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Education

- Ph.D.** **University of Wisconsin-Madison**, U.S. History 1999
Major: United States—Cultural and Intellectual, Social Movements
Minor: Cultural Studies

Dissertation: *The Hillbilly in Twentieth-Century American Culture: the Evolution of a Contested National Icon*
Advisor: Paul Boyer
- M.A.** **University of Wisconsin-Madison**, U.S. History 1992
Thesis: *The Comics Stripped: What the Comic Strips Reveal About Cold War America, 1950-1955*
- B.A.** **Williams College**, Williamstown, Massachusetts *cum laude*, 1986
Major: History

Institut D'Etudes Europeennes, Paris, France Spring 1985

Teaching Experience

Professor

Associate Professor, **Western Kentucky University** Fall 2008-Present
Assistant Professor, **Western Kentucky University** 2003-2008

Twentieth Century U.S. Social and Cultural History, History 526 (G)
Senior Seminar: American History through Film, History 498
History of United States Popular Culture, History 447
United States since 1945, History 630 (G); History 349 (UG)
American Studies I, American Studies II, History 320, 321
United States History since 1865, History 241
United States History to 1865, History 240
Western Civilization since 1648, History 120
Introduction to Popular Culture Studies, Popular Culture 101

Co-developer and Professor Summers 2004-2008
Teaching American History Institute for middle and secondary social studies teachers, U.S. ED grant, Green River Regional Educational Cooperative (GRREC), Bowling Green, KY

Instructor

- Instructor, Princeton Writing Program, **Princeton University** 2001-2003
Social Class in Contemporary America
- Temporary Instructor, **Iowa State University** 2000-2001
History of Women in Science, Technology & Medicine, History 380
History of American Popular Culture, History 307
United States History since 1877, History 222
United States History to 1877, History 221
- Visiting Lecturer, **University of Wisconsin-Whitewater** Fall 1999
The United States Experience in a World Context, History 120
- Merle Curti Graduate Lecturer, **University of Wisconsin-Madison** Spring 1997
Popular Culture and the Making of Modern America, History 201
- Writing Instructor, **University of Wisconsin-Madison** 1998-1999
Writing About Social Class, English 101

High School Teacher

- Emerson Preparatory School, Washington D.C. 1988-1990
U.S. History, World Geography, and American Government

Awards and Honors

- J. William Fulbright Fellowship, Karl Franzens University, Graz, Austria, forthcoming Spring 2012
- Susanne M. Glasscock Book Prize for Interdisciplinary Humanities Scholarship, Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, Texas A&M University, 2005
- John G. Cawelti Award for outstanding book in American Culture Studies, Honorable Mention, American Culture Association, 2004
- Department Nominee, WKU Potter College Faculty Award for Teaching, Spring 2010, 2011
- Regular Faculty Fellowship, Western Kentucky University, Summers 2009, 2008
- Summer Faculty Fellowship, Western Kentucky University, Summer 2007
- Department Nominee, WKU Potter College Faculty Award for Research/Creativity, Spring 2007
- Junior Faculty Fellowship, Western Kentucky University, 2006-2007
- Weatherford Award for Nonfiction, Nominee, Appalachian Studies Association, 2005
- Kentucky Literary Award – Nonfiction, Nominee, Southern Kentucky Book Fest, 2004

Committee on Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences Grant, Princeton University, 2002

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Merle Curti Graduate Lectureship Award, 1997

Mellon Foundation Seminar on American Political Culture Awardee, 1997

College of Letters & Science Teaching Fellow, Department Nominee, 1997

William F. Vilas Graduate Fellowship, 1992-1993, 1993-1994

Graduate Seminar Essay Award in History, Spring 1991

Publications

Hillbilly: A Cultural History of an American Icon (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004).

Editor, "Media Section," *Encyclopedia of Appalachia* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2006).

"Hillbillies, Rednecks, Crackers, and White Trash," *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, v. 21: *Social Class* (University of North Carolina Press, forthcoming).

