# Paul E. Sampson

Department of History, Texas State University
Taylor-Murphy Hall ● San Marcos, TX 78666 ● 512-245-2142
bcm152@txstate.edu ● https://txstate.academia.edu/PaulSampson/


## EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Texas State University, 2026-Present.

Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Scranton, 2025-2026.

Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Scranton, 2020-2025.

Interim Program Director of the Health Humanities Concentration, University of Scranton, 2024-2025.

## OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Writing Tutor, Department of History, Rutgers University, 2017-2018.

History and Humane Letters Teacher, Mesa Preparatory Academy, Mesa, AZ., 2011-2013.

## EDUCATION

**Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, Ph.D. (2020)**
Dissertation: "Ventilating the Empire: Environmental Machines in the British Atlantic World, 1700-1850"
Advisor: James Delbourgo
Committee: Jamie Pietruska, Alastair Bellany, Lynn Festa, Fredrik Albritton Jonsson (Univ. of Chicago)
Major Field: History of Science, Technology, Environment, and Health
Minor Field: Early Modern European History
Languages: French, Spanish (Moderate Proficiency)

**University of Cambridge**
Visiting Ph.D. student in History and Philosophy of Science Dept., Michaelmas and Lent Terms 2019-2020.
Visiting scholar in History and Philosophy of Science Dept., Easter Term 2022.

**Marquette University, M.A. (2015)**
Major Field: Early Modern European History
Minor Field: Early American History

**University of Dallas, B.A. in History (2011) *cum laude***

## PUBLICATIONS

2026 *Ventilating the Empire: British Science and the Origins of Climate Control*
Book manuscript under contract - De Gruyter Brill's Technology and Change in History book series.

Under Review "Artificial Climates: Greenhouses and the Urban Landscape, 1800-1850"
(article submitted to *British Journal for the History of Science*)

2024 "Ventilation and Public Health: A Fraught History" with Elaine LaFay, *American Journal for Public Health*, 114, no. 8 (August 1, 2024): 798-804.

2023 "'The Lungs of a Ship': Ventilation, Acclimatization and Labor in the Maritime
Environment, 1740-1800." *History of Science* 61:2 (2023): 214-235.

2019 "The Cosmos in a Cabinet: Performance, Politics, and Mechanical Philosophy in Henry Bridges' 'Microcosm.'" *Endeavour* 43 (2019): 25-31.

**ONLINE PUBLICATIONS**

2022 '"Sick and In Prison": Airborne Disease and Prison Reform in the career of John Howard"
*Books, Health, and History – The New York Academy of Medicine Library Blog*. Published Jan. 26.

**BOOK REVIEWS**

2023 Pasi Väliaho, *Projecting Spirits: Speculation, Providence, and Early Modern Optical Media*
(Stanford CA: Stanford University Press, 2022), reviewed for *H-NET*.

2022 Clare Hickman, *The Doctor's Garden: Medicine, Science and Horticulture in Britain*
(New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2021), reviewed for *Cultural and Social History*.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

2024 "The Lungs of a Ship: Ventilation and Labor in the Royal Navy, 1740-1800"
Society for the Social History of Medicine Biannual Conference, Glasgow, UK. July 16th.

2024 "Artificial Climates: Greenhouses and the Urban Landscape 1800-1850"
International Nineteenth Century Studies Conference, Durham, UK. July 11th.

2023 “Artificial Climates: Greenhouses and the Urban Landscape 1800-1850”
History of Science Society Annual Conference, Portland, OR. Nov. 11th.

2023 “Disease and Discipline: Airborne Disease and the Origins of Prison Reform”
Research Event: Unruly Microbes - Epidemics, Infections, and Ecologies of Change in Historical Perspective, Durham University, Durham UK. June 22-23rd.

2022 Roundtable: “Ventilation, Breathing and Airborne Disease”, History of Science Society Annual Conference, Chicago, IL. Nov. 20th.

2021 “Quarantining the Empire: The Political Economy of Airborne Contagion in Britain,
1770-1820” History of Science Society Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA., Virtual, Nov. 19th.

2021 “The Lungs of a Ship: Ventilation and Labor in the Royal Navy, 1740-1800”
British Society for the History of Science Annual Conference, Virtual, July 15th.

2019 “A Different Path to the Penitentiary: Airborne Contagion and Prison Reform in Britain, 1750-1800” History of Science Society Annual Conference, Utrecht, July 26th.

2019 “Disciplining the Environment: Ventilation and Prison Reform in Britain,” British Society for the History of Science Postgrad Conference, Cambridge, April 11th.

2018 “The Cosmos in a Cabinet: Performance, Politics, and Mechanical Philosophy”
American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, Orlando, March 23rd.

2017 “Dogs and Orreries: Nature, Mechanical Philosophy, and Animal Cruelty in Eighteenth-Century Cosmology” Rutgers 18th Century Atlantic Studies Group, Oct. 16.

2017 “The Cosmology of Blood and Air: Stephen Hales and the Improvement of Providence” Materialized Cosmologies Concept Lab, Columbia University, Sept. 28.

2016 “The Political Agnosticism of Early American Geology,”
Warren Susman Graduate Conference, Rutgers University, April 7-8.

2015 “Embarking on a Sea of Uncertainty: The Founding of American Geology 1802-1833,” Marquette University Humanities Conference, April 25.

2014 “The Forgotten Frontier of Empire: The Hudson’s Bay Company in Western Canada,” Northern Illinois University Graduate Student History Conference, Nov. 7.

**PODCAST INTERVIEWS**

2025 *American Journal of Public Health Podcast* – Panel interview with Dr. David Mitchell and Dr. Jonathan Samet on the history of ventilation and air quality regulation. Published Jan. 6.

