

Department of History  
234 UCB  
University of Colorado at Boulder  
Boulder, CO 80309  
Matthew.Gerber@colorado.edu

#### EDUCATION

- Ph.D. History, University of California at Berkeley, December 2004  
Primary Field: Early Modern Europe; Secondary Field: Late Modern Europe.  
Dissertation: “The End of Bastardy: Illegitimacy in France from the Reformation through the Revolution” (dir. Prof. Peter Sahlins)
- M.A. History, University of California at Berkeley, May 1996
- B.A. Humanities, *cum laude*, with distinction in the major, Yale University, May 1991

#### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- University of Colorado at Boulder, History Department  
Associate Professor with tenure, May 2012-Present  
Assistant Professor, August 2004–May 2012  
Instructor, July 2003–August 2004
- University of California at Berkeley, History Department  
Graduate Student Instructor, ten semesters between 1995 and 2003  
Graduate Student Researcher, intermittently between 1997 and 2003

#### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Book:** Nancy Christie, Michael Gauvreau, & Matthew Gerber, ed., *Voices in the Legal Archives in the French Colonial World: The King is Listening* (New York: Routledge, 2021).  
Matthew Gerber, *Bastards: Politics, Family, and Law in Early Modern France* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012). [Reviewed in *Choice*, *History*, *The Historian*, *The Journal of Family History*, *Parergon*, *H-France Review*, *The Journal of Modern History*, and *The American Historical Review*.]
- Articles:** Matthew Gerber, « Un esclave peut-il faire une polémique au XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle » (“Can an Enslaved Person Write a Polemic in the Eighteenth-Century?”), *Littérales* 51 (2024): 169-192.  
Matthew Gerber, « Race, empiètement de propriété et compétence juridictionnelle dans le monde atlantique française du XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle : l’affaire de la veuve Ogé », *Revue d’histoire moderne et contemporaine* 68:3 (2021), 91-116.  
Matthew Gerber, “Between Person and Property: The Ambiguous Status of Slaves in Eighteenth-Century Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Saint-Domingue, in *Archives in the French Colonial World* (Routledge, 2021), 173-192.  
Nancy Christie, Michael Gauvreau, & Matthew Gerber, "Introduction: 'The King is Listening' - Toward a Social and Political History of Legal Pluralism in the Early Modern French Empire," in *Voices in the Legal Archives in the French Colonial World* (Routledge, 2021), 1-60.

- Matthew Gerber, "Bastardy, Race, and Law in the Eighteenth-Century French Atlantic: The Evidence of Litigation," *French Historical Studies* 36:4 (Fall 2013), 571-600.
- Matthew Gerber, "On the Contested Margins of the Family: Bastardy and Legitimation by Royal Rescript in Eighteenth-Century France," in Suzanne Desan & Jeffrey Merrick, eds., *Family, Gender, and Law in Early Modern France* (Penn State University Press, 2009).
- Matthew Gerber, "Family, Law & the State in Early Modern & Revolutionary France," *History Compass* 7:2 (March 2009), 474-499. (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1478-0542.2008.00581.x/full>)
- Matthew Gerber, "Illegitimacy, Natural Law, and Legal Culture on the Eve of the French Revolution," in *Proceedings of the Western Society for French History* 33 (2005): 240-257. (<http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.0642292.0033.015>)

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Book Reviews: Matthew Gerber, review of Sara McDougall, *Royal Bastards: The Birth of Illegitimacy, 800-1230* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017), in *H-France Review* 20 (September 2020), no. 157,
- Matthew Gerber, review of Mary Dunn, *The Cruellest of All Mothers: Marie de l'Incarnation, Motherhood, and Christian Tradition* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2016), in *Catholic Historical Review* 105:2 (Spring 2019), 378-79.
- Matthew Gerber, review of *Des « arrests parlans »: les arrêts notables à la Renaissance entre droit et littérature*. Géraldine Cazals and Stéphan Geonget, eds. (Geneva: Droz, 2014), in *Renaissance Quarterly* 70:1 (Spring 2017), 314-16.
- Matthew Gerber, review of Leslie Tuttle, *Conceiving the Old Regime: Pronatalism and the Politics of Reproduction in Early Modern France* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2010), in *H-France Forum* 6 (Spring 2011): 26-30. (<http://h-france.net/forum/forumvol6/Tuttle1.pdf>)

