

Steven Conn

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EDUCATION:

- Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania, History Dept., 1994
Dissertation: "To Organize and Display: Museums and American Culture, 1876-1926," supervised by Bruce Kuklick
- B.A. Yale University, 1987 (Magna cum Laude)
Distinction in Art History and in Archaeology

Specialties in American cultural and intellectual history; urban history; religious history; public history

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- 2006- Professor, History Department, Ohio State
- 2005 - Director, Public History Initiative, Ohio State
- 2013 Visiting Faculty, American Studies Center, University of Warsaw
- 2012 Senior Faculty, West China Faculty Enhancement Program, Xi'an, China
- 2003 Visiting Professor, History Department, Temple University
- 2000 - 2006 Associate Professor of History, Ohio State
Adjunct Associate Professor, Art History, OSU
- 1994 - 2000 Assistant Professor of History, Ohio State
- 1991 - 2008 Visiting Faculty Lecturer,
Wharton School Advanced Management Program,
University of Pennsylvania
- 1989-90 Director, Penn Extension, Community Service Program
- 1988-89 Project Coordinator, Campus Compact,
Providence, RI
- 1987-88 Assistant to the Director, Office of Community Relations,
Yale University

HONORS AND AWARDS:

- 2013 - Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer
- 2008-09 Sabbatical Support Fellowship, American Philosophical Society
- 2006 *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title Award, for *History's Shadow*
- 2005 Allen Noble Prize, for *Building the Nation*
- 2001-02 American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship
- 2000 Mellon Fellowship, Library Company of Philadelphia
- 1999 Mellon Resident Fellowship, American Philosophical Society
- 1997 Grant-in-Aid, Ohio State University
- 1996 Seed Grant, Ohio State University
- 1995 Special Research Assignment, Ohio State University
- 1992-94 Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
- 1991 Summer Dissertation Workshop, University of Pennsylvania
- 1989-90 Pomfret Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
- 1987 Triffen Prize for Academic Achievement in the Social Sciences, Yale University

PUBLICATIONS:**Books**

Americans Against the City: Anti-Urbanism in the 20th Century, forthcoming, Oxford University Press, 2014.

To Promote the General Welfare: The Case for Big Government, ed., Oxford University Press, 2012.

Do Museums Still Need Objects? University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010; paperback edition, 2011.

Metropolitan Philadelphia: Living in the Presence of the Past, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006, 2nd printing, 2007.

History's Shadow: Native Americans and Historical Consciousness in the 19th Century, University of Chicago Press, 2004; paperback edition, 2006.

Building the Nation: Americans Write about Their Architecture, Their Cities, and Their Landscape, ed. with Max Page, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003.

Museums and American Intellectual Life, 1876-1926, University of Chicago Press, 1998; paperback edition, 2000;

-Chinese translation, Shanghai Joint Publishing Company, 2012.

Book Chapters

"Museums by Commerce, Museums of Commerce, Museums for Commerce," in *Kept/Discarded: Collector's Knowledge* (Waxmann, 2013).

"Melting Pots, Salad Bowls, Ethnic Museums and American Identity," in *The Oxford Handbook of American Immigration and Ethnicity* (forthcoming Oxford University Press).

"Golden Ages Then and Now: America's Cultural Infrastructure in Historical Perspective," in Carroll Joynes et al eds, *Set in Stone* (University of Chicago Press, 2013).

"Culture for the People: How Government Has Fostered the Arts in Culture," in Conn ed., *To Promote the General Welfare: The Case for Big Government* (Oxford University Press, 2012).

"Local Hero: *The Gross Clinic* and our Sense of Civic Identity," in *An Eakins Masterpiece Restored* (Yale University Press, 2012).

"Science Museums and the Culture Wars," in *Blackwell's Museum Studies Companion* (2006), pp. 494-508.

