

# Catherine McNeur

## EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, Portland State University, History Department, 2017-Present

Assistant Professor, Portland State University, History Department, 2013-2017

Adjunct Associate Professor, New York University, Urban Design and Architecture Studies Program, Spring 2013

Bernard and Irene Schwarz Postdoctoral Fellow, New-York Historical Society and the New School, 2012-2013

## EDUCATION

**Yale University**, New Haven, Connecticut

Ph.D. in History, 2012

Dissertation: "The 'Swinish Multitude' and Fashionable Promenades: Battles over Public Space in New York City, 1815-1865"

**Winner**, Urban History Association Best Dissertation Award, 2012

**Winner**, Rachel Carson Prize for Best Dissertation, American Society of Environmental History, 2012

**Winner**, John Addison Porter Prize, Yale University, 2012

M.Phil. in History, 2008

Examination fields: The United States through Reconstruction (John Mack Faragher), Colonial America and the Atlantic World (John Demos), Global Environmental History (Robert Harms)

M.A. in History, 2006

**New York University**, New York, New York

B.A. in Urban Design and Architecture Studies with Honors, 2003

Minors: Metropolitan Studies, Political Science

Honors Thesis: "John McComb, Jr., Architect of the Federalist Party"

**Winner**, Best Thesis in the Urban Design and Architecture Studies Program, 2003

## PUBLICATIONS

BOOK:

*Taming Manhattan: Environmental Battles in the Antebellum City* (Harvard University Press, 2014).

**Winner**, James H. Broussard Best First Book Prize, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, 2015

**Winner**, George Perkins Marsh Book Prize, American Society of Environmental History, 2015

**Winner**, Victorian Society Metropolitan Chapter Book Award, 2015

**Winner**, Hornblower Award, New York Society Library, 2015

ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS:

"Introduction" and "Parks, People, and Property Values: The Changing Role of Green Spaces in Antebellum Manhattan," *Journal of Planning History* (online, 2016)

Guest editor, Special Issue on New York City's Parks, *Journal of Planning History*

"Rooted in History: Portland's Heritage Trees," in *Let Knowledge Serve the City*, Vol. 2, B.D. Wortham-Glavin, Jennifer H. Allen, Jacob D.B. Sherman, editors (Greenleaf Press, August 2016).

"The 'Swinish Multitude': Controversies over Hogs in Antebellum New York City," *Journal of Urban History* 37.5 (September 2011): 639-660.

REVIEWS, ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES, & PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP:

Review Essay: "A Time to Reap: Environmental History in the Early Republic," *Journal of the Early Republic* (pending publication, Spring 2018)

Review of *Food and the City: Histories of Culture and Cultivation*, by Dorotheé Imbert, *Buildings and Landscapes* (pending publication, 2017)

"Heritage Trees of Portland," *Oregon Encyclopedia* (published online, April 2017):  
[https://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/heritage\\_trees\\_of\\_portland/](https://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/heritage_trees_of_portland/)

Review of *Gowanus: Brooklyn's Curious Canal*, by Joseph Alexiou, *American Historical Review* (December 2016) 121 (5): 1704-1705.

Review of *Success Depends on the Animals: Emigrants, Livestock, and Wild Animals on the Overland Trails, 1840-1869*, by Diana L. Ahmad, *Oregon Historical Quarterly* (Fall 2016)

Review of *Urban Appetites: Food and Culture in Nineteenth-Century New York*, by Cindy Lobel, *Agricultural History* 90.1 (Winter 2016): 148-149.

Review of *Preserving South Street Seaport: The Dream and Reality of a New York Urban Renewal District*, by James M. Lindgren, *Journal of American History* 102.1 (June 2015).

"One of the First Gentrification Movements -- The Great Piggery War," *The New York Post*, 1 February 2015.

"Protecting Their Pigs: Women and Urban Agriculture in Antebellum Manhattan," *Render: Feminist Food and Culture Quarterly Blog*, July 28, 2014:

<http://www.renderfoodmag.com/blog/2014/7/28/protecting-their-pigs-women-and-urban-agriculture-in-antebellum-manhattan>

Review of *Beyond Nature's Housekeepers: American Women in Environmental History*, by Nancy C. Unger, *Pacific Historical Review* 83.1 (February 2014): 145-146.

"The Shantytown: Nineteenth-Century Manhattan's 'Stragglings Suburbs,'" *From the Stacks: The New-York Historical Society Library Blog*, June 5, 2013: <http://blog.nyhistory.org/the-shantytown-nineteenth-century-manhattans-stragglings-suburbs/>.

