

## SARA T. DAMIANO

Department of History  
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### EDUCATION

Ph.D., History, Johns Hopkins University, 2015.

*Dissertation*: “Gendering the Work of Debt Collection: Women, Law, and the Credit Economy in New England, 1730-1790” (advisors: Toby L. Ditz and Philip D. Morgan)

M.A., History, Johns Hopkins University, 2010.

A.B., History with departmental honors, *magna cum laude*, Brown University, 2008.

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor, Department of History, *Texas State University*, 2022-present.

Assistant Professor, Department of History, *Texas State University*, 2016-2022.

Postdoctoral Fellow, *Program in Early American Economy and Society, Library Company of Philadelphia*, Spring 2016.

Part-Time Instructor, *University of Maryland, Baltimore County*, Fall 2015.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### *Books:*

*To Her Credit: Women, Finance, and the Law in Eighteenth-Century New England Cities* (Baltimore: Studies in Early American Economy and Society Series, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2021).

#### *Refereed Articles:*

“Writing Women’s History through the Revolution: Family Finances, Letter Writing, and Conceptions of Marriage,” *William and Mary Quarterly* 74, no. 4 (October 2017): 697-728.

“Agents at Home: Wives, Lawyers, and Financial Competence in Eighteenth-Century New England Port Cities,” *Early American Studies* 13, no. 4 (Fall 2015): 808-835.

“‘To Well and Truly Administer’: Female Administrators and Estate Settlement in Newport, Rhode Island, 1730-1776,” *New England Quarterly* 86, no. 1 (March 2013): 89-124.

*Refereed Chapters:*

“Women and the Law,” in *Oxford Bibliographies in Atlantic History*, ed. Trevor Burnard (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021).

*Works in Progress:*

*Policing Households: Law Enforcement in Colonial American Cities*, book-length manuscript in progress.

“Gender and Family” in *The Oxford Handbook of the Seven Years War*, ed. Trevor Burnard, Emma Hart, and Marie Houlemare (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

*Reviews:*

*Wives Not Slaves: Patriarchy and Modernity in the Age of Revolutions* by Kirsten Sword, *William and Mary Quarterly* 79, no 2 (July 2022): 486-490.

*Women and the American Revolution: Gender, Politics, and the Domestic World*, ed. Barbara B. Oberg, *Journal of the Early Republic* 40, no 3 (Fall 2020): 546-549.

*Women in Early America*, ed. Thomas Foster, *Journal of American Studies* 51, no. 3 (August 2017): 1006-1007.

*The Many Panics of 1837: People, Politics, and the Creation of a Transatlantic Financial Crisis* by Jessica M. Lepler, *Journal of the Early Republic* 36, no. 2 (Summer 2016): 420-422.

*Online Publications:*

“Women in Colonial Economies,” Beyond Borders Digitization Project, *Maine Historical Society*, in progress.

“Of Nouns and Verbs: Researching Women, Finance, and Law in Early America,” *Johns Hopkins University Press Blog* ([press.jhu.edu/news/blog](http://press.jhu.edu/news/blog)), May 17, 2021.

“What Yellen and Hamilton Comparisons Omit: Women's Progress Is Not Guaranteed,” *Public Seminar* ([publicseminar.org](http://publicseminar.org)), February 2021.

“The Abigail Adams ‘Problem;’ or, Teaching Women’s History of the Revolutionary Era,” *The Panorama: Expansive Views from the Journal of the Early Republic* ([thepanorama.shear.org](http://thepanorama.shear.org)), April 16, 2018.

Contributor, *The Junto: A Group Blog on Early American History* ([earlyamericanists.com](http://earlyamericanists.com)), August 2013 – January 2017.