"Archaeology, Philadelphia and Our Understanding of 19th Century America," in *Philadelphia and the Development of Americanist Archaeology*, Don Fowler & David Wilcox, eds. (University of Alabama Press, 2003), pp. 165-180.

"The Politics of Corporate Architecture: Skyscrapers in Penn's Green Country Towne," with Max Page, in *Invisible America: Unearthing our Hidden History*, Neil Silberman and Mark Leoni, eds. (Henry Holt, 1995), pp. 260-261.

Articles/Essays (* = refereed journal)

*"Back to the Garden: Communes, the Environment and Anti-Urban Pastoralism at the End of the Sixties," *Journal of Urban History*, November 2010.

"Darwin Refused, A People Condemned," *The Australian Humanist* (Autumn 2010).

"Charles Darwin's American Adventure: A Melodrama in Three Acts," *Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective*, January 2010.

Guest Editor, *Context*, Spring 2010; Fall 2008.

"Native Americans and the History of History," *Historically Speaking* 7 (2005).

"Rowhouses Provide a Lesson in City Living," in *Designer/Builder* (Sept/Oct, 2004), pp. 44-46.

"The Field Museum," in *The Encyclopedia of Chicago History* (University of Chicago Press, 2004).

"Narrative Trauma and Civil War History Painting," in *History and Theory* (December 2002), pp. 17-42.

"Russian Women: Living in History's Shadow," with Angela Brintlinger, in *Journal of International Women's Studies* (June 2001).

"The History in the Art: Painting the Civil War," with Andrew Walker, in *Museum Studies* (Spring 2001), pp. 60-81.

*"Where is the East: Asian Objects in American Museums from Nathan Dunn to Charles Freer," *Winterthur Portfolio* (Fall 2000), pp. 157-173.

"Museums," in *The Encyclopedia of American Cultural and Intellectual History* (Charles Scribners, 2001), pp. 379-386.

"Cultural Institutions," in *The Encyclopedia of American Cultural and Intellectual History* (Charles Scribners, 2001), pp. 505-511.

"Frank Furness," in *American National Biography* (Oxford University Press, 1999).

"Inhabiting History: Learning from the City," *The Long View* (March 1999), pp. 65-73.

*"An Epistemology for Empire: The Philadelphia Commercial Museum, 1893-1926," *Diplomatic History* (Fall 1998), 533-563.

*"The Politics of Painting: Horace Pippin the Historian," *American Studies*, (Spring 1997), pp. 5-26.

*"Rescuing the Homestead of the Nation: The Mount Vernon Ladies Association and the Preservation of Mount Vernon," *Nineteenth Century Studies*, (Spring 1997), pp. 71-94.

"American Culture as Urban Culture, 1900-1945," in *Visions of America: Urban Realism 1900-1945*, exhibition catalogue (Columbus Museum of Art and the Modern Art Museum of Mexico City, 1996), pp. 43-56; translated as "La Cultura Urbana Como Cultura Estadounidense, 1900-1945," in *Visions of America: Urban Realism 1900-1945*.

*"Henry Chapman Mercer and the Search for American History," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, (July 1992), pp. 323-355.

"Thoughts on National Service: An Open Letter to William Buckley," *Change Magazine* (July 1991).

Review Essays

"The Personal is the Historical," in *Reviews in American History* (forthcoming).

"Our House?: The President's House at Independence National Historical Park," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* (April 2011).

“Sleight of Hand: Andrew Wyeth’s Memory and Magic,” *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* (Fall 2006), pp. 411-416.

“History vs. Heritage at the National Museum of the American Indian,” in *Public Historian* (Spring 2006), pp. 69-74.

“Native Americans and the History of History,” *Historically Speaking* (December 2005).

“Don’t Know Much About (the history of) History,” *American Literary History* (Winter 2005).

“Who You Callin’ an Intellectual,” *Reviews in American History* (March 2005).

“Skeletons, and Other Things, in the Closet,” *Reviews in American History* (December 2001).