#### CURRENT SUBMISSIONS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Books: Matthew Gerber, *The Trials of Widow Ogé: Property, Kinship, and Racialization in the Eighteenth-Century French Atlantic* (in preparation, estimated completion date: December 2026).
- Matthew Gerber, *Three Murders in the Artibonite: Violence, Generation, and Racialization in Early Eighteenth-Century French Saint-Domingue* (in preparation, estimated completion date: December 2028).
- Articles: Matthew Gerber, "Spiritual Kinship and Maternal Sororities in Eighteenth-Century French Saint-Domingue" (in preparation, first draft completed, revisions currently underway, anticipated submission to a journal in August 2025)

Matthew Gerber, "Parish Registration and Racialization in Eighteenth-Century French Saint-Domingue" (in preparation, first draft completed, revisions currently underway, anticipated submission to a journal in August 2025)

Matthew Gerber, "Mapping Kinship in Saint-Domingue's Artibonite Valley" (in preparation, first draft completed, revisions currently underway, anticipated submission to a journal in August 2025)

Matthew Gerber, "The Material History of an Early Modern Law: How the 'Edict of March 1685' became the 'Code Noir'" (In preparation [2/3 done], estimated completion date: December 2025)

Matthew Gerber, "A Colonial Matrilocalism? Creole Wives as Litigants in the Eighteenth-Century French Atlantic" (In preparation [2/3 done], estimated completion date: December 2025)

#### SELECTED AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND DISTINCTIONS

Kayden Research Grant, Summer 2024

GCAH Travel Grant, CU Boulder, Summer 2020

College Scholar Award, CU Boulder, Fall 2019

GCAH Travel Grant, CU Boulder, Summer 2019

Center for Humanities & Arts Fellowship, CU Boulder, Spring 2016

National Endowment for Humanities Fellowship, August 2014-July 2015

GCAH Travel Grant, CU Boulder, Summer 2013

GCAH Travel Grant, CU Boulder, Summer 2012

Kayden Research Grant, University of Colorado at Boulder, summer 2010

GCAH Travel Grant, University of Colorado at Boulder, summer 2010

Junior Faculty Development Award, University of Colorado at Boulder, July 2006-June 2007

NEH Summer Seminar on "Revolution and the Making of Identities: France and Haiti, 1787-1804," dir. Jeremy Popkin, June-July 2006

#### SELECTED ACADEMIC PAPERS DELIVERED

"Judging the Judges: Calumny, Corruption, and Colonial Courts in the Labouxière-Dufau Affair," Western Society for French History Conference, San Francisco, CA, November 14-16, 2024

"Between Identity and Place: Mapping Kinship in Eighteenth-Century Saint-Domingue." Society for French Historical Studies Conference, Hempstead, NY, March 14-16, 2024.

"Matrilineal Sororities, Spiritual Kinship, and Racialization in Early Eighteenth-Century French Saint-Domingue." American Historical Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, January 4-7, 2024.

"Three Murders in the Artibonite: Violence, Generation, and Racialization in Early Eighteenth-Century Saint-Domingue," Western Society for French History Conference, Victoria, BC, Canada, November 3-5, 2022.

"How to be Both White and Colored: The Curious Case of Hiteau du Cabrol (1781)," Roundtable on Whiteness in French History, Western Society for French History Conference, Virtual, October 22, 2021.