"Beverly Hillbillies," "Comic Strips," "The Mountain Boys," and "Snuffy Smith" entries in *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, v. 15: *Media* (University of North Carolina Press, forthcoming).

Review of Brooks Blevins, *Arkansas/Arkansaw: How Bear Hunters, Hillbillies, and Good Ol' Boys Defined a State*, *Arkansas Review* 41 (Summer/August 2010), 134-136.

"Defining the Hillbilly," *Longleaf Style* 5 (Fall 2010), 24-27.

Review of Patrick Huber, *Linthead Stomp: The Creation of Country Music in the Piedmont South*, *Journal of Popular Music Studies* 22 (March 2010), 114-117.

Review of John Hartigan, Jr., *Odd Tribes: Toward a Cultural Analysis of White People*, *Journal of Southern History* 73 (May 2007), 507-508.

"Media Section: Introduction," "Cartoons," "Paul Henning," and "Television Depictions of the Region" entries in *Encyclopedia of Appalachia* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2006), 1679-1686; 1697; 1717; 1746-1748.

Review of Jeffrey J. Lange, *Smile When You Call me a Hillbilly: Country Music's Struggle for Respectability, 1939-1954*, *Journal of Appalachian Studies* (Spring 2006), 194-196.

"From 'Sweet Mamas' to 'Bodacious' Hillbillies: Billy DeBeck's Impact on American Culture,"

Studies in American Humor (New series 3, No. 14, 2006), 55-72.

Review of Jeff Biggers, *The United States of Appalachia: How Southern Mountaineers Brought Independence, Culture, and Enlightenment to America*, *Appalachian Journal* 33 (Spring/Summer 2006), 352-354.

"Hillbillies," in *Encyclopedia of American Folklife* v. 2 (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2006), 572-575.

Review of Peter C. Rollins, ed., *The Columbia Companion to American History on Film – How the Movies Have Portrayed the American Past*, *Bowling Green Daily News* (February 27, 2005), 10C.

"The Hillbilly in the American Imagination," *Historically Speaking: The Bulletin of the Historical Society* (Jan./Feb., 2005): 4-7.

"The Hillbilly in the Living Room: Television Representations of Southern Mountaineers in Situation Comedies, 1952-1971," *Appalachian Journal* 29 (Fall 2001-Winter 2002): 98-126.

"The Grapes of Wrath," "Humor," and "Public Broadcasting" in Paul Boyer et al., eds., *The Oxford Companion to United States History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001): 319, 353-4, 634.

"Confronting the Crisis: A Graduate Student's Perspective on the MLA Conference on the Future of Doctoral Education," *OAH Newsletter* 27 (August 1999): 15.

Review of Richard Peterson, *Creating Country Music: Fabricating Authenticity*, *Appalachian Journal* 26 (Fall 1998): 96-9.

"Combies, H-Bombs and the National Security State: The Cold War in the Comics" in Gail W. Pieper and Kenneth D. Nordin, eds., *Understanding the Funnies: Critical Interpretations of Comic Strips* (Lisle, IL: Procopian Press, 1997): 12-36.

"The Significance of 'Hillbilly' in Early Country Music, 1924-1945," *Journal of Appalachian Studies* 2 (Fall 1996): 311-22.

Scholarly Presentations

"Constructing 'Flyover Country': Commercial Aviation and the Reimagining of American Cultural Geography," American Association of Geographers Conference, Seattle, Washington, April 14, 2011

"'Why Is This Course So Damn Hard?': College Students and the Pedagogy of Popular Culture," Popular Culture Association, St. Louis, Missouri, April 3, 2010

"The Emergence of 'Flyover Country': Pictorial Maps and the American Landscape," Nordic Association of American Studies, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, May 29, 2009

"The Construction of 'Flyover Country': Pictorial Maps and the Re-imagining of American Cultural

