

Claire Becker

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Profile

- PhD student in History at the University of Rochester, fully funded
- Primary research interests include medieval and early modern Spain, colonial Latin America, social and cultural history, cultural studies, and gender and women's studies
- Experienced archival researcher with developing skills reading paleography and calligraphy
- Fluent in English and Spanish, proficient in Portuguese
- Diverse background working in libraries, museums, secondary schools, writing centers, and with digital media

Education

Master of Arts in History
University of Rochester, May 2021
GPA: 4.0

Bachelor of Arts in History and Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature
Minor in Spanish Studies
University of Minnesota, May 2019
GPA: 3.977

Honors Thesis: "Getting Intimate with the Devil: Visions of the Body in Witch Trial Documents from Early Modern Spain and Colonial Mexico"
Thesis Readers: Mary Jo Maynes, Ph.D., Anna Clark, Ph.D., Erin Trapp, Ph.D.

Conference Presentations

"Agency Obscured: Mother Juana de la Cruz Through the Eyes of Father Antonio Daza," Women and Agency: Transnational Perspectives c.1450-1970, Virtual Symposium, University Oxford, June 24th, 2021

Honors and Awards

Recipient, Donald Marks "Dexter Perkins Prize" Fellowship, Spring 2021

Recipient, Slattery Fellowship, Fall 2020

Recipient, Hedley-Donovan Scholarship in History, Summer 2018

Summa Cum Laude from the University of Minnesota Honors Program, May 2019

High Distinction from the University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts, May 2019

Dean's List, Spring and Fall Semesters, 2015 – 2019

Work Experience

Graduate Writing Consultant, University of Rochester Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program, September 2020 – Present

- Met with undergraduate and graduate students attending the University of Rochester with the goal of improving their writing skills
- Completed pedagogical training and gained skills in teaching a wide variety of students with diverse academic needs and learning styles
- Worked with a diverse student population including many English-language learners
- Provided students with information and advice regarding academic honesty policies
- Aided students with formatting in APA, MLA, and Chicago style

Writing Tutor, University of Rochester Early Connection Opportunity (ECO) Program, July 2020 – August 2020

- Provided tutoring to incoming U of R undergraduate students taking part in the four-week ECO program in summer 2021
- Mentored and otherwise prepared students to engage in the academic, social, and cultural wealth of the University of Rochester community

Apprentice Instructor for History 106/Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies 126: Witchcraft and Witch Trials in Early Modern Europe, Instructor: Professor Thomas Devaney, University of Rochester, Spring Semester 2021

- Worked with the instructor and teaching assistant to develop and teach an introductory history course on early modern witchcraft and witch trials
- Guest-lectured two classes and frequently lead group discussions in-person and via Zoom
- Worked with students one-on-one via email and Zoom to answer questions, provide accommodations for specific needs, offer feedback on written assignments and overall performance, and improve students' understanding of course material and historical methods
- Aided in the development of formal and informal assignments including quizzes, midterm essays, and classroom activities intended to foster participation and productive discussion
- Read and assessed student assignments informally using Blackboard

Library Assistant, James Ford Bell Rare Books Library, December 2015 – May 2019

- Processed and partially translated a collection of Spanish language documents produced in Michoacán, Mexico circa 1562
- Compiled a bibliography of Spanish-language library materials
- Drew on materials in the library's collection to develop, write, and publish an online Omeka exhibit about female pirates in the Golden Age of Piracy

Research Experience

Honors Thesis research at UC-Berkeley Bancroft Library, August 2018

- Research (via microfilm) of manuscript documents produced between 1537 and 1817
- Funded by the Hedley-Donovan Scholarship

Archival Researcher and Oral Historian for "Racial Health Inequities in Minnesota" Project, Minnesota Historical Society, June 2019 – August 2019

- Conducted archival and oral history research of health inequities experienced by African American communities in Minnesota from the early 20th century to the present
- Compiled a report consisting of qualitative and quantitative data surrounding racial health inequities in Minnesota for future use in informing a book to be published by the Minnesota Historical Society
- Funded by the History Museum Fellows Program

Researcher and 3D Object Cataloguer for “Re-contextualizing Discriminatory Collections” Project, Minnesota Historical Society, June 2019 – August 2019

- Researched museum history and best practices for cataloguing, labelling, and exhibiting items categorized as “discriminatory” towards minority groups
- Wrote and edited standardized guidelines for properly and sensitively cataloguing Minnesota Historical Society collection items categorized as “discriminatory”
- Presented the completed list of guidelines to Historical Society staff members in various departments to inform future use in cataloguing new museum acquisitions
- Funded by the History Museum Fellows Program

Independent Research Assistant and Transcriptionist for Author Joan Oliver Goldsmith, September 2017 – present

- Synthesized and transcribed a series of letters written between 1941 and 1947 by Edith Oliver, a former radio writer and film & theater critic for *The New Yorker*
- Edited and formatted material in Microsoft Word to be published in a historical biography about Edith Oliver

Certifications and Skills

Certificate in Spanish Language and Iberian Studies

Fundación Jose Ortega y Gasset – Gregorio Marañón in Toledo, Spain, April 2018

Paleography and Calligraphy

EdX course: Caligrafía y paleografía: espacios históricos para su estudio y práctica, June 2018 – August 2018

Instructors: Eduardo Juarez, Ph.D., Diego Navarro, Ph.D.

Skills

- Spanish to English translation
- Portuguese to English translation
- KeEmu museum collections management software
- Omeka online exhibitions
- Film production and editing (Adobe PremierPro)
- Transcription (Express Scribe)
- Microsoft Office
- Google Suite
- Remote work (Slack, Zoom)
- Blackboard

Volunteer Experience and Community Engagement

Education Officer, University of Rochester History Department, August 2020 – Present

- Organized workshops with fellow graduate students to discuss ongoing projects and facilitate career development, attended all department meetings and served as a representative of the graduate student community

Volunteer Teacher, Escuela Oficial de Idiomas in Toledo, Spain, December 2017 – April 2018

- Used English and Spanish language skills to teach English as a second language to 20-30 entry-level and intermediate English learners from diverse age groups and cultural backgrounds

Vice President and Editorial Director, *StudioU*, University of Minnesota, December 2016 – December 2017

- Managed editorial committee and edited all scripts and storyboards for a student-run video media organization
- Successfully planned and conducted meetings to instruct and direct a team of 20 student writers
- Created and developed a series of scripted comedy videos and instructed members in comedy writing, storyboarding, and basic video editing (Adobe PremierPro)
- Directed film shoots and aided in the video production and editing process

Mentor, National History Day Minnesota, November 2016 – May 2017

- Used research and analytical skills to help middle school students in Minneapolis Public Schools create and present History Day research projects

Regular Contributor and Feature Writer, *The Wake Magazine*, University of Minnesota, September 2016 – April 2018

- Wrote and copy-edited news and opinion articles for a student-run magazine focused on arts, culture, media, and politics