Review of *Precious Commodity: Providing Water for America's Cities*, by Martin V. Melosi, *Planning Perspectives* 27.4 (October 2012): 651-652.

Review of the exhibit *Skin and Bones: Tattoos in the Life of the American Sailor* at the Mystic Seaport Museum, *Common-place* 12.1 (October 2011): <http://www.common-place.org/vol-12/no-01/>.

"Hogs," in *The Encyclopedia of New York City* (ed. Kenneth T. Jackson), 2nd edition. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010.

Review of *Building Power: Architecture and Surveillance in Victorian America*, by Anna Vemer Andrzejewski, *Louisiana History* 51 (Summer 2010): 375-377.

Review of *194X: Architecture, Planning, and Consumer Culture on the American Home Front*, by Andrew M. Shanken, *Enterprise and Society* 11.2 (June 2010): 425-427.

"On February 17, 1802, the New-York City Common Council announced a competition for the design of a new city hall," *The New York Journal of American History* 66.1, (Spring/Summer 2005): 68-69.

#### WORKS IN PROGRESS:

Sprouting from a Sidewalk Crack: The Persistence of the Ailanthus Tree in American Cities  
Bugs, Flowers, and Female Scientific Authority: Margaretta Hare Morris & Elizabeth Carrington Morris

## HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Portland State University, Faculty Enhancement Grant, 2016-2018

James H. Broussard Best First Book Prize, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, 2015

Victorian Society Metropolitan Chapter Book Award, 2015

Hornblower Award, New York Society Library, 2015

George Perkins Marsh Book Prize, American Society of Environmental History, 2015

Portland State University, Institute for Sustainable Solutions, 2013-2014 Sustainability Travel Award

Urban History Association Best Dissertation Award, 2012

Rachel Carson Prize for Best Dissertation, American Society of Environmental History, 2012

John Addison Porter Prize, Yale University, 2012

Samuel Thorpe Jones and Charles Jones Fellowship, Yale University, 2011-2012

Louis E. Voorheis Fellowship, Yale University, 2010-2011

Yale University Dissertation Fellowship, 2011

John F. Enders Fellowship, Yale University, Summer 2009

Lamar Center for the Study of Frontiers and Borderlands Research Fellowship, Spring 2009

Beinecke Library Research Fellowship, September 2008 – February 2009

Beinecke Library Pre-Prospectus Summer Fellowship, July 2007

Program in Agrarian Studies Research Grant, Yale University, Summer 2007, 2009

University Fellowship, Yale University, 2005-2008, 2009-2010

Department Award for the Best Honors Thesis in the Urban Design and Architecture Studies Program, New York University, 2003

Dean's Undergraduate Research Award, New York University, Summer 2002

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **Portland State University, 2013-Present**

Assistant Professor

US History I: colonial to 1840, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017  
US History II: 1840-1918, Winter 2016, Winter 2018  
US History III: 1918 to the present, Spring 2016, Spring 2018  
Public History Lab: Heritage Trees, Spring 2015, Spring 2017  
Public History Lab: Podcasts & History, Fall 2016  
Public History Seminar: Historic Preservation, Spring 2014  
Food and Power in American History, Spring 2014, Fall 2015  
Environment and History, Winter 2014, Spring 2015  
Seminar in Environmental History, Winter 2014, Spring 2016  
Readings in Environmental History: Nature of American Cities, Fall 2013, Winter 2016  
Readings in Portland History and the American Urban Experience, Fall 2017  
Seminar in Portland History and the American Urban Experience, Winter 2017

### **New York University, 2013**

Adjunct Associate Professor

Urban Design and Architecture Studies Honors Thesis Tutorial, Spring 2013

### **Eugene Lang College, The New School, 2012-2013**

Schwartz Postdoctoral Fellow

We Are What We Eat: Food and Power in American History, Spring 2013  
Nature in Unexpected Places: The Environment in American History, Fall 2012

### **Yale University, 2007-2012**

Teaching Fellow

Introduction to Environmental History, Prof. Paul Sabin, Spring 2012  
American West, Prof. John Mack Faragher, Spring 2010  
Introduction to Environmental History, Prof. Paul Sabin, Fall 2009  
Food and Cuisine in Europe and the United States, Prof. Paul Freedman, Spring 2008  
The Colonial Period in American History, Prof. John Demos, Fall 2007

Pedagogical training: Fundamentals of Teaching History, Yale University, Fall 2007  
Workshops for Writing Instructors, Yale Writing Center, Spring 2012

*Teaching portfolio available upon request*

## **PUBLIC HISTORY EXPERIENCE**

**Museum of the City of New York**, New York, New York  
Consultant for "New York at Its Core" exhibit, 2015

**Historic Districts Council**, New York, New York  
*Preservation Associate*, 2002-2004

Worked with community leaders to research the history of their neighborhoods and advocate in the local government for their designation as historic districts. Also organized lecture series, conferences, and testified on proposed projects before the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

**Municipal Art Society**, New York, New York  
*Volunteer*, 2001  
Assisted in the research and coordination of exhibits.

