

Karen Melvin
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Academic Appointments

Bates College (Lewiston, ME)
Thomas Hedley Reynolds Professor of History, 2021-present
Professor of History, 2017 - 2021
History Department Chair, 2015 - 2017
Associate Professor of History, 2011 - 2017
Assistant Professor of History, 2005 - 2011
University of California, Berkeley, Visiting Scholar, 2009

Education

University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D., History, 2005
Boston University, B.A., History *magna cum laude* with distinction

Selected Publications

Books

“Local Alms, Global Catholicism: Jerusalem and North Africa in New Spain” (in process)

Imagining Histories of Colonial Latin America: Essays on Methods and Practice. Co-edited with Sylvia Sellers-García (University of New Mexico Press, 2017).

Building Colonial Cities of God: Mendicant Orders and Urban Culture in New Spain, 1570-1800 (Stanford University Press, 2012).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles and Book Chapters

“The Travels of *El devoto peregrino*: A Franciscan Holy Land comes to New Spain” in Thomas Cohen, Jay Harrison, and David Rex Galindo, eds. *Five Hundred Years of Franciscans in New Spain*, Oklahoma University Press, 2022.

“Asking Questions in the Restless Discipline of Context” in Melvin and Sellers-García, *Imagining Histories of Colonial Latin America*.

“Serra among the Faithful: The Popular Mission” in Steven Hackel, ed. *The Worlds of Junipero Serra: Eighteenth-Century Contexts and Nineteenth-Century Representations* (University of California Press, 2018), 107-124.

“Trent: What Happened at the Council and why it mattered across the Atlantic” in *boundary 2* vol. 42:2 (May 2015).

“Clergy—Spanish America” in Kenneth Mills and Evonne Levy, eds. *Lexikon of the Hispanic Baroque: Technologies of a Transatlantic Culture* (University of Texas Press, 2014).

“The Globalization of Reform” in Mary Laven, Alexandra Bamji, and Geert Janssen, eds. *Ashgate Research Companion to the Counter-Reformation* (Ashgate, 2013).

“Charity Without Borders: Alms Collection in New Spain for Captives in North Africa” *Colonial Latin American Review* 18:1 (April 2009) 75-91.

“A Potential Saint Thwarted: Religion and the Politics of Sanctity in Late-Eighteenth-Century New Spain.” In Jeffrey Ravel and Linda Zionkowski, eds. *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture* vol. 36 (2007), 169-185.

Digital Projects

Reading the Inquisition. With Sylvia Sellers-García (Boston College). Website with transcriptions and translations of Mexican Inquisition cases

Selected Awards and Fellowships

Dr. Scott Palmer Edited Book Prize (Best Edited Book) for *Imagining Histories of Colonial Latin America*, New England Conference Latin American Studies, 2018

Marta Sutton Weeks Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center 2018-19

The Francis J. Weber Research Fellowship, The Huntington Library, 2018

Distinguished Fellow, Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study, 2018-19 (declined)

National Endowment for the Humanities and Center for New World and Comparative Studies Fellow, John Carter Brown Library, 2018-19 (declined)

Kingdon Fellow, University of Wisconsin Institute for Research in the Humanities, 2018-19 (declined)

Best Book Prize, Honorable Mention, for *Building Colonial Cities of God*, New England Conference Latin American Studies, 2013

Hubert Herring Outstanding Dissertation Award, Pacific Coast Conference of Latin American Studies, 2005

Selected Service to the Profession

Selection Committee—Clarence H. Haring Prize, American Historical Association, 2021

Contributing Editor—Colonial Mexico, *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, 2007-2015

Executive Committee Member, New England Council of Latin American Studies, 2009-2012

Selected Conferences and Presentations

Workshop: Telling Stories, Telling Silences: Life-Writing, Censorship, and Voice (Boston, upcoming, June 2023)
(co-organizer and presenter)

American Historical Association Annual Conference (Philadelphia, upcoming January, 2023)
Roundtable participant: Writing Mexican History: Issues and Solutions

Religious Mobilities: Europe and the Medieval & Early Modern World Seminar (Rome, upcoming September, 2022)