Book Reviews

Review of Gobel & Rossell eds., *Commemoration in America* in *Journal of American History* (forthcoming).

Review of William S. Walker, *A Living Exhibition: The Smithsonian and the Transformation of the Universal Museum* in *American Historical Review* (forthcoming).

Review of Daniel Bender, *American Abyss* in *University of Toronto Quarterly* (Fall, 2013).

Review of Dennis Drabelle, *The Great Railroad War* in *Pennsylvania Gazette*, (January 2013).

Review of Peter H. Wood, *Near Andersonville: Winslow Homer’s Civil War*, in *New England Quarterly* (December 2011).

Review of James Lander, *Lincoln & Darwin: Shared Visions of Race, Science, and Religion*, in *Review of the National Center for Science Education* (2011).

Review of Gary Nash, *The Liberty Bell*, in *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* (October 2010).

Review of Susan Sleeper-Smith, ed. *Contesting Knowledge: Museums and Indigenous Perspectives*, in *Journal of American History* (September 2010).

Review of John Hausdoerffer, *Catlin’s Lament: Indians Manifest Destiny and the Ethics of Nature*, in *Great Plains Quarterly* (September 2010).

Review of Nancy Heinzen, *The Perfect Square*, in *Philadelphia Inquirer* (December 6, 2009).

Review of David Kushner, *Levittown*, in *Philadelphia Inquirer* (June 21, 2009).

Review of Lois Fink, *A History of the Smithsonian American Art Museum*, in *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences*, 31 (2009).

Review of Duncan Faherty, *Remodeling the Nation*, in *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*, forthcoming.

Review of Robert Kohler, *All Creatures: Naturalists, Collectors and Biodiversity, 1850-1950*, in *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* (Winter 2008).

Review of Michael Pisani, *Imagining Native America in Music*, in *American Historical Review* (October 2007).

Review of Robert Beauregard, *When America Became Suburban* in *The Antioch Review* (July 2007).

Review of Setha Low et al, *Rethinking Urban Parks*, in *The Antioch Review* (Summer 2006).

Review of Lucy Maddox, *Citizen Indians*, in *American Historical Review* (April 2006).

Review of Terry Barnhart, *Ephraim George Squier* in *The Journal of the Early Republic* (Winter 2005).

Review of Kerry Trask, *Black Hawk: The Battle for the Heart of America*, in the *Chicago Tribune* (January 22, 2006).

Review of Ann Forsyth, *Reforming Suburbia*, in *Antioch Review* (Winter 2005).

Review of Michael Johns, *Moment of Grace: The American City in the 1950s*, in *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* (October 2004).

Review of Bruno Giberti, *Designing the Centennial*, in *Journal of American History* (Fall 2003).

Review of Shari Huhndorf, *Going Native: Indians in the American Cultural Imagination* & Sherry Smith, *Reimagining Indians: Native Americans Through Anglo Eyes, 1880-1940*, in *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* (Winter 2002).

Review of James Snead, *Ruins and Rivals: The Making of Southwest Archaeology*, in *American Historical Review* (Spring 2002).

Review of Anthony Wallace, *Jefferson and the Indians*, in *American Quarterly* (March 2001).

Review of Frederick Hoxie et al, eds. *Native Americans in the Early Republic*, in *Journal of the Early Republic* (Winter 2000).

Review of David Hamer, *History in Urban Places: The Historic Districts of the United States*, & Michael Holleran, *Boston's "Changeful Times": Origins of Preservation & Planning in America*, in *Journal of American History* (September 1999).

Review of Scott Martin, *Killing Time: Leisure and Culture in Southwestern Pennsylvania, 1800-1845*, in *Journal of the Early Republic*, 16.2 (Summer 1996).

Review of David Brigham, *Public Culture in the Early Republic: Peale's Museum and Its Audience*, in *Winterthur Portfolio*, 30, 2/3 (Summer 1995).

