

**Sheila A. Brennan**

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<http://sheilabrennan.org>

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## **Education**

**George Mason University**, Ph.D., U.S. History, January 2010

Minor fields: History and New Media; Material Culture and Memory

Dissertation: *Stamping American Memory, Stamp Collecting in the US, 1880s-1930s*

Advisers: Roy Roseznweig, 2002-2007; Alison Landsberg, 2007-2009

**University of Notre Dame**, M.A., American Studies, May 1996

Major Concentration: History; Minor Concentration: Material Culture

Thesis: *"Do Your Children Play—or Go to the Movies?" Constructions of Childhood and Class in Progressive Reform Rhetoric from the Silent Era*

Adviser: Jeanne H. Kilde

**Bates College**, B.A., American Cultural Studies, Minor: Spanish, May 1994

## **Professional Certifications**

George Mason University, Positive Leadership Certificate, November 2015

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## **Public Humanities & Museum Experience**

**National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, DC**

*Senior Program Officer, Office of Digital Humanities*, June 2018-present

Cultivate and consult on digital humanities project proposals; convene peer review panels; promote the work of the agency and its programs through public and virtual convenings.

**George Mason University, Fairfax, VA**

**Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media**

*Director of Strategic Initiatives*, January 2016-June 2018

*Associate Director of Public Projects*, January 2010-16

*Senior Digital History Associate*, October 2005-December- 2009

*Grant and Technical Writer*, January –September 2005

**Department of History and Art History**

*Research Associate Professor*, December 2014-June 2018

*Research Assistant Professor*, August 2010-2014

Conceptualized, developed, managed, and led digital history and humanities projects; led historical research and curated content development for digital exhibitions; authored federal

and private foundation grants; supervised 6 professional staff and 6 graduate students; managed multiple budget lines; collaborated across multiple institutional partners; taught digital humanities courses and workshops; designed and implemented outreach strategies; presented RRCHNM projects to diverse audiences; published on digital public humanities topics.

## Select Digital Projects

### **Omeka: Director, 2017-2018; Associate Director and Quality Assurance Lead, 2007-17:**

*Omeka* open source software project for building digital collections, exhibitions, and publications (<http://omeka.org>), and affiliated projects, *Omeka.net* (<http://omeka.net>), *Omeka Everywhere*, and *Omeka-S*

**Funders:** Institute of Museum and Library Services, Library of Congress, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Getty Foundation, Samuel H. Kress Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Histories of the National Mall, Co-Director, 2012-2018:** Led content, technical, and social media teams in researching, curating, designing, and launching award-winning digital public history project for the mobile web telling the history and development of the National Mall as a public space, <http://mallhistory.org>

**Funder:** National Endowment for the Humanities, Office of Public Programs

### **Papers of the War Department Digital Edition & Scripto Crowdsourcing Transcription**

**Tool: Primary Investigator and Director, 2016-18:** Led team in redesigning digital documentary edition & integration of redeveloped software for transcribing historical documents: <http://wardepartmentpapers.org> : <http://scripto.org>

**Funder:** American Council of Learned Societies Digital Extension Fellowship, National Endowment for the Humanities, Office of Digital Humanities

**Hearing the Americas: Primary Investigator and Director, 2017-18:** Led content and digital design teams in planning public history exhibitions focusing on transnational origins of early American popular music.

**Funder:** National Endowment for the Humanities, Office of Public Programs

**Mapping Early American Elections, Co-Primary Investigator and Co-Director, 2016-18:** Led planning, curation, and design of new access points to a rich collection of early American election returns by building maps and interpretive essays, <http://earlyamericanelections.org/>

**Funder:** National Endowment for the Humanities, Office of Preservation and Access

**September 11 Digital Archive, Primary Investigator, 2013-18** Led major upgrade and redesign, and relaunched collecting and data analysis of digital assets for one of the oldest online collecting projects to preserve and present the stories and digital record from the attacks on September 11, 2001 <http://911digitalarchive.org>

**Funder:** National Endowment for the Humanities and National Park Service

**The Networked Curator: Primary Investigator and Director, 2017-18:** Developed and taught two intensive professional development workshops for art curators in partnership with the Association of Art Museum Curators, <http://networkedcurator.doingdh.org>

**Funder:** Getty Foundation, Samuel H. Kress Foundation

**A Liberian Journey: History, Memory, and the Making of a Nation, Co-Primary Investigator and Technical Director, 2013-16:** Led digital team, and advised content team for building online collecting and exhibitions project on colonial expeditions in Liberia on the mobile web. <http://liberianhistory.org>

**Funder:** National Science Foundation

**State of History Museum Websites, Primary Investigator, 2011 & 2004:** Surveyed, analyzed, and compared curated content from 115 history museum websites and their digital presence with prior survey collection to create overview of how museums used web.