## CONFERENCES/LECTURES

American Society of Environmental Historians, Chicago, Illinois  
“It Liked Poor People’: The Rise and Fall of the Ailanthus in American Cities”  
Panelist and Organizer  
Panel on “Unruly Plants, Unruly People”  
March 29-April 2, 2017

American Society of Environmental Historians, Chicago, Illinois  
Chair and Commentator  
Panel on “Chicago Environmental History from the Ground Up”  
March 29-April 2, 2017

Organization of American Historians, Providence, Rhode Island  
“Nature’s Metropolis: 25 Years”  
Roundtable on the 25th Anniversary of William Cronon’s *Nature’s Metropolis*  
April 7-10, 2016

American Society of Environmental Historians, Seattle, Washington  
Commentator  
Panel on “Heaven and Earth: Religion and Environmental History in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century America”  
March 30-April 2, 2016

Western Historical Association Conference, Portland, Oregon  
Chair and Commentator  
Panel on “Urbanization and Placemaking in the West: The cases of Spokane, Minneapolis, and Seattle”  
October 21-24, 2015

Pig Out—Hogs and Humans in Global and Historical Context, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut  
“Tainted Milk and Foul Swine: The Different Treatment of Urban Cows and Pigs in 1850s Manhattan”  
October 16-18, 2015

Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Conference, Raleigh, North Carolina  
“Health, Wealth, and the Morality of Sanitation in Antebellum Manhattan”  
Panel on Real Estate and Morality in the Early American Republic  
July 16-19, 2015

Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association’s 107th Annual Meeting, Portland, Oregon  
“Reforming the Urban Environment: Charles Loring Brace and Frederick Law Olmsted”

Panel on Civilizing America: Reforming the World from and in the Nineteenth-Century United States

August 15, 2014

American Society of Environmental Historians Conference, San Francisco, California

Chair and Commentator

Panel on Building Livable Cities: Public Debates over the Environment in Twentieth-Century Urban Planning

March 15, 2014

American Society of Environmental Historians Conference, San Francisco, California

"Out of the Trash Heaps: The Informal Economy of Nineteenth-Century New York's Shantytowns"

Panel Organizer

Panel on Shantytowns and the Environment

March 13, 2014

American Society of Environmental Historians Conference, Toronto, Canada

"Hog Wash and Swill Milk: Corrupt Politics and Urban Animals in 1850s New York City"

Panel on International Perspectives on Urban Animals in the Nineteenth Century

April 4-6, 2013

Urban History Association Conference, New York, New York

"New York City's 'Stragglers': Shantytowns and Squatters in the Nineteenth Century"

Panel Organizer

Panel on the Environmental History of Urban Peripheries

October 28-30, 2012

Conference on Environmental History at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

"The Business of Manure in Antebellum New York City"

April 17, 2010

Organization of American Historians Conference, New York, New York

"The 'Swinish Multitude': Controversies over Hogs in Nineteenth-Century New York City"

Panel on Animal Agency

March 28-30, 2008

American Society of Environmental History Conference, Boise, Idaho

"The 'Swinish Multitude': Controversies over Hogs in Nineteenth-Century New York City"

Panel on Urban Animals

March 10-15, 2008

Draper Graduate Student Conference on Early American Studies, Storrs, Connecticut

Imagining Environments: Navigating Space and Place in the Early Atlantic World

"The 'Swinish Multitude': Controversies over Hogs in Nineteenth-Century New York City"

Panel on Contested Urban Spaces

September 28-30, 2006

## **INVITED LECTURES**

University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

“Heritage Trees and Villain Trees: Public History and the Urban Canopy”

June 2, 2017

Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Seminar in Environmental and Agricultural History

“The Politics of Urban Animals and Waste Recycling in Antebellum Manhattan”

March 10, 2017

Oregon Health and Science University, Medical Library

“Controversies over Public Health, Local Food, and Urban Animals in 1850s Manhattan”