- “The Custom of Paris ‘*entre mers*’: The Problem of Customary Law in the Eighteenth-Century French Empire,” Western Society for French History Conference, Bozeman, MT, October 2019.
- « Une bâtardise à la coloniale ? Race et parenté dans l’espace transatlantique à l’époque moderne », presentation (in French) to a research seminar, "Société et pouvoir en France à l’époque moderne," dir. Fanny Cosandey, Elie Haddad, & Mathieu Marraud, at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France, 7 June 2019.
- “On the Edges of Law: Litigation in France’s Eighteenth-Century Indian Ocean Colonies.” Western Society for French History Conference, Portland, ME, November 2018.
- “Between Person and Property: The Ambiguous Status of Slaves in the Eighteenth-Century French Atlantic.” Conference on *Voices in the Legal Archive in the French Atlantic Empire*, North Hatley, Quebec, Canada, May 2018. (A portion of this paper was revised into a chapter that appeared in *Voices in the Legal Archive in the French Atlantic Empire*.)
- “Racializing French Slave Law: How the Edict of March 1685 Became the ‘Black Code’ of Louisiana.” New Orleans Global City (1718-2018): The Long Shadow of John Law and the Mississippi Bubble (Inaugural Conference of the 18<sup>th</sup>- & 19<sup>th</sup>-century Studies Network), University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, CO, April 2018.
- “Slavery, Race, and Proprietary Encroachment in the Eighteenth-Century French Caribbean.” Society for French Historical Studies Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, March 2018.
- “The Spread of French Slave Law: How the Edict of March 1685 Became the Code Noir.” Society for French Historical Studies Conference, Washington, DC, April 2017.
- “The Uses of Creole Identity in Eighteenth-Century French Transatlantic Litigation.” American Historical Association Annual Conference, Denver, CO, January 2017.
- “Colonial Capital and the Immobilization of Wealth in the Eighteenth-Century French Transatlantic.” Western Society for French History Conference, Cedar Rapids, IA, November 2016.
- “Marital Conflict and Creole Identity in the Early Modern French Transatlantic.” Western Society for French History Conference, Chicago, IL, November 2015.
- « Une bâtardise à la coloniale ? Race et parenté dans l’espace transatlantique à l’époque moderne » Presentation (in French) to a research seminar, "Société et pouvoir en France à l’époque moderne," dir. Fanny Cosandey, Elie Haddad, & Mathieu Marraud, at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France, 15 May 2015.
- “Colonial Appeals to the Conseil Privé in Pre-Revolutionary France.” Society for French Historical Studies Conference, Montreal, Canada, April 2014.
- “Constructing Racial Difference: The Maisons de la Providence of Cap-Français.” Western Society for French History Conference, Atlanta GA, October 2013.
- “Royal Law in the Colonies: A Disputed Marriage in Eighteenth-Century Guadeloupe.” Society for French Historical Studies Conference, Cambridge, MA, April 2013.
- “Of Concubinage and Colonies: The Regulation of Sexuality in French Colonial Policy in the Early Eighteenth Century.” Western Society for French History Conference, Banff, AB, Canada, October 2012.

“The Royal Council Confronts the Question of Race: Jamet v. Guerre (1772).” Western Society for French History Conference, Portland, OR, November 2011. (A portion of this paper was revised into “Bastardy, Race, and Law in the Eighteenth-Century French Atlantic: The Evidence of Litigation,” my article in *French Historical Studies*.)

“Colonial Fortunes in a Metropolitan Court: the Curious Case of Antoine Casse.” Society for French Historical Studies Conference, Charleston, SC, February 2011. (A portion of this paper was revised into “Bastardy, Race, and Law in the Eighteenth-Century French Atlantic: The Evidence of Litigation,” my article in *French Historical Studies*.)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Colorado at Boulder, Department of History (2003–present)