**Survey Data:** <http://bit.ly/stateofhistorymuseumweb>

**Civil Rights Across the Smithsonian, Project Manager, 2010-11:** Collaborated with the SI 2.0 Working Group to prototype a website for aggregating content from multiple Smithsonian museums on the topic of African American civil rights movement.

**Funder:** Smithsonian 2.0 initiative

**The People and the Post: A Digital Memory Book, Project Manager, 2009-2011:** Managed design process and website build for an online collecting site for the Smithsonian National Postal Museum. <https://memorybook.si.edu>

**Funder:** Smithsonian National Postal Museum

**Mobile for Museums, Project Manager, 2008-09:** Led research evaluating museum adoption of mobile technologies and co-authored a state of the field white paper, including best practices and technical solutions.

**Funder:** Samuel L. Kress Foundation

**Gulag: Many Days, Many Lives Project Manager, 2007-08:** Managed international team designing and building digital exhibition and collecting website exploring the complex history of the Soviet Gulag prison system. <http://gulaghistory.org>

**Funder:** National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of Preservation and Access

**Hurricane Digital Memory Bank, Project Manager and Outreach Co-Lead, 2005-15:** Managed multi-institutional team in designing and building a project to collect, preserve, and present the stories and digital record of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, as well as studying the viability and replicability of online collecting projects <http://hurricanearchive.org>

**Funder:** Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

## **Teaching**

- Digital Public Humanities Certificate Program, designed virtual internship course, HIST 794, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Summer 2018
- Two-week intensive summer institute for historians, “Doing Digital History,” Summer 2016
- Summer Seminar for art history graduate students, “Building a Digital Portfolio,” Summer 2015
- Two-week intensive summer institute for art historians, “ReBuilding the Portfolio,” Summer 2014
- Two-week intensive summer institute for historians, “Doing Digital History,” Summer 2014
- One-week intensive summer institute, “Another Week | Another Tool,” Summer 2013
- Multiple invited workshops teaching digital tools and digital public history methods.

## **Smithsonian National Museum of American Indian and National Postal Museum, Washington, DC**

*Advisory Board member, “Indians in the Post Office: Native Themes in New Deal Era Murals” exhibition, 2012-13*

Consulted on curatorial content and digital exhibition opportunities for exhibition.

## **National Museum of the U.S. Navy, Washington, DC**

*Director of Education and Public Programs, August 1999-2004*

*Assistant Director of Education and Public Programs, June 1997-August 1999*

Initiated, developed, coordinated, and managed all museum public programming; researched, developed, and wrote educational materials and tour content; supervised 1 full-time educator, 20 volunteers, and high school, undergraduate, and graduate interns; designed and launched Museum’s first online exhibitions and online educational offerings; managed budgets and wrote annual reports; coordinated all museum publicity and served Public Affairs Officer; collaborated with DC area cultural and tourism organizations and museums on local history projects.

## **Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History: Dorothy and Jerome Lemelson Center for the Study of Innovation and Invention, Washington, DC**

*Research Assistant, February-May 1997*

Researched sewing machine history in museum’s collections; wrote and edited portions of interdisciplinary online high school curriculum integrating history of technology into history classes, “Whole Cloth: Discovering Science and Technology Through American Textile History.”

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## **Peer-Reviewed Publications**

*Stamping American Memory: Collectors, Citizens, and the Post*, (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2018) print and open access editions, <http://dx.doi.org/10.3998/mpub.9847183>

"A Case for Digital Collections," *Collections: A Journal for Museum and Archives Professionals* 12, 4 (2016).

"Public, First," in Matthew K. Gold and Lauren F. Klein, eds, *Debates in the Digital Humanities 2016* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2016), <http://dhdebates.gc.cuny.edu/debates/text/83>.

"Let the Grant Do the Talking," *Journal of Digital Humanities* Vol. 1, No. 4 Fall 2012 <http://journalofdigitalhumanities.org/1-4/let-the-grant-do-the-talking-by-sheila-brennan/>.

"Debating Identity and Origins in Early 20<sup>th</sup>-Century American Commemoratives," *Select Papers of the William M. Blount Symposia 2009-2011*, (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2012).

"'Little Colored Bits of Paper' Collected in the Progressive Era," *Select Papers of the William M. Blount Symposia*, (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2010).