“Witnesses and their Testimony in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World: Identifying Commonalities and Exploring Differences,” *Uncommon Sense: Blog of the Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture* ([blog.oieahc.wm.edu](http://blog.oieahc.wm.edu)), September 15, 2015.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

*Research:*

History Department Nominee, Presidential Award for Excellence in Research, *Texas State University*, 2021

Research Enhancement Program Grant (for “Policing Households: Law Enforcement in Colonial American Cities”), *Texas State University*, 2021

Scholars Workshop, *Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture*, July 2018

Research Enhancement Program Grant, *Texas State University*, Summer 2017

Postdoctoral Fellowship, *Program in Early American Economy and Society, Library Company of Philadelphia*, Spring 2016

Dean’s Prize Teaching Fellowship, *Johns Hopkins University*, Fall 2015

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, *History Department, Johns Hopkins University*, 2014-2015

Cromwell Fellowship, *American Society for Legal History*, Summer 2014

Advisory Council Dissertation Fellowship, *McNeil Center for Early American Studies*, 2013-2014

Littleton-Griswold Grant for Research in US Legal History, *American Historical Association*, July 2013

Short-Term Fellowship, *Program in Early American Economy and Society, Library Company of Philadelphia*, March 2013

Dean’s Teaching Fellowship, *Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences, Johns Hopkins University*, Fall 2012

Travel Grant, *David Library of the American Revolution*, August 2012

Summer Research Fellowship, *Program for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Johns Hopkins University*, Summer 2011

W.B.H Dowse Fellowship, *Massachusetts Historical Society*, September 2010

Senior Honors Thesis Prize for Best Humanities Honors Thesis, *Brown University*, 2008

Ruth Simmons Prize for Best Thesis in Women’s Studies, *Brown University*, 2008

#### *Teaching:*

College of Liberal Arts Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching, *Texas State University*, 2020

History Department Nominee, Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching, *Texas State University*, 2020

College of Liberal Arts Achievement Award for Excellence in Teaching, *Texas State University*, 2019

History Department Nominee, Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching, *Texas State University*, 2019

## **PRESENTATIONS**

*Invited Seminars:*

- “A Watch ‘Round the House’: Legal Conflict and Patriarchal Authority in Colonial Boston,” *Texas State University Women’s and Gender History Colloquium*, October 21, 2021.
- “Laboring under many difficulties and hardships’: Gender and Vocabularies of Grievance in Financial Disputes,” Seminar, *Early Americanists in Texas*, College Station, TX, April 2019.
- “Female Witnesses and the Gendering of Economic Life in Eighteenth-Century New England,” Seminar, *Early Americanists in Texas*, College Station, TX, October 2017.
- “Gender, Trust, and Affect in Revolutionary War Credit Networks,” Colloquium, *Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture*, Williamsburg, January 2016.
- “I Saw and Heard’: Witnessing and Gendered Power in the New England Credit Economy,” Seminar, *McNeil Center for Early American Studies*, Philadelphia, February 2015.

*Public Talks:*

- “Women and Finance in Colonial Newport,” *Newport Historical Society*, October 14, 2021.
- “To Her Credit: Women, Finance and the Law in Eighteenth-Century New England Cities,” *Library Company of Philadelphia*, September 30, 2021.
- Panelist, “Historians’ Forum: Investing in Empire: The Pejepscot Proprietors and their World,” *Maine Historical Society*, August 7, 2021.
- “Women and the American Revolution,” *Dallas Public Library*, July 1, 2021.
- “Personifying Lady Credit: Women and Financial Power in Colonial American Cities,” *Brown University Alumni Association: Brown Club of North Carolina*, May 26, 2021.
- Discussion of *To Her Credit* in Conversation with Ellen Hartigan-O’Connor, *Texas State History Department New Books Conversation Series*, April 22, 2021.
- “To Her Credit: Women, Finance and the Law in Eighteenth-Century New England Cities,” *Metropolitan Washington Mensa Virtual Speakers Series*, March 26, 2021.

*Panels Organized:*

- “Staking Claims in Contested Spaces: Households in Colonial and Revolutionary America,” *Omohundro Institute Annual Conference*, Virtual Conference, June 2021.
- “Creating and Preserving Intellectual Community: Reflections on the 2018 Scholars’ Workshop,” *Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture Annual Meeting*, Pittsburgh, June 2019.
- “Marriage, Credit, and the Law in North America, 1700-1900,” *American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting*, Houston, TX, November 2018.
- “Gender, Wealth, and Women’s Economic Strategies in the Anglo-Atlantic World,” *Berkshire Conference on the History of Women*, Hempstead, NY, June 2017.