Geography,” Annual Conference of the Great Lakes American Studies Association, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, March 20, 2009

“The Pedagogy of the American Dream,” 2008 Popular Culture/American Culture Conference, San Francisco, California, March 19, 2008

“The Making of ‘Flyover Country’: Commercial Aviation and the Re-imagining of American Cultural Geography,” Transnational American Studies Symposium, UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies, Dublin, Ireland, July 21, 2007

Discussion Forum on “Globalizing the Hillbilly: National and International Performative Moments,” Appalachian Studies Association Conference, Maryville, Tennessee, March 24, 2007

“‘Flyover Country’ and the Cultural Politics of Imagining the ‘Middle of Nowhere,’” Melbern G. Glasscock Center of Humanities Research, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, January 26, 2006

“‘Flyover Country’ and the Evolution of the Idea of Two Americas,” Yale University, Center for Agrarian Studies Colloquium, New Haven, Connecticut, October 28, 2005

“The Hillbilly in the American Imagination,” The Bluegrass Music Symposium, Western Kentucky University, September 10, 2005

“Music and the South of the (American) Mind,” American Studies Association Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November 12, 2004

Discussion Forum on Films on Shelby Lee Adams, Appalachian Studies Conference, Cherokee, North Carolina, March 28, 2004

“Country Music and the rise and fall of Ezra K. Hillbilly in Interwar America,” International Country Music Conference, Nashville, Tennessee, May 29-31, 2003

“The Hillbilly in the Living Room: Television Representations, 1952-1971,” Symposium in Honor of Jerry Williamson, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina, November 18, 2000

“The Significance of ‘Hillbilly’ in Early Country Music, 1924-1945,” Appalachian Studies Conference, Unicoi State Park, Georgia, March 31, 1996

“Commies, H-Bombs and the National Security State: The Cold War in the Comic Strips, 1950-1955,” 24th Annual Meeting of the Popular Culture Association, Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, Illinois, April 7, 1994

“Love and Marriage: Gender Roles and Expectations in 1950's Comic Strips,” 2nd Annual Comic Arts Conference, Horton Grand Hotel, San Diego, California, August 18, 1993

Public Presentations

- Panel Presenter: "Unions," Cherry Hall, Western Kentucky University, March 31, 2011
- Facilitator/Presenter, "Gender and the Media," for "Check your Box": Gender Communication Conference, Western Kentucky University, March 18, 2011
- "Thoughts on Interdisciplinary Teaching," Interdisciplinary Teaching Workshop, Faculty House, Western Kentucky University, May 20, 2009
- Panel Presenter: "The New Deal," Faculty House, Western Kentucky University, April 9, 2009
- "Theodore Roosevelt," Bowling Green Rotary Club, Bowling Green, Kentucky, March 5, 2008
- "Popular Culture and the Rise of Comic Strips," Mary Wood Weedon Memorial Public Library, Glasgow, Kentucky, September 6, 2007
- "The Hillbilly in the American Imagination," Cumberland Falls State Resort Park, Corbin, Kentucky, November 12, 2007
- "From the Moonshiner's Wife to Daisy Duke: Hillbilly Women in Popular Culture," Women's Studies Generations Luncheon, Bowling Green, Kentucky, April 28, 2006
- "The Hillbilly in American Culture," Northeast State Technical Community College, Blountville, Tennessee, March 3, 2005
- "Hillbilly: An American Cultural Icon," Southern Kentucky Book Fest, Bowling Green, Kentucky, April 17, 2004

