

Karen Melvin
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Academic Appointments

Bates College (Lewiston, ME)
Professor of History, 2017 - present
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

Publications

Books

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

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

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

“Serra among the Faithful: The Popular Mission” in Steven Hackel, ed. *The Worlds of Junípero Serra: Historical Contexts and Cultural Representations* (University of California Press, forthcoming March, 2018).

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

“Introduction” (with Sylvia Sellers-García) in Melvin and Sellers-García, *Imagining Histories of Colonial Latin America*.

“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).

“Spiritual Directions: Gender, Piety, and Friendship in the Late Eighteenth Century” in Leo Garafalo and Erin O’Connor, eds., *Gender and Race, Empire and Nation: A Documentary History on the Making of Latin America* (Pearson Prentice Hall, 2011).

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

“Priests and Nuns in Colonial Ibero-America” in Lee M. Penyak and Walter J. Petry, *Religion and Society in Latin America: Interpretive Essays from Conquest to Present* (Orbis Books, 2009) 100-114.

“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 (prototype phase).

Historiography, Reviews, and Other Publications

Review of Magnus Lundberg, *Mission and Ecstasy: Contemplative Women and Salvation in Colonial Spanish America and the Philippines* in *The Americas* (submitted for publication).

“History: Mexico: Colonial Period” (with Paula de Vos and Raphael Folsom) in *The Handbook of Latin American Studies*, vol. 70 (University of Texas Press, 2015).

Review of Caterina Pizzigoni, *The Life Within: Local Indigenous Society in Mexico’s Toluca Valley, 1650-1800*. In *Bulletin of Spanish Studies* 91:8 (2014), 1299-1300.

“History: Mexico: Colonial Period” (with Paula de Vos and Sean McEnroe) in *The Handbook of Latin American Studies*, vol. 68 (University of Texas Press, 2013).

Review of Brian Larkin, *The Very Nature of God: Baroque Catholicism and Religious Reform in Bourbon Mexico City*. In *A Contracorriente* (Fall 2012).

“History: Mexico: Colonial Period” (with Paula de Vos) in *The Handbook of Latin American Studies*, vol. 66 (University of Texas Press, 2011).

Review of Asunción Lavrin, *Brides of Christ: Conventual Life in Colonial Mexico*. In *Social History* (November 2010).

“History: Mexico: Colonial Period” (with Paula de Vos) in *The Handbook of Latin American Studies*, vol. 64 (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2009), 104-124.

Review of Gloria Fraser Giffords, *Sanctuaries of Earth, Stone, and Light: The Churches of Northern New Spain, 1530-1821*. In *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* vol. 9, no. 2, (Fall 2008).

“Dominicans.” In David Carrasco, ed., *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Mesoamerican Cultures: The Civilizations of Mexico and Central America*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001, vol. I, 331-333.

Translations

“Advice and Warnings for new confessors by a Discalced Carmelite Friar and Priest” (with Paul Ramírez and Sylvia Sellers-García) in Melvin and Sellers-García, *Imagining Histories of Colonial Latin America*.

“Don Juan Pietri, Ship's Captain for Heresy, 1791” for *Reading the Inquisition*.

“Vicente Polilla, Torero, 1800” for *Reading the Inquisition*.

Awards and Fellowships

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

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

Center for New World Comparative Studies Fellowship, John Carter Brown Library, 2003

Bates College

Faculty Development Grant, Bates College 2016, 2014, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2007

Boyle Shea Grant, Bates College 2017, 2015, 2014, 2013

Phillips Fellowship, Bates College, 2013-2014

Mellon Innovation Fund Grant, 2011

University of California, Berkeley

History Department Write-up Fellowship, 2004 – 2005

O'Donnell Fellow, 1999 – 2005

Dean's Normative Time Fellowship, 2003 – 2004

Henry Morse Stephens Traveling Fellowship, 2001 – 2002

Tinker Summer Research Grant, 2002

Humanities Research Grant, 2001

Mellon Foundation Dissertation Prospectus Fellowship, 2001

Bolton Fellowship, 1999 – 2000

Selected Service to the Profession

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

Selection Committee—Best Dissertation Award, New England Council of Latin American Studies, 2014

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

Selection Committee—The Best Book Award, New England Council of Latin American Studies, 2006

Peer Reviewer, book manuscripts and journal articles:

Cambridge University Press

Stanford University Press

American Academy of Franciscan History

University of Oklahoma Press

Rowman Littlefield

Journal of Ecclesiastical History

Journal of Early Modern History

Conferences, Seminars, and Invited Professional Talks

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 (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”

Phillips Fellow Talk (Bates College, Nov. 2014)

Presentation: “From New Spain to North Africa and Jerusalem...and back again”

William B. Taylor’s Scholarly Inquietudes: An Interdisciplinary Workshop (Harvard University, Oct. 2014)

Presentation: “Jerusalem in New Spain: Alms for *Tierra Santa*”

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"

Invited Talk, Boston College (April 2014)

"Alms and Global Charity: A View from Colonial Mexico"

Conference: Junípero Serra: Context and Representation 1713 to 2013 (Huntington Library, Sept. 2013)

Presentation: "Serra among the Faithful: The Popular Mission"

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

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

Invited Commentary, Northwestern University Jesuit Roundtable (Evanston, IL, May 2011).

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"

Invited Talk, Colby College (October 2010)

"Medicine, Mystics, and Religious Transformation in Colonial Mexico"

American Historical Association, Pacific Coast Branch Annual Conference (Santa Clara, CA, Aug. 2010)

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

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

Presentation: "Old World, New World Orders"

Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, March, 2009)

Presentation: "Miracles and Urban Missions in Eighteenth-Century New Spain"

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"

IES Seminar: The Islamic Presence in Spain and Europe (Granada, Spain, June 2006)

Presentation: "Alms and the Redemption of Christian Captives in North Africa"

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”

John Carter Brown Library (Providence, RI, November 2003)

Presentation: “Urban Religions: Mendicant Orders in New Spain’s Cities”

The Academy of American Franciscan History Seminar Series (Berkeley, CA, September 2003)

Presentation: “Distinguishing Habits: Comparing Mendicant Orders in Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century New Spain”

Pacific Coast Conference of Latin American Studies (Tijuana, Mexico, April 2001)

Presentation: “The Mercedarian Order and State Intervention”

Courses Taught

History/Latin American Studies 181: Latin American from Conquest to Present

History/Latin American Studies 279: Latin America in the Age of Independence

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

History/Latin American Studies 301H: The Mexican Revolution

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

History s27: Destination Latin America: Travelers and Tourists

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

History s40/199: Historical Methods

First Year Seminar 329: Latin American Time Machine

Fall Semester Abroad 004 Spain’s Golden Age of Empire

Professional Affiliations

American Historical Association

Latin American Studies Association

The Conference on Latin American History

Renaissance Society of America

New England Council of Latin American Studies