### Courses Taught

- History 1010: Western Civilization I, 4000 BCE–1715 CE
  - History 1012: Empire, Revolution, and Global War: European History Since 1500
  - History 2100: Revolution in History: the French Revolution
  - History 2112: Early Modern Societies
  - History 3110: Undergraduate Honors Colloquium
  - History 3212: Undergraduate Research Seminar (“The Politics of Terror in Early Modern Europe”)
  - History 3212: Undergraduate Research Seminar (“Servitude, Enslavement, and Racialization in Early Modern Europe”)
  - History 4020: Capstone Course on Comparative History: The American & French Revolutions
  - History 4212: Society, Politics & Culture in Early Modern Europe
  - History 4212: Europe in the Age of Religious War, 1450-1648
  - History 4222/5222: War & the European State, 1618–1793
  - History 4223/5223: French Revolution and Napoleon
  - History 4232: Europe in an Age of Global Enlightenment, 1648-1789
  - History 5012: Graduate Colloquium in Medieval & Early Modern Europe
  - History 5014: Graduate Seminar on Law and Legal Culture in Early Modern Europe
  - History 6012: Graduate Seminar on The French Revolution in Global Perspective
  - History 6800: Readings in Global History: The Early Modern French World
  - History 7052: Graduate Research Seminar: Getting Medieval? Violence in European History, c. 1000-present
  - History 7252: Graduate Research Seminar: Slavery, Race, and Revolution in European History
- In addition to these courses, I have taught several independent studies at both the graduate and undergraduate level.

### Graduate Student Committee Service

#### Completed Ph.D. Dissertations

- Emily Martin (French), tertiary reader, 2024
- Sheena Barnes (History), secondary reader, 2022
- Abby Lagemann (History), secondary reader, 2022
- Nick Wellstead (History), secondary reader, 2020

Andrew Detch (History), secondary reader, 2018  
Peter Veru (History), secondary reader, 2018  
Paul Langston (History), secondary reader, 2013  
Gene Tesdahl (History), secondary reader, 2012  
Eloina Vargas (History), secondary reader, 2010  
Susan Guinn-Chipman (History), secondary reader, 2009  
John Stephan Edwards (History), secondary reader, 2007  
Todd Upton (History), secondary reader, 2007  
Kathleen Mulhern (History), secondary reader, 2006

Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams

Mathew Greenlee (History), 2023  
Maggie McNulty (History), 2023  
Emily Martin (French), 2021  
Jacob Flaws (History), 2017  
Jillian Bjerke (History), 2017  
Sheena Barnes (History), 2016  
Michelle Penn (History), 2015  
Lauren Romero (History), 2015  
Abby Lageman (History), 2014  
Andrew Detch (History), 2013  
Nik Georgacarakos (History), 2010  
John Stephan Edwards (History), 2005  
Susan Cogan (History), 2005  
Susan Guinn-Chipman (History), 2004

Completed Comprehensive M.A. Exams

Katrina Friesen (History), primary reader, 2010  
Brian Kett (History), secondary reader, 2010  
Melissa Fox (History), secondary reader, 2006  
Sharon Curtis (History), secondary reader, 2006  
Jay Manning Lebeck (History), secondary reader, 2006  
Susan Duncan (History), secondary reader, 2004

Completed M.A. Thesis Students

Ian Hogg (History), primary advisor, 2022  
Andrew McKanna (History), secondary advisor, 2022  
Ashleigh Corwin (History), primary advisor, 2012

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advising

Kaori Quan (History), primary advisor, Spring 2023  
Ryan Smith (History), primary advisor, Spring 2018  
Joanna Toohey (History), secondary advisor, Fall 2017  
Brett Stokes (History), primary advisor, Spring 2017  
Carissa Sutter (History), primary advisor, Spring 2012  
Anna Jackson (History), primary advisor, Fall 2010  
Jennifer Belzer (History), primary advisor, Spring 2005  
Elena Kazakova (French), secondary advisor, Spring 2006

Faculty Teaching Excellence Program, Workshops & Symposia Attended  
Teaching in a Nutshell (September, 2010)  
Teaching the First Day of Class (August, 2008)

University of California at Berkeley, Department of History (1994–2003)

Courses Designed & Taught

History 101: Research Seminar on Law and Society in Early Modern France and England

History 103: The French Revolution and its Legacy

History 103: The Politics of Terror in Early Modern Europe

Courses Assisted

History 5: Europe from the Renaissance to the Present

History 139: U.S. Immigration History

Peace Corps Cameroon (1992–1994), Freshwater Aquaculture Extension Agent:

Taught farmers (in French) how to build fish ponds and raise fish (*tilapia nilotica*) as a cash crop.

