

WILLIAM D. FENTON

Program Officer, Humanities Grantmaking

Office of Challenge Programs, The National Endowment for the Humanities
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Fordham University, English Department, August 2018.

Dissertation: "Unpeaceable Kingdom: Fighting Quakers, Revolutionary Violence, and the Antebellum Novel"

Committee: Leonard Cassuto, Glenn Hendler, Julie Chun Kim, Jordan Alexander Stein, and Donald E. Pease (Dartmouth)

Fields: Early American Literature, American Studies, and the Digital Humanities

M.A., Fordham University, English Department, May 2010.

Graduate Assistantship (awarded to one M.A. candidate per year), August 2008 - May 2010

B.A., Rollins College, English Department, May 2005.

Presidential Scholarship, August 2001 - May 2005

Howard Fox Literary Prize, Rollins College, May 2005

HONORS & AWARDS

Leadership in History Award, American Association for State and Local History, Summer 2021
Lapidus Initiative Digital Collections Fellowship, Omohundro Institute of Early American

History & Culture, Summer 2018

Elizabeth R. Moran Fellowship, American Philosophical Society, Summer 2017 - Summer 2018

Graduate Essay Award, Fordham University, Department of English, Spring 2018

Albert M. Greenfield Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Library Company of Philadelphia,
Fall 2016 - Spring 2017

First Prize, NYCDH Graduate Student Digital Project Award, Fall 2016 - Fall 2017

Modern Language Association Connected Academics Fellowship, Fall 2016 - Spring 2017

Centennial Scholarship, Fordham University, Fall 2016 - Spring 2017

Digital Project Startup Grant, Fordham University, Summer 2016

Summer Fellowship, Fordham University, Summer 2012 and Summer 2015

Humanities, Arts, Science and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory Scholarship, Fall 2013 -
Fall 2014

Gest Fellowship, Haverford College Special Collections, Summer 2014

Innovative Pedagogy Scholarship, Fordham University, Fall 2013

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Program Officer, Office of Challenge Programs, The National Endowment for the Humanities, Spring 2021 - Present

Director of Research and Public Programs, Library Company of Philadelphia, Spring 2018 - Spring 2021

Director, Fordham University, Writing Center at Lincoln Center, Summer 2014 - Summer 2016

Editor, *Eloquentia Perfecta*, Summer 2014 - Summer 2016

Teaching Associate, Fordham University, Department of English, Fall 2013 - Spring 2016

Contributing Editor, *PC Magazine*, Fall 2011 - Fall 2018

Analyst, *PC Magazine*, Fall 2010 - Fall 2011

Assistant Project Manager, Bill Smith Group, Spring 2010 - Fall 2010

Associate Technical Specialist, Harcourt Education, Fall 2006 - Fall 2008

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT, FUNDRAISING, & GRANT WRITING

Program Management

Humanities Grantmaking: Oversee one-third of the federal funding (approximately \$35 million) allocated to the National Endowment for the Humanities for humanities grantmaking initiatives in the "Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan." Manage Humanities Grantmaking: Individuals (awards up to \$2 million), Humanities Grantmaking: Organizations (awards up to \$5 million), as well as the Digital Infrastructure program in Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants (matching awards up to \$750,000). Assemble and convene review panels. Author committee book with funding recommendations for the National Humanities Council. Field inquiries from recipients. Administer all three programs with the support from the Office of Grant Management and Office of the General Council.

Research Fellowships: Managed the Library Company's fellowship program, which awarded 55 fellowships in 2020-21. Oversaw budgets and endowment draws from numerous private and public donors, including the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Albert M. Greenfield Foundation, the Barra Foundation, the McLean Contributionship, the William Reese Company, ASECS, and William H. Helfand. Assembled and chaired internal and external selection committees, Organized virtual research colloquia. Developed the Fellows Commons, a virtual space for fellowship alumni.