Abstract of Mary Warner Blanchard, *Oscar Wilde's America: Counterculture in the Gilded Age*, in *Journal of Women's History*.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (selected since 2000):

“The Generic Turn,” Neubauer Collegium, University of Chicago, April 2014.

“Writing for the Public,” American Historical Association, January 2014.

“E Pluribus Unum, We the People, and the Rise of Ethnic Museum,” University Warsaw, December 2013.

“An ‘Objective’ View of American Museums,” University of Pennsylvania, November 2013.

“The Anti-Urban Impulse or, Why Americans Don’t Like Their Cities,” American Studies Center, University of Warsaw, April, 2013.

“The American Idea of Museums,” Temple University, November 2012.

“Where Angels Fear to Tread: The Possibilities of Public History,” University of British Columbia, October 2012.

Commentator, “Collecting, Research and Displaying Race in the 19th and 20th Century United States,” Organization of American History Conference, April 2012.

Chair, “Anti-Urban City Planning in 20th Century Europe: Creating (National) Community and Reconstituting Social Networks” American Historical Association, January 2012.

“How to Look at China: The Structure of Visual Experience in American Museums,” University of Hong Kong; Shanghai Institute of American Studies, May 2011.

“The History of History Museums,” Keynote Address, Mid-western Open Air Museums Conference, March 2011.

“Golden Ages, Then and Now,” University of Chicago, November 2010.

“The Golden Age of Museums, Then and Now,” Museums, Libraries, Archives Conference, Oslo, October 2010.

“Do Museums Still Need Objects?” Cleveland Museum of Art, October 2010.

“Do Museums Still Need Objects?” Oberlin College, October 2010.

“Museums, Their Collections, and Our Sense of Place,” Philadelphia Museum of Art, September 2010.

“Living in a Museum Age,” Denver Museum of Nature and Science, September 2010.

“Museums by Commerce, Museums of Commerce, Museums for Commerce,” Mustair, Switzerland, May 2010.

“Do Museums Still Need Objects?” Wexner Center for the Arts, March 2010.

"False Starts: Native Americans, Representation, and Museums," Eisenberg Institute, University of Michigan, January 2010.

"Representing the Past to the Public Eye," University of Michigan, January 2010.

Commentor, "Education at Mid-Century," panel, History of Education Society, Philadelphia, October 2009.

Commentor at "The Race in Culture" conference, Mershon Center, Ohio State, May 2009.

"Where Did All the Grown Ups Go?" Baker-Nord Humanities Center, Case-Western Reserve University, February 2009.

"Civic Identity and the City," Keynote Address, Temple University, January 2009.

"A Tale of Two Science Museums," Deutsches Museum, Munich, Germany, December 2008.

"Practicing History in the Town Square," Chair, SHEAR Conference, July 2008.

"Do Museums Need Objects Anymore?" University of Michigan, April 2008.

"Cultural Objects/Objects of Culture," University of Manchester, England, March 2008.

"Collections, Museums, and Civic Identity," University of North Texas, February 2008.

"Cultural Patrimony vs. Civic Identity," American Studies Association, October 2007.

"Museums, The Public Sphere and Civic Identity," Humanities Institute and the Art History Department, Temple University, March 2007.

"Do Museums Need Objects Anymore?" Ethnohistory Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, January 2007.

"The Meaning of Metropolitan Philadelphia," Writers Series at the Philadelphia Free Library, November 2006.

"The Meaning of the American Century," in conjunction with the acquisition of the Schiller Collection, Columbus Museum of Art, April 2006.

"From the Commercial Museum to the Commercialized Museum," Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, Australia, May 2005.

Commentator for "Displaying the Nation" panel at OAH, April 2005.

"The Search for a Usable Asia," King's College, Cambridge, England, June 2004.

"Fiske Kimball and the Science of the Art Museum," Philadelphia Museum of Art, February 2004.

