 (50/50)
B20	HU 3900 Working (12/12)
B20	HI 3344 Pacific Worlds (10/20)
A20	HI 1313 United States & Territories (25/25)
D20	HU 3900 Oceans (14/12)
D20	HI 2316 20 th -Century USFR (49/50)
C20	HU 3900 Working (9/12)
C20	HI 3341 Decolonial Thought & Practice (5/20)
A19	HI 1313 U.S. Empire and Technology (27/25)

4) Undergraduate Projects Advised at WPI

on-campus IQP on WPI's Links to Slavery and Native American Dispossession (2022-23)

5) Graduate Theses Advised at WPI

M.S. Thesis in Science, Technology, and Innovation for Global Development (2022-23)

6) Independent Studies at WPI

- C23 HI 3999 US in Iraq (1 undergraduate)
- C22 HI 3999 USFR in MENA (1 graduate)
- B20 HI 3999 Colonialism & Sexuality (1 undergraduate)
- C20 HI 3999 War Workers (1 undergraduate)

7) Academic Advising at WPI

none

8) Teaching Honors and Awards

Certificate of Teaching Excellence, Bok Center, Harvard	2015
History Prize Instructorship, History Department, Harvard	2013

SCHOLARSHIP

1) Books

Coconut Colonialism: Workers and the Globalization of Samoa (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2022).

2) Book Chapters

“Changes on the Plantation: An Environmental History of Colonial Samoa.” In: *Migrant Ecologies: Environmental Histories of the Pacific*, edited by James Beattie, Ryan T. Jones, and Edward D. Melillo, 100-116. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2022.

“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, 2015 (2nd Edition, 2020).

“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.

“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.

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

3) Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

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

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

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

4) Book Reviews

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.

5) Fellowships and Grants

DEIJ Planning Grant, Office of Vice Provost for Research, WPI	2022-23
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
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
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

6) Professional Presentations

“In the Shadow of the Pacific War: U.S. Empire, Military Labor, and Solomon Islanders in the Battle of Guadalcanal,” American Historical Association, Philadelphia, PA (January 2023).

“Solomon Islanders and the U.S. Military in the Battle of Guadalcanal,” Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, New Orleans, LA (June 2022)

Invited lecture, “The Americanizing Mission and the Politics of Incorporation in Eastern Sāmoa, 1900-1937,” at *The Ambiguous Semantics of “Reeducation” in Transnational and Transhistorical Perspective* Conference, Amerikahaus Munich, Germany (February 2022).

Invited member, roundtable on “The After/lives of Pacific Plantations,” Association for the Social Anthropology of Oceania Annual Meeting, Portland, OR (January 2022).

“Servicing the Occupiers: Sex Work in the Vietnam War” at *Historicizing the Concept of Europe in Global History* Conference, European Labor History Network (ELHN) and COST Action “Worlds of Related Coercions in Work” (WORCK) at University of Vienna, Austria (September 2021).

“Coconuts and Coercion: Colonial Capitalism in German Samoa” at Virtual Conference *Colonial Capitalism in Action: The New Social and Economic History of German Colonialism* (May 2021).

“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).

“‘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).

7) Commentator/Chair for Academic Conferences

Invited chair and commentator, panel on “American Empire on the Pacific: Whaling, Militarism, Addiction, and Tourism in the 19th and 20th Centuries,” American Historical Association, New Orleans, LA (February 2022).

Commentator, panel on “Thinking About the Future of Work,” NSF NRT Program on Future of Robots in the Workplace at WPI (May 2021).

Commentator, panel on Neoliberal Employment & Unemployment Labor at Digital Workshop *Neoliberalism in the Global South*, hosted by The Decolonization Group, Utrecht University, Netherlands (May 2021).

Commentator on Quito Swan (UMass Boston), “Rude Boy International: Sound Systems, Dancehall and Diasporas,” Harvard International and Global History Seminar, Cambridge, MA (April 2021).