Public Programming: Managed the Library Company's public programming, which included book talks, seminars, symposia, and research colloquia. Developed and hosted weekly Fireside Chats webinar series and monthly Talking in the Library podcast series (which entered its third season in 2021). Administered five continuing-education Seminars annually, which were transitioned online in mid-2020 with the seminar on *Racism & Infectious Disease*. Collected and reported data to Strategic Advisory Committee. Managed one direct report, the Events & Marketing Manager, as well as two interns annually.

Fundraising & Program Development

Innovation Fellowship Program (\$125,000): Developed, funded, and launched the Library Company of Philadelphia's multi-year Innovation Fellowship Program (2020-2024) for academic humanists and creative practitioners engaging collections integral to the library's mission, values, and institutional history. Leveraged a \$60,000 challenge grant to raise \$65,000 to fully fund the program until 2025. Assembled and chaired review committees. Launched in April 2021.

First Book Award (\$35,000): Developed, funded, and launched the Library Company's biennial award intended to recognize a significant first book published by an early-career scholar. Raised \$35,000 to fully fund the program for 10 years (2020-2030). Assembled and chaired internal and external review committees. Announced first recipient in October 2020.

Innovation Award (\$30,000): Developed, funded, and launched the Library Company's biennial award intended to recognize a project that critically and creatively expands the possibilities of humanistic scholarship. Raised \$30,000 to fully fund the program for 10 years (2018-2028). Assembled and chaired review committees. Announced first recipient in November 2018.

Grant Writing

Revolutionary City: A Portal to the Nation's Founding (\$90,000). Awarded to the American Philosophical Society, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and the Library Company of Philadelphia. Funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (2020-2021).

Postdoctoral Fellowships Program (\$225,000). Awarded to the Library Company of Philadelphia. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions (2019-2021).

Redrawing History: Indigenous Perspectives on Colonial America (\$360,000 with \$30,000 in matching funds from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History). Awarded to the Library Company of Philadelphia. Funded by the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage (2018-2020).

DIGITAL PUBLIC HISTORY

Ghost River (2019-), a digital edition of the graphic novel enriched with documentary footage, an annotated script, and archival, contextual, and educational materials. Developed at the Library Company of Philadelphia with support from The Pew Center. *Recipient of the American Association for State and Local History's 2021 Leadership in History Award.*

Digital Paxton (2015-), a digital collection, scholarly edition, and teaching platform dedicated to the 1764 Paxton pamphlet war, developed in partnership with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Library Company of Philadelphia and supported by two-dozen libraries, archives, and cultural heritage institutions.

Diaries Held at the American Philosophical Society (2017-18), an online research guide that traverses 340 years and 1,729 journals held at the American Philosophical Society.

Americanization: Then and Now (2017-18), a digital exhibit of post-WWI naturalization polices developed in partnership with the American Philosophical Society.

PUBLICATIONS

Editor, *Ghost River: The Fall and Rise of the Conestoga*, Red Planet Books and Comics (December 2019). Reprinted in December 2020.

Works in Progress

"Generative Collaboration and the Digital Humanities," *Joyful, Engaged, Sustainable: Graduate Education for a Thriving Humanities Ecosystem*. Forthcoming from the Modern Language Association Press.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

"Preparing for a Digital Humanities Career," *The Reimagined PhD: Navigating 21st Century Humanities Education*. Rutgers University Press, 13 August 2021.

"Digital Paxton: Collaborative Construction with Eighteenth-Century Manuscript Collections" (co-authored), *Journal of Interactive Technology and Pedagogy* 14 (January 2019).

"The Paxton Pamphlet War as a Viral Media Event," *American Quarterly* 70.3 (September 2018).

"The Digital Paxton." *Common-place* 17.4 (October 2017).

Selected Public Writings

"Telling a Native story from Native perspectives: Revisiting Pennsylvania's Conestoga massacre" (co-authored), *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 28 November 2019.

"The Digital Humanities as Public Humanities," *Inside Higher Education*, 29 January 2018.