#### SERVICE ACTIVITIES

University of Colorado at Boulder, Department of History

Associate Chair, Director of Undergraduate Studies, July 2024–present

Executive Committee, June 2004–May 2005, August 2021–July 2022, August 2023–May 2024

Associate Director of History Honors, May 2018–May 2019

Director of History Honors, August 2011–July 2012, August 2016–May 2018, August 2022–May 2023

Ad hoc salary grievance committee, May 2021

Ad hoc committee on QTI, FCQ, and merit pay, Fall 2021

Associate Director of History Honors, May 2018–May 2019

History Teaching and Learning Project, August 2016–May 2019, August 2023–present

Early American History Search Committee, August 2017–February 2018

History Club/Phi Alpha Theta Advisor, August 2008–July 2013

Early Modern Europe Search Committees, August 2005–March 2006, August 2007–March 2008

Graduate Studies Committee, August 2003–May 2004, August 2006–May 2007

Undergraduate Studies Committee, August 2012–July 2013

Primary Unit Evaluation Committee for David Paradis, member, 2024

Primary Unit Evaluation Committee for Celine Dauverd, member, Fall 2015

Post-Tenure Review Committee for John Willis, member, Spring 2019

Post-Tenure Review Committee for Phoebe Young, member, Spring 2016

Post-Tenure Review Committee for Marcia Yonemoto, member, Spring 2014

University of Colorado at Boulder, Norlin Scholars Program

Scholarship application reviewer, Spring 2023

University of Colorado at Boulder, Center for Humanities

CHA Steering Committee, August 2018–May 2019, August 2020–May 2021

Newberry Library Consortium Committee, August 2003–May 2009.

University of Colorado at Boulder, Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary History Conference  
Panel Chair, 2003, 2004, 2009  
Paper Prize Judge, 2015, 2016

American Historical Association

Committee on the Bernadotte E. Schmitt Research Grants, Chair (2021)  
Committee on the Bernadotte E. Schmitt Research Grants, Member (2019-2020)

German Studies Association

Panel Commentator on Panel 189: Law and Legal Cultures Network (3): German  
Commercial Law, at the GSA annual meeting in Denver, CO, October 2013.

Society for French Historical Studies

Koren Prize Committee, chair, March 2024-present

Koren Prize Committee, member, August 2022-March 2024

Panel Commentator on Panel 8A, “Revolutionary Possibilities? Family and the Legal  
Regimes of Race in the Late Eighteenth-Century Outre-Mer,” at the SFHS annual  
meeting in Pittsburgh, PA, March 2018.

Panel Commentator on Panel 7A, “Engineering, Science, and Administration in the  
Early French Colonies,” at the SFHS annual meeting in Charleston, SC, February  
2011.

Western Society for French History

Council Member, October 2010–September 2013

Prize Committee Member, October 2013–May 2014

Panel Chair on Panel 5C, “Regime Change and Money: Uncertain Futures I,” at the WSFH  
annual meeting, Cedar Rapids, IA, November 2016

Article Referee for *French Historical Studies*; *Law & History Review*; *Studies in Church History*; *Journal of  
Eighteenth-Century Studies*; *Clio: Femmes, Genre, Histoire*; *Jewish History*.

Textbook, book proposal, and book manuscript reviewer for Oxford University Press,  
University of Nebraska Press, and Routledge.

Fellowship & grant application reviewer for the Bourse Chateaubriand (2017-2022); Fulbright  
National Screening Committee (2023-2024); National Endowment for the Humanities  
(2024); Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (2017)

Public Outreach Addresses

“A Brief History of Haiti,” presented to Mountainview United Methodist Church, Boulder,  
CO, 14 April 2010. I am not a member of this congregation, but I was asked to give this 30  
minute presentation to members of the church who wanted historical background so that  
they might develop a five-year outreach program to the earthquake- and storm-torn country.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association



Society for French Historical Studies  
Western Society for French History

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

English, French, German, and Latin