8) Public Lectures

Book talks on *Coconut Colonialism*: Harvard Alumni for Oceania (November 2021), University of Naples, Italy (November 2021), Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main, Germany (November 2021), Association for the Social Anthropology of Oceania, Portland, OR (January 2022), University of Augsburg, Germany (February 2022), WPI (March 2022), SPD Berlin-Wedding, Germany (May 2022), Norwegian University of Science and Technology Trondheim (June 2022), Labor and Working-Class History Association (June 2022), University of Otago, Dunedin, NZ (August 2022)

“A Sea of Islands: An Introduction to the History of Oceania,” keynote lecture, WPI Global School Oceania Hub launch event (February 2021).

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

9) Editorial and Referee Services

Reviewer for <i>Journal of Pacific History</i> (Taylor & Francis)	2022-present
Reviewer for <i>Labor History</i> (Routledge)	2020-present
Reviewer for <i>American Journal of Legal History</i> (Oxford University Press)	2019-present

10) Memberships and Offices in Professional Societies

American Historical Association (AHA)

Organization of American Historians (OAH)

Society for Historians of U.S. Foreign Relations (SHAFR)

Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA)

German Research Foundation (DFG), Young Scholars Network “Black Diaspora and Germany”

German Association for American Studies (DGfA)

11) Scholarship in Progress

War Workers: How Foreigners Built the U.S. Military from the Civil War to Iraq (second book manuscript, research in progress)

“Teaching U.S. Territories” (non-peer reviewed journal article, submitted to OAH Magazine *The American Historian*, revised draft resubmitted, Jan. 2023, to be published in spring 2023)

“In the Shadow of the Pacific War: U.S. Empire, Military Labor, and Solomon Islanders in the Battle of Guadalcanal” (journal article, first draft completed, under revision, to be submitted to *Journal of American History* by Aug. 2023)

“‘To Bring the Blessings of Peace and Order’: Preservationist Paternalism in American Samoa” (journal article for special issue on “Reeducation & Empire” for *International History Review*, first draft complete, accepted by journal and editors, waiting for peer review, to be published in late 2023)

“Vermitteln, verweigern und ‘mehr von der Welt sehen’: Samoaner in der Kolonialverwaltung Deutsch-Samoas” (book chapter for edited collection on *Auswärtiges Amt und der Kolonialismus* with C.H. Beck press, funded by German Foreign Office, first draft complete, accepted by editors, waiting for peer review, to be published in late 2023)

12) Scholarly Honors and Awards

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

13) Citations

See attached document

14) Public Scholarship

“How Chinese Migrant Workers Resisted Coconut Colonialism in Samoa.” *Asia-Pacific Journal* 20, No. 17:9 (October 2022).

“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, <[washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/07/27/american-samoa-has-succeeded-fighting-covid-19-while-us-government-failed](https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/07/27/american-samoa-has-succeeded-fighting-covid-19-while-us-government-failed/)>.

Co-Host of “New Books in History” podcast on <i>New Books Network</i>	2020-present
American Samoa Affairs Editor at <i>Pasquines</i> (news website for U.S. territories)	2020-present
“The Life and Times of Taole: Whaling, Unfree Labor, and Lessons for U.S. History in the Pacific.” <i>U.S. History Scene</i> , Jan. 2014 < ushistoryscene.com/article/taole-pacific >.	

SERVICE

1) Service to the Profession

Treasurer, WPI-AAUP Chapter	2022-present
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2) Service to WPI

Elected Member of Campus Hearing Board	2021-23
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Chair of HUA Class of 1879 Awards Committee (honors excellent works in culminating project for HUA requirement)	2023
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Reader for President’s IQP Awards (honors IQPs with outstanding focus on science, technology, and societal needs)	2020, 2021
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Member of HUA Class of 1879 Awards Committee (honors excellent works in culminating project for HUA requirement)	2021
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Co-Founder of WPI Oceania Hub	2021-present
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3) Service to the Community

Member, Advisory Board, Clemente Program Worcester	2020-present
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Mentor, Big Brothers Big Sisters Massachusetts Bay	2013-15
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Member of Amnesty International	2003-present
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January 31, 2023