"The New Wave in Digital Humanities," *Inside Higher Education*, 2 August 2017.

"A Collaborative Approach to Open Peer Review," *Inside Higher Education*, 22 March 2017.

"The Death and Life of Digital Archives," *Slate (Future Tense)*, 4 November 2015.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Sebastian Major, "What is Ghost River?" *Our Fake History* (#121), 24 November 2020.

Phil Beckman, "The Library Company of Philadelphia," *It's History!* (Pennsylvania Cable Network), 30 August 2020.

Brian Lockman, "Ghost River: The Fall and Rise of the Conestoga," *PA Books*, 14 June 2020.

Barbara Brisbanes Richter, "Benjamin Franklin and the Pamphlet Wars," *Humanities: The Magazine of the National Endowment for the Humanities*, 17 March 2020.

Jess Kung, "How A Graphic Novel Resurrected A Forgotten Chapter In American History." *National Public Radio: Code Switch*, 26 February 2020.

Adrian Gomez, "Horrific legacy: 'Ghost River' a 'story of resilience' of tribe after massacre," *Albuquerque Journal*, 10 January 2020.

- John Ross, "Redrawing History: A Graphic Novel Recounts the Conestoga Massacre from the Tribe's Perspective," *American Indian: The Magazine of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian* (Winter 2019: Vol. 20 No. 4), 4 December 2019.
- Weshoyot Alvitre, Will Fenton, and Lee Francis, "Ghost River" (#204), *Talking in the Library*, 1 December 2019.
- Chris Mautner, "Over 250 years ago, a group of Pa. colonists murdered 20 Native Americans. Now there's a graphic novel about it," *PennLive*, 21 November 2019.
- Jack Brubaker, "New graphic novel depicts 1763 massacre from Indian perspective," *Lancaster Online*, 20 November 2019.
- Peter Crimmins, "Native American comic artists tell story of 1763 massacre of Conestoga tribe in Lancaster, Pa.," *WHYY (NPR)*, 18 November 2019.
- Sarah Schwartz, "How Do We Teach With Primary Sources When So Many Voices Are Missing?" *Education Week*, 16 August 2019.
- Peter Crimmins, "Native American massacre from colonial Pa. history to be retold in comic book," *WHYY (NPR)*, 19 November 2018.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Public Humanities

- "Ghost River: From Colonial Past to Native Present," *Philobiblon*, 11 May 2021.
- "Ghost River: Decolonization through Artistic Reinterpretation," CUNY Graduate Center PublicsLabs, 7 October 2020.
- "Redrawing History: A Library Company Webinar," Library Company of Philadelphia, 7 April 2020.
- "The Secret Lives of PhDs," *Being Human Festival*, Princeton University, 12 December 2019.
- "Ghost River: The Fall and Rise of the Conestoga," National Council for the Social Studies, Austin, 21-23 November 2019.
- "The Recipient of the First Book Award, 289th Annual Dinner, Library Company of Philadelphia, 18 November 2020.
- "Ghost River: The Fall and Rise of the Conestoga," Conestoga Area Historical Society, 10 November 2019.
- "Ghost River: The Fall and Rise of the Conestoga," OpenCon 2019, Temple University, 1 November 2019.
- "The Recipients of the First Biennial Innovation Award," 288th Annual Dinner, Library Company of Philadelphia, 29 October 2019.
- "Redrawing History as Public Humanities." Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 29 May 2019.
- "From Dissertation to Public Humanities." 2019 Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Chicago, 3 January 2019.
- "Expanding Academic Research," 286th Annual Dinner, Library Company of Philadelphia, 16 November 2017.