"The City and the Avant Garde," Mobile Alabama Museum of Art, January 2004.

"The Museum: Past, Present, Future," Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, November 2003.

"Immigrants and the American Avant-Garde," Columbus Museum of Art, July 2003.

- Keynote Address, Penn-Temple Conference on Academia and Community, April 2003.
- "Toward a History of the 20th Century Museum," Augsburg College, March 2003.
- "The Law of Unintended Consequences: Urban Historians and Urban Decline," Urban History Association Conference, September 2002.
- "The American Art Museum, Past, Present, Future," Columbus Museum of Art, September 2002.
- "From the Glass Case to the Omnimax: Science in Museums, 1870-present," at Images and Ideas: Exhibiting Science in Museums, University of Chicago, June 2002.
- Moderator, "Blight and Urban Renewal in Historical Perspective," University of Pennsylvania, April 2002.
- Plenary Speaker, Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies Conference, George Mason University, April 2002.
- "Peale's Museum and Its Descendants: Science in Museums," James Franck Institute, University of Chicago, January 2002.
- "The Objects of Our Consideration," The Loren Eiseley Lecture, University of Pennsylvania Museum, October 2001.
- Commentator, "Hybrid Institutions: Hothouses for Science," International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Study of Science, July 2001.
- "The History in the Art," Chicago Art Institute, June 2001.
- "The American Swedish Historical Museum in Historical Context," American Swedish Museum 75th Anniversary Conference, March 2001.
- "Museums and the Public Sphere: Retrospect and Prospect," Baldwin Lecture, Oberlin College, December 2000.
- "The Many Contexts of Robert Gwathmey," Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (September 2000).
- "Where Historians Fear to Tread: The Misadventures of an Interloper in the Art Historical Field," Looking Back Colloquium, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, April 2000.
- "America's Museums, Past and Future," Detroit Institute of Arts, April 2000.
- "History and Anthropology in the American Museum," Swarthmore College, March 2000.
- "To Teach What We Already Know or to Display What We Do Not: Universities, Museums and the Struggle Over the Production of Knowledge," American Historical Association, January 2000.

MEDIA APPEARANCES:

I have made a number of appearances on television, radio, newspapers and the web discussing American politics, American culture and American history. Among the most significant include:

In 2012 I was invited to join the roster of bloggers on the Huffington Post

Featured expert and consultant on the multi-part television and web-based history of Philadelphia titled “Philadelphia: The Great Experiment” – (ongoing <http://www.historyofphilly.com/>)

TVO (Toronto) The Agenda with Steve Paikin – roundtable feature on my book *Do Museums Still Need Objects* (aired February 2012 - <http://theagenda.tv.org/episode/141112/museum-matters>)

Featured expert on the PBS production “Dinosaur Wars” (American Experience – aired nationally January 2011)

Radio interviews on NPR Weekend Edition, KABC, Los Angeles, KCBS San Francisco, WOSU, Columbus, OH among others

Since 2000 I have published several dozen op-ed pieces in newspapers around the country including *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

EDITORIAL WORK:

Founding Editor, *Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective* www.osu.edu/origins, 2007-

Series Editor, “History and the Public,” Temple University Press

Editorial Board, *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, 2006-2011

Editorial Board for the University of Pennsylvania Press series, “Art and Culture in America” 2005-

Assoc. Editor, Encyclopedia of Philadelphia project, 2009-2010

Editorial Board for *Context* American Institute of Architects (Philadelphia) 2007-2012

TEACHING:

Undergraduate courses ranging from large lecture surveys to small specialized seminars: US History 1865-present; Introduction to Historical Practice; American Cultural and Intellectual History (one course on the 19th century, and one on the 20th); American Urban History; History of American Religion.

Graduate courses in Urban History, American History 1917-1939; Intellectual History, Public History, Advanced Writing Seminars. Designed and direct the combined BA/MA program in Public History at Ohio State.