2024 *Forging Radical Hope* – American Journal of Public Health podcast series. Interview with Dr. Elaine LaFay about “Ventilation: A Fraught History”. Published Aug. 20.

**INVITED TALKS**

2024 “How Green Were the Nazis?” Guest Lecture, Earth Day Faculty Research Seminar, University of Scranton, Scranton PA, April 19.

2024 “The Surfer or the Wave? How to Think About Turning Points in History”
Keynote Speech, National History Day Regional Contest, Scranton PA, March 2.

2023 “How Do You Teach the History of Science?”
NSF Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program Workshop, Scranton PA, September 27.

2023 “Ventilating the Empire: Environmental Machines in Britain, 1700-1850”
University of Scranton, Slattery Center for the Humanities, Scranton PA, April 20.

2023 “Evolution Anxiety! Darwin and Society” Guest Lecture, Darwin Day Faculty Research Seminar, February 24.

2022 “Disease and Discipline: Airborne Disease and the Origins of Prison Reform”
History of Medicine Speaker Series, Cedars-Sinai Hospital, Los Angeles, CA, June 9.

2022 ‘“Sick and In Prison”: Airborne Disease, Self-Management And Prison Reform In Britain”
Helfand Fellow Presentation, The New York Academy of Medicine, New York, NY, Jan. 12.

2021 “Trust the Science? A Political History of Science” (Evening course offered in six sessions)
The Schemel Forum for Community Education – Scranton, PA, Sept.-October.

2019 “The Lungs of a Ship: Labor, Medicine and the Maritime Environment, 1740-1800,”
Cabinet of Natural History Seminar, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge University, October 21st.

2017 “The Cosmology of Blood and Air: Stephen Hales and Providential Improvement,”
Brown Bag Lecture, Science History Institute, Philadelphia, PA, December 4th.

## CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

2022 Roundtable Organizer, *Ventilation, Breathing and Airborne Disease*, History of Science Society
annual meeting, Chicago, IL, November 17-20.

2022 Panel Chair, *Catholicism in Early Modern Europe*, American Catholic History Association
Spring meeting, Scranton, PA, April 22-23.

2019 Panel Organizer, *Manipulating Airs*, History of Science Society annual meeting, Utrecht.

2016-17 Conference Chair, *Thinking With Empire*, 39th Annual Susman Graduate Conference, New Brunswick, NJ, March 31.

2016 Conference Committee, W.H.E.A.T.S. Conference, New Brunswick, NJ, October 1-2.

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2024 The Royal Society (London, U.K.) - Lisa Jardine Award.

2023 University of Scranton – Faculty Internal Research Grant

2022 The Huntington Library – Travel grant for research in the U.K.

2022 University of Scranton – Faculty Development Grant for Summer Research.

2022 University of Scranton – Slattery Humanities Center Fellowship (1 semester).

2021 British Society for the History of Science – Research Grant.

2021 National Science Foundation – Travel Grant to attend HSS Annual Meeting.

2021 University of Scranton – Information Literacy Development Grant.

2021 Science History Institute – Haas Summer Research Fellowship.

2020-21 Science History Institute – Nine-Month Dissertation Fellowship (declined).

2020 New York Academy of Medicine – Helfand Fellowship in History of Medicine.

2019 National Science Foundation – Travel Grant to attend HSS Annual Meeting.

2019 The Huntington Library – Dibner Research Fellowship in the History of Science.

2018-9 Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry - New Scholar Award (x2).

2017-8 Science History Institute - Ullyot Scholarship.

2018 Rutgers School of Graduate Studies - Off-Campus Dissertation Development Grant.

2017-8 Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences - Mellon Summer Study Grant.

2017-8 Rutgers History Department - Professional Development Fund Award (x2).

2017-9 Rutgers History Department - Neal Ira Rosenthal History Travel Award (x3).

2016-17 Graduate Fellow, Mellon Sawyer Seminar on Ethical Subjects: "Moralities, Laws, Histories," Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis.

**TEACHING**

*Texas State University*

HIST 2132 – World Civilizations II

HIST 5318D – European Imperialism

*Temple University Japan – Kyoto*

HIST 1702 – World History Modern

*University of Scranton*

HIST 250 – History of Science and Society.

HIST 250J – Science and Society (Honors Course).

HIST 251 – History of Medicine.

HIST 351 – Global Environmental History.

HIST 110 – History of U.S. to 1877.

HIST 131 – World History II: 1500-Present.

HIST 295 – Britain: Past and Present (Travel Course)

HIST 385H – Independent Study in Veterinary History.

HIST 385H – Independent Study in History of the Mind.

HIST 385H – Independent Study in Medicine, Forensics and Art.

HIST 385H – Independent Study in the History of Pseudo-Psychology.

HIST 385H – Independent Study in the History of South Asian Science.

HIST 385H – Independent Study in the History of Vital Minimums.

HIST 385H – Independent Study in the History of Scranton, Pennsylvania.

HIST 385H – Independent Study in the History of Medicine and Surgery.

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

History of Science Society

British Society for the History of Science

American Society for Environmental History

**REFERENCES**

Dr. James Delbourgo, Professor of History, Rutgers University - jdelbourgo@history.rutgers.edu

Dr. Fredrik Albritton Jonsson, Professor of History, University of Chicago – fljonsso@uchicago.edu

Dr. Dániel Margócsy, Professor in the History of Science, Cambridge University - dm753@cam.ac.uk.

Dr. David Dzurec, Associate Provost, University of Scranton – david.dzurec@scranton.edu.

Dr. Billie Tadros, Associate Professor of English, University of Scranton – billie.tadros@scranton.edu.