Media Interviews

- WKYU Public Television, *Outlook*, "What is Art," Spring 2011; "The cultural impact of World War II," Spring 2008; "The cultural impact of 9-11," Fall 2004
- WKYU Public Radio, *Mid-Day Edition*, "Unions in America" (forthcoming); "Popular Culture Studies" (Spring 2009), "The New Deal" (Spring 2009); "Ku Klux Klan," "World War II Homefront" (Fall 2007); "Judge Alito and Supreme Court" (Spring 2005); "Meaning of 9-11," "Pledge of Allegiance," "Beatles" (Fall 2004)
- WFPL Louisville Public Radio, *State of Affairs*, "The Image of the Hillbilly," Spring 2006
- Chicago Public Radio, *Odyssey*, "Imagining the Hillbilly," August 16, 2005
- Wisconsin Public Radio, *To the Best of our Knowledge*, "Country Music," August 24, 2004
- "Dressed-to-Killbillies", *Boston Sunday Globe*, December 7, 2003

“Redneck Ruckus”, ABCNews.com, October 29, 2003

Other Professional Experience

Historical Consultant and Commentator, BBC film documentary *The Dirty South* (John McCormack, producer, 2010).

Historical Consultant, film documentary *The Hayloft Gang: The Story of the National Barn Dance* (Steve Parry, producer, forthcoming 2011), 2005-Present

Historical Advisor, Television Documentary Proposals, Division of Public Programs, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington D.C., January 2008

Historical Consultant, “Comic Stripped: A Revealing Look at Southern Stereotypes in Cartoons,” Levine Museum of the New South, Charlotte, North Carolina, 2007-2008

Scholarly reviewer, manuscript “Characters in Chief” for University of Wisconsin Press, Fall 2007

Committee on American Studies Programs and Centers, American Studies Association, 2006-2009

Steering Committee, Appalachian Studies Association, 2006-2008

Speaker, Kentucky Humanities Council, 2006-Present

Historical Advisor, Radio Programming Proposals, Division of Public Programs, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington D.C., April 2006

Scholarly reviewer, manuscript “Right Turn – American Life in the Reagan-Bush Era” for Oxford University Press, Spring 2005

Historical Consultant, film documentary *The Kentucky Photographs of William Gedney* (Elizabeth Barrett and Judi Jennings, producers), 2004-Present

Historical Consultant, film documentary *The Life and Times of Al Capp and Li'l Abner* (Caitlin Manning, producer), 2004-Present

Historical Moderator, “The Sixties: America’s Decade of Crisis and Change” Film Series, ALA & NEH grant, Warren County Public Library, Bowling Green, Kentucky, September- October 2004

Scholarly reviewer, essay for “Whiteness and Sport” issue of *Sociology of Sport Journal*, Summer 2004

Illustrations Researcher, *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, Spring-Summer 2000

Faculty Consultant, Educational Testing Service, Advanced Placement U.S. History Reading, San Antonio, TX, Summers 1995-1998, 2000

Grader, The American South: 1793-1906, History 201, UW-Madison, Fall 1996

Historical Consultant, The Winthrop Group, Cambridge, MA, Summer 1994, Fall 1995
Projects on history of Ringling Brothers' Circus, Timex Corporation

Research Assistant, Professor Rogers Hollingsworth, UW-Madison, Fall 1991

Legislative Aide, U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Washington DC, 1986-1988

University Service, Western Kentucky University

Director, Popular Culture Studies Major, Fall 2009-Present

Potter College Representative, Boyd-Lubker Visiting Scholars Program Committee, 2009-2011

Chair, University Senate Academic Quality Committee, 2007-2010

History Department Representative, Potter College Sabbatical Committee, Fall 2009-2010

Undergraduate Research Coordinator Search Committee, Honor's College, 2007-2008

U.S. Women's History Search Committee, History Department, 2006-2007

Curriculum Committee, Program in Women's Studies, 2006-Present

Steering Committee, Potter College Undergraduate Research Conference, 2005-2006

University Senate, Potter College At-large representative, 2004-Present

Frocht Family Professorship Search Committee, History Department, 2004, 2005

WKU-Glasgow History Search Committee, History Department, 2004

History Contest Senior High School Coordinator and Grader, History Department, 2004- Present

Professional Organizations

Organization of American Historians

American Association of Geographers

American Studies Association

Popular Culture Association