January 26, 2017

Guest Lecture, Portland State University, HST106 World History

“Men, Women, and Wilderness”

May 4, 2016

“Environmental History: State of the Field”

Richard Robinson Business History Workshop, Portland State University

April 28, 2016

Portland State of Mind, Portland State University, Portland, OR

Introduction, “From Stumptown to Tree Town”

October 28, 2015

Pig Out: Hogs and Humans in Global and Historical Context

Yale Program in Agrarian Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT

October 16-18, 2015

“Taming Manhattan,” Nineteenth-Century U.S. History Course, Prof. K. Stephen Prince

University of South Florida

September 21, 2015

“Taming Manhattan,” Reed American Studies Colloquium, Portland, OR

September 9, 2015

New York Academy of Medicine, the Museum of the City of New York, and Archive GLOBAL, New York, NY

“Hogwash, Swill Milk, & the Politics of Waste Recycling in Antebellum Manhattan”

Garbage in the City Series

July 1, 2015

Oregon State University, Environmental Arts & Humanities, Corvallis, Oregon

Keynote Address

“Corrupt Food and Corrupt Politics in Antebellum Manhattan”

May 1, 2015

Portland State University, Friends of History  
“Out of the Trash Heaps: Shantytowns and the Informal Economy in Nineteenth-Century  
Manhattan”  
April 2, 2015

University of Calgary  
“Hog Wash and Swill Milk: Corrupt Food and Politics in 1850s New York City”  
March 5, 2015

Portland State University Challenge Program  
“Clearing the Lungs of the City”  
February 26, 2015

Guest Lecture, Portland State University, USP313 Urban Environmental Issues  
January 21, 2015

New York University and the Historic Districts Council  
“Taming Manhattan: An Illustrated Book Talk”  
November 25, 2014

Portland State University School of Architecture  
“Out of the Trash Heaps: Shantytowns and the Informal Economy in Nineteenth-Century  
Manhattan”  
April 25, 2014

Nohad A. Toulan School of Urban Studies & Planning, Portland State University  
“Hog Wash and Swill Milk: Corrupt Food and Politics in 1850s New York City”  
April 11, 2014

New-York Historical Society  
“Hog Wash and Swill Milk: Corrupt Food and Politics in 1850s New York City”  
April 15, 2013

The New School History Department  
“Hog Wash and Swill Milk: Corrupt Food, Corrupt Politics, and the Urban Environment in 1850s  
New York City”  
November 27, 2013

Guides Association of New York City  
“Clearing the Lungs of the City: New York’s Uptown Shantytowns and the Creation of Central Park”  
July 11, 2012

Lecture for *Introduction to Environmental History*, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut  
“The Industrial Revolution and Urban Growth”  
September 22, 2009

Historic Districts Council, New York, New York  
“John McComb, Jr.: Architect of the Federalist Party”  
June 1, 2005



General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen, New York, New York  
"John McComb, Jr.: Architect of the Federalist Party"  
November 3, 2004

## INTERVIEWS

"Beyond Footnotes," Portland State College Radio (KPSU), October 22, 2015.

"New York Nexus: Sheffield Farms documentary," Columbia University, filmed October 18, 2015.

"Community Spotlight: Q&A with Catherine McNeur," Portland State University Institute for Sustainable Solutions, July 29, 2015, <http://www.pdx.edu/sustainability/solutions-blog/community-spotlight-qa-with-catherine-mcneur>

Metrofocus, WNET (PBS), filmed July 2, 2015.

"Shades of Green," Portland State College Radio (KPSU), May 7, 2015.

"How New York Became a Modern City," Yale University GSAS Newsletter, 28 January 2015.

Food Show, KBOO, 17 December 2014.

"Think Out Loud," *Oregon Public Broadcasting*, 4 December 2014.

"Episode 796," *Monocle 24: The Daily*, 24 November 2014.

"City Pigs with Catherine McNeur," *Edible Portland: Underground Airwaves Podcast*, 17 November 2014.