Digital Humanities & Digital Pedagogy

- "Choosing Your Online Publishing Platform: A Crash Course in Scalar," CUNY Graduate Center PublicsLabs, 8 October 2020.
- "Decolonization and DH," 2019 Digital Library Federation Forum, Tampa, 25 October 2019.
- "Digital Paxton's Afterlives," Archives-Based Digital Projects in Early America, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, 27 September 2019.
- "Redrawing History: Taking Digital Humanities Analog." Mellon Arts and Humanities Symposium, Lincoln University, 23 May 2019.
- "Redrawing History: Decolonization through Artistic Reinterpretation." HASTAC 2019: Decolonizing Technologies, Reprogramming Education. UBC Vancouver, 17 May 2019.
- "Digital Paxton." American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, 10 November 2018.
- "Decolonizing Digital Paxton," Humanities Intensive Learning and Teaching, University of Pennsylvania, 8 June 2018.
- "Diary Research Guide," Lunch at the Library, American Philosophical Society, 30 May 2018.
- "Digital Paxton and Scalar," Mellon Digital Humanities Initiative, Lehigh University, September 8, 2017.
- "Digital Paxton: A Digital Archive and Critical Edition of the Paxton Pamphlet War," Keystone DH 2017, Science History Institute, 13 July 2017.
- "Digital Paxton as an Education Platform," Teacher Advisory Board, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1 February 2017.
- "Scalar as a Platform for Digital Archival Work," GLAM Café, Library Company of Philadelphia, 12 April 2016.
- "Towards a More Inclusive MOOC," Open EdX Symposium, New York, 6 April 2016.
- "Gamification in Practice," New York Metro American Studies Association Summer Institute, New York University, Brooklyn, 1 July 2015.
- "Gamifying the Composition/Rhetoric Syllabus," Graduate Studies Digital Humanities Workshop, Fordham University, 9 April 2014.

Early American Literature

- "Race and 'Their Narrative of the proceedings of the Black People, during the late awful Calamity in Philadelphia in the year 1793.'" Early Modern Quarantine Conference, Online, 26 June 2020.
- "Pamphlets, Political Cartoons, and the Paxton Massacres." Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Teacher Seminar, Library Company of Philadelphia, 31 July 2019.
- "The Paxton Boys." Historical Society of Frankford, 14 May 2019.
- "The Paxton Massacres of 1763: From Commemoration to Reinterpretation." Institute of Thomas Paine Studies Patriots' Day Symposium, Iona College, 15 April 2019.
- "A Pamphlet War without all the Pamphlets." Society of Early Americanists Biennial Conference, University of Oregon, 28 February 2019.
- "Free Quakers, Founding Fathers, and Native Americans: Ned Buntline's Nativist Historiography," C19: Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, University of New Mexico, 23 March 2018.
- "A New Looking-Glass for the 1764 Pamphlet War," McNeil Center for Early American Studies Seminar, Library Company of Philadelphia, 21 April 2017.

"The Fighting Quaker and the Antebellum Novel," Fellowship Colloquium, Library Company of Philadelphia, 13 October 2016.

"The Warlike Man of Peace:" Robert Montgomery Bird's Fighting Quaker," Quaker Studies Research Association Joint Conference, 25 June 2016.

"*Edgar Huntly* and the Paxton Riots," 2015 ALA Annual Conference, Boston, 23 May 2015.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Finance Committee, Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries, June 2020-
Treasurer, Friends Historical Association. January 2020-

Curator, *Ghost River: The Fall and Rise of the Conestoga*. Exhibited at the Library Company of Philadelphia between November 11, 2019 - August 25, 2020.

Project Manager, *Redrawing History: Indigenous Perspectives on Colonial America*. Funded by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage between 1 July 2018 - 1 September 2020.

Panelist, Office of Digital Humanities, The National Endowment for the Humanities, May 2019.

Reviewer, Letters about Literature, Library of Congress, September 1 - December 1, 2018.

Mentor, Connected Academics Career Development Boot Camp, 2018 MLA Annual Convention, New York, January 3 - 7, 2018.

Master of Ceremonies, "ITHAKA: The Next Wave 2017," New York, 29 November 2017.