Dissertations supervised to completion:

- Megan Chew, "Power from the Valley"
- David Young, "The Battles of Germantown: Public History and Preservation in America's Most Historic Neighborhood"
- Jason Powell, "A Humble Protest: A Literary Generation's Quest for the Heroic Self, 1917-1930"

SERVICE AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT:

University Service

Chair, Promotion and Tenure Committee, History Department, 2012-
 Chair, Ad-Hoc Committee on Civic Engagement 2010-11
 Search Committee, Director for the Center for Urban and Regional Analysis, 2008-09
 Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2006-
 Book Review Editor, On-line Book Forum, 2006-
 Academic Director, History Works Summer Institute for Columbus Public School Teachers, Summer 2005
 Council on Academic Affairs, 2002-03
 Committee on Rare Books and Manuscripts, OSU Library, 2002-05
 Editorial Board, Ohio State University Press, 2000-2003
 Alternate, Faculty Senate, 1999-2002
 Legislative Affairs Committee, Faculty Senate, 2000-03
 Chair, Ad-Hoc Committee on American Studies, 1999-2000
 Search Committee, Senior Position, Early America, 1999-2000
 Departmental Executive Committee, 1999-2000
 Search Committee, Senior Position in Modern America, 1996-98
 Ad-Hoc Committee on Teaching Evaluation, 1996-99
 Undergraduate Studies Committee, 1995 - 97
 Scholarships and Grants Committee, 1994-95
 Grievance Committee, 1994-95
 Faculty Advisor, ALD/PES, First Year Honoraries, 1996-98
 Faculty Advisor, Project Community, 1994-97

Professional Service

Reviewer for tenure and/or promotion: University of Massachusetts, University of California/Berkeley, University of Rochester, Penn State, University of Cincinnati
 Grant Reviewer for the American Philosophical Society
 NEH Review Panel, Historic Preservation, Spring, 2009
 Consultant, Historic Germantown Preserved, 2007-2008
 Advisory Committee, History News Service, 2008-
 Referee for: *American Historical Review*; *Journal of American History*, *Modern Intellectual History*, *Art Bulletin*, *Pacific Historical Review*, *Museum Anthropology*, *Journal of Urban History*, Indiana University Press, University of Chicago Press, University of Pennsylvania Press, University of Pittsburgh Press, Rutgers University Press, Syracuse University Press, Duke University Press, Temple University Press
 Principal Faculty, AP Teacher's Summer Institute, Summer, 2003
 Consultant, Mercer Museum 21st Century Initiative, 2003
 Co-Principal Faculty, "The Darwin Project," Ohio Learning Network, 2002-04
 Faculty, AP Teacher's Summer Institute, OSU, Summer 2002

NEH Review Panel, Preservation and Access Division, Fall, 2001
Historical Consultant, Columbus Museum of Art, for the Exhibition "Visions of America: Urban Realism, 1900-1945," 1995.

Civic Involvement (partial list)

Elected to the Yellow Springs School Board, Nov. 2013 -
Yellow Springs Board of Zoning Appeal, 2011-
Glen Helen Association Board Member, 2011-
Co-creator, Neighborhood Institute (Columbus), 2009-2012
Chair, Development Committee Antioch School, 2006-2012
-Raised \$450,000 for building renovation
2020 Educational Steering Committee, Yellow Springs Schools, 2011
Yellow Springs Electrical System Task Force, 2007-2008
Yellow Springs Environmental Commission, 2006-8
Education Committee, Tecumseh Land Trust, 2005-8
Founding Member, Design Advocacy Group, Philadelphia 2002 –

REFERENCES:

Kevin Boyle, History Department, Northwestern University: kevin.boyle@northwestern.edu

Wendell Pritchett, Chancellor, Rutgers University, Camden: wep@camden.rutgers.edu

Thomas Sugrue, History Department, University of Pennsylvania: tsugrue@sas.upenn.edu