"The Author's Corner with Catherine McNeur," *The Way of Improvement Leads Home: Reflections at the Intersection of American History, Religion, Politics, and Academic Life*, 30 October 2014, <http://www.philipvickersfithian.com/2014/10/the-authors-corner-with-catherine-mcneur.html>

"Pigs, Parks, and Power in the Antebellum City: Interview with Catherine McNeur," *DailyHistory.org*, 28 October 2014, <http://dailyhistory.org/2014/10/28/pigs-parks-and-power-in-the-antebellum-city-interview-with-catherine-mcneur/>

"Next Steps: Catherine McNeur," *Urban History Association: The City in History*, July 30, 2014, <http://urbanhistorians.wordpress.com/2014/07/30/next-steps-catherine-mcneur/>

## ACTIVITIES & SERVICE

Editorial Board, *Environmental History*, 2017-2020

NEH and Mellon Fellowship Reviewer, New-York Historical Society, 2017

Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of the Early Republic*, 2016

Manuscript Reviewer, *Environmental History*, 2016, 2017

George Perkins Marsh Prize Committee, American Society of Environmental History, 2015-2016

Manuscript Reviewer, *Cornell University Press*, 2015

History Department Graduate Committee, Portland State University, 2015

Board of Directors, Urban History Association, 2015-2018  
Manuscript Reviewer, *Environment and History*, 2014  
Undergraduate Sustainability Certificate Working Group, Portland State University, 2014-2015  
Food Systems Certificate Committee, Portland State University, 2013-Present  
Faculty Senate Alternate, Portland State University, 2013-Present  
Advisory Committee, History Department, Portland State University, 2013-2016  
Rachel Carson Prize Committee, American Society of Environmental History, 2013-2014  
Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of Urban History*, 2013  
Co-coordinator of Past Perfect, the undergraduate history club at Eugene Lang, 2012-2013  
Judge, National History Day, New Haven, CT, March 24, 2012  
Co-coordinator of the Conference on Environmental History, Yale University, April 17, 2010  
Convener for the Westerners Lunch, Yale University, 2008-2009  
Coordinator of the Yale Early American Historians Colloquium, Yale University, 2007-2009  
Commentator on Agrarian Studies Colloquium papers, Yale University, 2007, 2008  
President of the Andrews Society, Yale University Department of History, 2006-2007

## THESES ADVISED

### MASTER'S THESES:

Beth Cookler, "The Impact of the Tax Revolt and School Reform on Oregon Schools during the 1990s" (third reader), Spring 2014  
Daniel Shepard, "A Town on Fire: The Copperfield Affair of 1914" (third reader), Spring 2015  
Mackenzie Myers, "An Exquisite Loneliness: Ruin and Rebirth in Michigan's Upper Peninsula" (third reader, MFA, Creative Writing program), Spring 2016  
Taylor Rose, "Seeing the Forest for the Roads: Auto-Tourism and Wilderness Preservation in Mount Hood National Forest, 1913-64" (advisor, chair), Fall 2016  
David Hedberg, "As Long as the Mighty Columbia River Flows': The Leadership and Legacy of Wilson Charley, a Yakama Indian Fisherman" (second reader), Winter 2017  
William Schneider, "Music and Race in the American West," (third reader), Spring 2017  
Carey Miles, "A Conservationist Takes Flight: The early Career of William Lovell Finley, 1887-1911" (second reader), Spring 2017

### HONORS THESES:

Hannah Anderson, "Divine Diets: Food and Fasting of Female Mystics in the Vitae of Thomas of Cantimprè" (second reader), Spring 2015  
Carter Ause, "Black and Green: How Disinvestment, Displacement, and Segregation Created the Conditions for Eco-Gentrification in Portland's Albina District, 1940-2015" (advisor), Spring 2016

## LANGUAGES

Latin (reading and translation)  
Spanish (reading and translation)  
German (reading and translation)

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Historical Association  
Organization of American Historians  
American Society of Environmental Historians  
Urban History Association  
Society for Historians of the Early American Republic  
Western Historical Association  
New York Society Library  
New-York Historical Society  
Oregon Historical Society

## **REFERENCES**

John Mack Faragher, Arthur Unobsky Professor of American History, Yale University  
203-432-3311; john.faragher@yale.edu  
David W. Blight, Class of 1954 Professor of American History, Yale University  
203-432-8521; david.blight@yale.edu  
Joanne Freeman, Professor of History, Yale University  
203-432-1392; joanne.freeman@yale.edu  
Daniel Czitrom, Professor of History, Mount Holyoke College  
413-538-2334; dczitrom@mtholyoke.edu  
Matthew Klinge, Associate Professor of History, Bowdoin College  
207-798-7141; mklingle@bowdoin.edu  
Paul H. Freedman, Chester D. Tripp Professor of History, Yale University  
203-432-0399; paul.freedman@yale.edu  
Mosette Broderick, Director, Urban Design and Architecture Studies Program, New York University  
212-998-8196; mosette.broderick@nyu.edu