Presentation: Transporting the Holy Land to New Spain

Renaissance Society of America (online, April 2021)
(Co-organizer three panels, panel chair, presenter)

Presentation: Experiencing Jerusalem in New Spain through Holy Land Devotional Objects

American Historical Association Annual Conference (online, January 2021)

Presentation: Repurposing the Powers of the Holy Sepulcher

Sixteenth Century Society and Conference (St. Louis, October 2019)

Presentation: Holy Lands and Objects in Motion

Imagining Histories Conference: Autobiographies of Learning (Bates College, June 2018)

Conference co-organizer

Presentation: A Life of Learning

Five Hundred Years of Franciscan Influence in Mexico (Library of Congress/Mexican Cultural Institute, October, 2017)

Presentation: Tierra Santa in New Spain: Franciscans, alms, and the *santos lugares de Jerusalén*

Empires of Charity Workshop (University of Warwick, U.K., March 2017)

Presentation: Global Catholicism, Local Charities: Jerusalem and North Africa in New Spain

Renaissance Society of America (Boston, March 2016)

Presentation: “Importing Sacramentalia: The Commercial Lives of Devotional Objects”

American Historical Association (Atlanta, January 2016)

Presentation: “Global Catholic Charities: Mexican Alms in North Africa and Palestine in the 17th to 19th Centuries”

Renaissance Society of America (Berlin, Germany, April 2015)

Presentation: “Promoting Tierra Santa in New Spain: Franciscan Appeals for the Holy Places of Jerusalem”

New England Council Latin American Studies Annual Conference (Connecticut College, Nov. 2014)

Organizer, Objects in Colonial Contexts, Part I (Chair) and Part II

Presentation: “Devotional Objects and the Immoderate Alms Collector, 1778-1802”

World History Association (San Jose, Costa Rica, July 2014)

Chair, Holy Places, Holy Words, Holy Beasts: Unexpected Catholic Linkages Between Latin America and Worlds Beyond, 1500-1800

Presentation: “Sites of Redemption: Jerusalem in Colonial Mexico”

Latin American Studies Association Conference (San Francisco, CA, May 2012)

Presentation: “Breaking the Seal: Discalced Carmelites and Confessional Practices in Comparative Perspective”

Conference on Latin American History/American Historical Association (Boston, MA, January 2011)

Presentation: “Competing Confessions: Religious Rivalries in New Spain’s Cities”

Panel Commentator: “Franciscans, Indigenous Peoples, and the Battle for the Sacred in New Spain”

European Social Science History Conference (Ghent, Belgium, April 2010)

Presentation: “Old World, New World Orders”

Latin American Studies Association (Montreal, Canada, September, 2007)

Presentation: “Spiritual Directions: Gender, Piety, and Friendship in the Eighteenth Century”

Social History Society Conference (Exeter, England, April, 2007)

Presentation: “Rearranging Spaces: Celebrations for an Old World Saint in the New World”

Harvard Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World, 1500-1825 (Cambridge, MA, August 2006)

Presentation: “Global Family Ties: New Spain’s Mendicant Orders and Their Institutes”

Latin American Studies Association (San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 2006)

Chair, Colonial Church and Religion across Disciplines

Presentation: “Mercedarians and Alms for Captives in Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century New Spain”

American Historical Association (Philadelphia, PA, January 2006)

Presentation: “Reassessing the Damage: Mendicant Orders and State Reform, 1730-1800”

American Society of Eighteenth Century Studies (Las Vegas, NV, April 2005)

Presentation: “Mendicant Friars and the Struggle for Local Spiritual Devotion”

Selected Courses Taught

History/Latin American and Latinx Studies 181: Creating Latin America

History/Latin American and Latinx Studies 270: The Spanish Empire: From Madrid to Manila

History/Latin American and Latinx Studies 272: The Mexican Revolution

History/Latin American and Latinx Studies 279: The Age of Revolution: Latin American Edition

History/Latin American and Latinx Studies 282: The City in Latin America

History/Latin American and Latinx Studies/Religion 301Y: The Spanish Inquisition

History/Latin American and Latinx Studies s29: Montezuma’s Mexico: Aztecs and their World

History 399: Historical Methods