"Hurricane Digital Memory Bank: Preserving the Stories of Katrina, Rita, and Wilma," with Roy Rosenzweig, *Vectors Journal of Culture and Technology in a Dynamic Vernacular* 2, no.1, Fall 2006 <http://vectors.usc.edu/projects/index.php?project=75>

"Taking a Byte Out of the Archives: Making Technology Work for You" *Perspectives* (January 2005) with Douglas Mudd, Kirklin Bateman, and Paula Petrik <http://www.historians.org/perspectives/issues/2005/0501/0501arc1.cfm>

"The Vindex Special: Learning about Technology Through Advertising," *Magazine of History*, (Winter 1998) with Susan Smulyan and Carlita Kosty.

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## **Edited Collections**

"The Postage Stamps That Flew Amelia Earhart Across the World," *What It Means to Be American* online series (Zocalo Public Square, December 8, 2019) <https://www.zocalopublicsquare.org/2019/12/08/the-postage-stamps-that-flew-amelia-earhart-across-the-world/ideas/essay/>

"Digital History," *The Inclusive Historian's Handbook*, (American Association for State and Local History, 2019), <https://inclusivehistorian.com/digital-history/>

"Oral History in the Digital Age," *Oxford Handbook of Oral History*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010) with James Halabuk, Sharon Leon, Tom Scheinfeldt, and Kelly Schrum.

*Encyclopedia of New England Culture* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005), 3 entries.

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## **Reviews**

"Trailblazing: 100 Years of Our National Parks," exhibition, *The Public Historian* 38, No 4. (November 2016)

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## **Research White Papers**

"Doing Digital History 2016: A Summer Institute for Mid-Career American Historians, White paper, with Sharon M. Leon, Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, June 2017: <http://history2016.doingdh.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2017/07/DoingDH2016-Whitepaper-Full.pdf>

"Building Histories of the National Mall," with Sharon Leon, et al, Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, October 2015, <http://mallhistory.org/Guide>

"Scholars as Students: Introductory Digital History Training for Mid-Career Historians," with Sharon M. Leon, Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, August 2015 <http://hdl.handle.net/1920/9825>

"State of the History Museum Web 2011," November 16, 2011, <http://www.lotfortynine.org/2011/11/state-of-history-museum-web-2011/>

"Mobile for Museums," Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, September 2009 with Sharon Leon and Dave Lester, <http://hdl.handle.net/1920/9819>

"Why Collecting Online is Web 1.5," Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and Media, March 2009, with T. Mills Kelly: <http://hdl.handle.net/1920/9808>

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## **Select Digital Publications**

"Data Loss and Recovery in the Age of Paper," *Parameters*, Social Science Research Council, invited, June 7, 2017, <http://parameters.ssrc.org/2017/06/data-loss-and-recovery-in-the-age-of-paper/>

"Project Showcase: A Liberian Journey," *History@Work*, invited, June 8, 2016: <http://ncph.org/history-at-work/project-showcase-a-liberian-journey/>

“10 Years After Katrina, the Enduring Value of the Hurricane Digital Memory Bank,” *RRCHNM News*, August 28, 2015, <http://chnm.gmu.edu/news/10-after-katrina-the-enduring-value-of-the-hurricane-digital-memory-bank/>

“Growing the Fields,” *RRCHNM News*, April 2, 2015, <http://chnm.gmu.edu/news/growing-the-fields/>

“Making Room by Letting Go,” invited, *Preservation Nation*, National Trust for Historic Preservation, August 12, 2014, <http://forum.savingplaces.org/blogs/special-contributor/2014/08/12/making-room-by-letting-go-a-look-at-the-ephemerality-of-collections>.

“New Initiative Integrates LGBT History into NPS sites,” *History @Work*, invited, June 16, 2014, <http://publichistorycommons.org/new-initiative-integrates-lgbt-history/>

“3D Environments are Sticky Interpretative Places,” *Lot 49*, May 14, 2014: <http://www.lotfortynine.org/2014/05/3d-environments-are-sticky-interpretative-places/>

“Collecting and Preserving Memories of the 2005 Gulf Coast Hurricanes,” *Ant Spider Bee*, invited, March 29, 2012, <http://antspiderbee.net/2012/03/hurricane-digital-memory-bank/>

“A First Look at the Occupy Archive,” *In Media Res*, invited, December 9, 2011 with Sharon Leon, <http://mediacommons.futureofthebook.org/imr/2011/12/09/first-look-occupy-archive>

“Intentional Alts,” with Jeremy Boggs, *#alt-academy: Alternative Academic Careers for Humanities Scholars* (MediaCommons, 2011) <http://mediacommons.futureofthebook.org/alt-ac/pieces/intentional-alt>

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## **Select Invited Presentations**

Smithsonian National Postal Museum, invited book talk, “Stamping American Memory,” Washington, DC (April 2019)

Chicago Colloquium on DH and Computer Science, keynote speaker, (November 2018)

Vietnam/American War Stories Symposium on Conflict and Civic Engagement, Indiana University, keynote speaker (July 2018)

“Historical Storytelling Through Technology,” Preservation Leadership Forum, virtual (January 2018)

“Digital Scholarship and Community Engagement,” keynote speaker, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Digital Scholarship Symposium, Marquette University (September 2017)

"Institutional Perspectives on Digital Art History," panel chair and commenter, Art History in the Digital Dimension, College Park, MD (November 2016)

"Starting Your First Digital Public History Project," invited workshop lead, Organization of American Historians, Providence, RI (April 2016)

"I Want to Use Your Collections," presenter, Cultural Heritage Informatics Management Forum, Catholic University, (June 2015)

"DH Centered in Museums?" lecture, John Nicholas Brown Public Humanities Center, Brown University, (March 2015)

"Using Omeka for Creating Digital History Scholarship," invited workshop lead, "Getting Started in Digital History," American Historical Association annual meeting, Washington, DC (January 2014)

"Introduction to Digital Humanities for Historians," invited lecture, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC, (August 2013)

"Reaching a Broad Community with Online Collecting," Lift Every Voice, IMLS National Forum, University of South Carolina College of Education and South Caroliniana Library (May 2013)

"What is DH and Why Does it Matter to Museums?" invited lecture, George Washington University (March 2013)

"Getting to the Stuff: Digital Cultural Heritage Collections, Absence, and Memory," invited lecture, Digital Dialogue, Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities, University of Maryland (November 2012)

"Historical Narratives Found on Stamps," lecture, University of Central Florida, (February 2012)

"Collection Access in a Time of Technical Innovation and Fiscal Constraints - Challenges, Conflicts, & Solutions," panelist, Naval History Workshop, June 2007

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## **Select Conference Presentations**

"Let the (NEH) Grants Do the Talking: Evaluating Digital Scholarship," panelist, Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (January 2020)

"Is it Time to Mobilize? Place-based Digital Public History," panelist, National Council on Public History Annual Meeting, virtual (March 2020)



"A Digital - Curatorial Conversation," panelist, Association of Art Museum Curators conference, Montreal, QC (May 2018)

"Extending the Power of Public History Through the Open Access Digital Publishing," session chair, organizer, and participant, National Council on Public History annual meeting, Las Vegas, NV (April 2018)

"Radicalizing Objects in History Museums," session lead and organizer, Museum Computer Network Conference, Pittsburgh, PA (November 2017)

"Confronting Theories of Museum Greatness," discussant, Museum Computer Network Conference, Pittsburgh, PA (November 2017)

"Engaging Curators! Inclusivity and Collaboration Across Institutions," co-facilitator, Museum Computer Network Conference, Pittsburgh, PA (November 2017)

"Using Omeka to Design Digital Art History Projects," panel organizer, chair, and presenter, College Art Association annual meeting, New York, NY (February 2017)

"Collecting Quickly: Forms, Phones, & APIs," Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, Annapolis, MD (March 2016)

"Public History as Digital History as Public History," working group facilitator and co-organizer, National Council on Public History annual meeting, Nashville, TN (April 2015)

"Doing Digital Art History: Reflections on the Field," presenter, College Art Association annual meeting, New York, NY (February 2015)

"Ephemerality in Public History," panel organizer and presenter, National Council of Public History annual meeting, Monterey, CA (March 2014)

"Virtual Reality and Historical Perspectives," chair and commenter, American Historical Association annual meeting, Washington, DC (January 2014)

"Re-Making the Museum Blog," panelist, Museum Computer Network Conference, Montreal, QC (November 2013)

"Histories of the National Mall: Uncovering the History you Never See with your Mobile on the National Mall," panelist, Museum Computer Network Conference, Montreal, QC (November 2013)

"Whose Civil Rights Stories on the Web? Authorship, Ownership, Access, and Content in Digital History," panel and workshop, Organization of American Historians-National Council on Public History Annual Meetings, Milwaukee, WI (April 2012)

“Graphs, Maps, Trees: Imagining the Future of Public Interfaces to Cultural Heritage Collections,” working group participant, National Council on Public History, Milwaukee, WI (April 2012)

“History Museums are Not Art Museums–Discuss,” roundtable discussion lead and organizer, Museum Computer Network, Atlanta, GA (November 2011)

“Constructing and Circulating Historical Narratives on Stamps,” panel organizer and presenter, National Council on Public History Conference, Pensacola, FL (April 2011)

“Remembering the Past, Shaping the Present with Commemoratives,” presenter, Winton M. Blount Postal History Symposium, Washington, DC (September 2010)

“Getting Your Content to Go: Mobile Content Design,” co-facilitator, American Association of Museums Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA (May 2010)

“Omeka for Museums,” co-facilitator for workshop, National Council on Public History Conference, Portland, OR (March 2010)

“Using Omeka in Small Museums,” presenter, Small Museums Association Conference, Ocean City, MD (February 2009)

“Omeka: Exhibit Collections Online in the Age of Web 2.0,” case study presenter, Museum Computing Network Conference, Washington, DC (November 2008)

“Hurricane Digital Memory Bank: Collecting and Sharing Stories from the Storms,” panelist, Oral History Association Conference, Pittsburgh, PA (October 2008)

“‘Little Colored Bits of Paper’ Collected in the Progressive Era,” presenter, Winton M. Blount Symposium on Postal History, Washington, DC, (November 2006)

“Past/Forward: Collecting History in the Digital Universe,” American Association for the History of Computing Conference, panelist, virtual conference (April 2006)

“Collecting and Preserving Hurricane Stories Online,” poster, Texas Association of Museums Annual Conference, Beaumont, TX (April 2006)

“Community Partnerships at The Navy Museum,” presentation, Biennial Naval History Workshop, Washington, DC (May 2001)

“Constructivist Theories at Work in Navy Museum Education Programs,” presentation, Biennial Naval History Workshop, Washington, DC (May 1999)

“Teaching Critical Thinking Skills through Museum Education,” presentation, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cherry Blossom Conference on Critical Thinking, Rockville, MD (April 1998)

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## **Honors and Awards**

- National Endowment for the Humanities, Independent Study, Research and Development Award, 2020
- American Council of Learned Society, digital extension grant fellow, 2017
- Outstanding Public History Project, National Council on Public History for *Histories of the National Mall*, 2014
- University of Michigan Press-HASTAC Digital Humanities Publication Prize, 2012
- United States Postal Service's Moroney Award for Scholarship on Postal History, 2010
- Humanities, Arts, Science, Technology Collaborative (HASTAC) Scholar, 2009-10
- McKinnon-Morton Dissertation Fellowship, George Mason University, 2006
- American Association for State and Local History, Award of Merit for Leadership in History for *Hurricane Digital Memory Bank*, 2006
- Phi Alpha Theta, History Honor Society, 2005
- Webber Outstanding Graduate Student Award, History and Art History Department, George Mason University, 2003

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## **Professional Service**

- Smithsonian Postal History Award Committee Member, 2018-present
- Peer Reviewer for *American Quarterly*, *The Public Historian*, *Journal of Interactive Technology and Pedagogy*, *Digital Humanities Quarterly*; *IJHAC: A Journal of Digital Humanities*, *The Programming Historian*, *Debates in Digital Humanities* series, and Routledge publishing
- Consultant and mentor, Whiting Foundation, Public Engagement Fellowships, 2016-18
- Museum Computer Network 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference Program Committee, 2017
- Adviser, "Participatory Media," National Endowment for the Humanities planning grant, 2016-7
- Fellowship reviewer, private foundation, 2016
- Inaugural Committee Member of the Annual Digital Humanities Awards, 2012-present
- Nominating Committee, National Council for Public History (elected, 2012-2015)
- External Reviewer, History Department, University of Houston, Clear Lake (2015-6)
- Grant Reviewer, Institute of Museum and Library Services (2015)
- Advisory Board member, "Lift Every Voice: Capturing and Teaching Civil Rights History" Institute for Museum and Library Services National Leadership planning grant, (2012-13)
- Adviser, New Urban Arts Center, Rhode Island Foundation grant (2012)
- Grant Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities (2012)
- Judge, American Association of Museums, Member of Media and Technology Committee MUSE Awards (2007, 2008, 2011)
- Adviser, American Association of State and Local History affinity group, Internet Digital Encyclopedia Alliance (2011)
- Grant Reviewer, National Science Foundation (2010)
- National History Day judge national contest, 1999-2004; regional 1999-2001