“Witnessing and Testimony in the Early Modern Atlantic World,” *Joint Conference of the Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture and Society of Early Americanists*, Chicago, June 2015.

“Material Cultures of Exchange in Eighteenth-Century America,” *Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture Annual Meeting*, Baltimore, June 2013.

“Gender, Property and Self-Fashioning in the Early Republic,” *Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Meeting*, Baltimore, July 2012.

*Conference Presentations:*

“Conflict on Water Street: Law and Social Hierarchy Out-of-Doors in Eighteenth-Century Boston” *Omohundro Institute Annual Conference*, Virtual Conference, June 2021.

“Women’s Financial Labor and the Political Economy of Colonial New England Port Cities,” *American Historical Association Annual Meeting*, accepted for January 2021 meeting (cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic).

Roundtable Participant, “Creating and Preserving Intellectual Community: Reflections on the 2018 Scholars’ Workshop,” *Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture Annual Meeting*, Pittsburgh, June 2019.

“‘The Petitioner’s Wife Incautiously Paid’: Coverture, Credit and Wives’ Ability to Contract in Colonial British North America,” *American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting*, Houston, TX, November 2018.

“‘A Writ Against My Husband’: Debt Litigation Beyond the Court in Colonial Port Cities,” Conference Celebrating the Career of Toby L. Ditz, *Johns Hopkins University*, Baltimore, October 2018.

“Managing Property and Credit: Female Landlords in Eighteenth-Century British North American Port Cities,” *Berkshire Conference on the History of Women*, Hempstead, NY, June 2017.

“Gender and Witnesses to Credit Transactions in Eighteenth-Century New England” *Joint Conference of the Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture and Society of Early Americanists*, Chicago, June 2015.

“Gender and the Geography of Credit Relations in Eighteenth-Century Boston and Newport,” *Berkshire Conference on the History of Women*, Toronto, June 2014.

“Agents and Home: Wives and Attorneys in Eighteenth-Century Boston and Newport,” *Ligaments: Everyday Connections of Colonial Economies*, Program in Early American Economy and Society Annual Conference, Philadelphia, October 2013.

“Financial Documents and Gendered Power in New England Credit Economies,” *Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture Annual Meeting*, Baltimore, June 2013.

“‘An Honour to do Anything for You’: Gender and Delegated Authority in Post-Revolutionary Land Management,” *Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Meeting*, Baltimore, July 2012.

“Authority and Vulnerability: Narrating Debt Litigation in Eighteenth-Century New England,”  
*McNeil Center for Early American Studies Graduate Student Conference*, Philadelphia,  
September 2011

“‘Being a Woman and Ignorant of the Law’: Gendered Narratives of Debt Litigation in  
Massachusetts and Rhode Island, 1730-1789,” *Colonial Society of Massachusetts  
Graduate Student Forum*, Boston, June 2011.

“‘To Well and Truly Administer’: Female Administrators and Estate Settlement in Eighteenth-  
Century Newport, Rhode Island,” *Berkshire Conference on the History of Women*,  
Amherst, June 2011.

“‘To Well and Truly Administer’: Female Administrators and Estate Settlement in Eighteenth-  
Century Newport, Rhode Island,” Early American Seminar, *Department of History*,  
*Harvard University*, Cambridge, April 2011.

*Other Conference Participation:*

Commentator, “Women, Gender, and Risk in the Development of Early American Capitalism,”  
*Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Meeting*, July 2017.

Commentator, *Bodies that Work: Three Perspectives on the History of Maternity*, *Johns Hopkins  
University*, Baltimore, December 2015.

Panel Chair, “Affects,” *McNeil Center for Early American Studies Graduate Student  
Conference*, Philadelphia, September 2013.

## TEACHING

*Texas State University:*

HIST1310: United States History to 1877

HIST3363: Early American History to 1763

HIST3373A: United States Women’s History to 1877

HIST4399: Senior Seminar

HIST5313: Colonial America in the Atlantic World

*University of Maryland, Baltimore County:*

The Atlantic World: The Shared History of Europeans, Africans, and Native Americans, Fall  
2015.

*Johns Hopkins University:*

Law, Society and Power in America, 1500-1877, Fall 2015.

Gender and the Economy in America, 1600-1870, Fall 2012.

*Advising and Tutoring:*

Tutor, Writing Center, *Johns Hopkins University*, Fall 2011-Spring 2013, Summer 2014-Summer 2015.

Mentor, Undergraduate Research Workshop, *McNeil Center for Early American Studies*, Spring 2014.

## SERVICE

### *Professional:*

Convener, “Women and Gender in Early America,” Omohundro Institute Virtual Coffeehouse Table (Online Workshop), April-June 2021.

Member, Editorial Board, *Commonplace: The Journal of Early American Life*, Spring 2021-present.

Member, NEH Postdoctoral Fellowship Selection Committee, Library Company of Philadelphia, 2018.

Manuscript Reviewer for:

*Enterprise and Society*, 2019, 2021.

*Early American Studies*, 2018, 2019.

*Journal of Early Modern History*, 2021.

*Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History*, 2020.

*William and Mary Quarterly*, 2017, 2020.

### *Institutional:*

Member, African American History Search Committee, *Texas State University*, 2021.

Chair, Ad-Hoc Committee on Tenure-Track Faculty Evaluation and Reappointment, History Department, *Texas State University*, Fall 2020.

Member, Graduate Studies Committee, History Department, *Texas State University*, 2020-Present.

Member, Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee, *Texas State University*, 2019 – 2020.

Faculty Advisor, History Club, *Texas State University*, 2017 – 2020.

Member, Texas History Search Committee, *Texas State University*, 2017-2018, 2018-2019.

Panelist, Philosophy Dialogue Series (“Are Race and Gender Real?”), *Texas State University*, March 20, 2018.

Member, Departmental Travel Committee, *Texas State University*, 2017-2018.

Co-Coordinator, *Gender History Workshop*, *Johns Hopkins University*, 2012-2013.

Co-President, *History Graduate Student Association*, *Johns Hopkins University*, 2011-2013.

Secretary, *History Graduate Student Association*, *Johns Hopkins University*, 2008-2009.

*Advising:*

Theses:

Gre Young, African American Women's Education in Antebellum Philadelphia (chair, MA thesis committee, Texas State University, in progress)

Kendra Copler, "Political Influences, Actions, and Expressions of Young White Women in Civil War Kentucky," (member, MA thesis committee, Texas State University, November 2021)

Lauren Kahre-Campbell, "Where There's a Will: Gender, Wills, and Inheritance in Early Modern England" (chair, MA thesis committee, Texas State University, April 2020)

Evan Moore, "The Evolving Nature of Warfare in the Southern Theater of the American Revolution" (member, MA thesis committee, Texas State University, April 2020)

Jonathan Manion, "The Ministerial Vision of the Early Jesuits and its Realization in New France" (member, MA thesis committee, Texas State University, April 2019)

Natasha Beck, "Divorce During a Revolution: Gender, Community Oversight, and Petitions in Massachusetts, 1771-1781" (advisor, senior honors thesis, Texas State University, Spring 2019)

Comprehensive exams:

Nancy Heise (field on early American women's history, Spring 2022)

Evan Smith (field on Atlantic History, Texas State University, Spring 2021)

Travis Smith (field on Atlantic History, Texas State University, Spring 2020)

Madeline Pruneda (field on women and gender in the British Atlantic World, Texas State University, Summer 2019)

Hannah Jones (field slavery and race in the British Atlantic World, Texas State University, Summer 2019)

**LANGUAGES**

French (Proficient)

**AFFILIATIONS**

*American Historical Association*

*American Society for Legal History*

*Berkshire Conference of Women Historians*

*McNeil Center for Early American Studies*



*Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture*