

# Joshua Specht

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## Academic Positions

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Associate Professor, University of Notre Dame	2023-present
Assistant Professor, University of Notre Dame	2020 - 2023
Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Notre Dame	2019 - 2020
Continuing Lecturer (Assistant Professor equivalent), History, Monash University	2015 - 2018
S.V. Ciriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of California: Berkeley	2014-2015

## Education

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Ph.D., History, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA Dissertation: "Red Meat Republic: The Rise of the Cattle-Beef Complex, 1865-1905" Committee: Walter Johnson (advisor), Emma Rothschild, Jill Lepore, Elliott West	2014
A.M., History, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA	2010
B.A., History (highest honors and <i>Cum Laude</i> ), The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA Honors thesis: "Boodle-carriers, Shovers, and Cony-men: Counterfeiting in Nineteenth-century America"; advisor Scott Reynolds Nelson	2007

## Refereed Academic Publications

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*Red Meat Republic: A Hoof-to-Table History of How Beef Changed America*, Princeton University Press (May 2019).

- 2021 Vincent P. DeSantis Book Prize (Honorable Mention)
- 2020 Axiom Business Book Awards Silver Medal (Business Commentary)
- 2019 Theodore Saloutos Memorial Award
- 2019 *Smithsonian* "best books about food"
- Chinese translation license sold to China Science and Technology Press (forthcoming 2024)

"'For the Future in the Distance': Cattle Trailing, Social Conflict, and the Development of Ellsworth, Kansas," *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* (2017), 40(2): 104-119.

"Animal History after Its Triumph: Unexpected Animals, Evolutionary Approaches, and the Animal Lens," *History Compass* (2016), 14: 326-336. doi:[10.1111/hic3.12322](https://doi.org/10.1111/hic3.12322).

"The Rise, Fall, and Rebirth of the Texas Longhorn," *Environmental History* (2016), 21(2): 343-363. doi: [10.1093/envhis/emv148](https://doi.org/10.1093/envhis/emv148).

"A Failure to Prohibit: New York City's Underground Bob Veal Trade," *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 12, no. 4 (October 2013), pp. 475-501.

## Invited Academic Publications

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"Coronavirus and the History of the Slaughterhouse," contribution to volume for The Reification of the Living: FleischWissen conference (forthcoming 2024).

"The Uses and Limits of Materialist Approaches," roundtable contribution, "The New Historical Materialism," *Agricultural History* (2022), 96(1-2): 259-261.

Organizer and Contributor to "Animal History in a Time of Crisis (Roundtable)," *Agricultural History* (2020), 94(3): 444-484.

"Particularity Without Peculiarity: Teaching American History in Australia," *South: A Scholarly Journal* (2019), 50(2): 195-202.

## Non-refereed Academic Publications

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"Commodity History and the Nature of Global Connection: Recent Developments," *Journal of Global History* (March 2019), 14(1): 145-150.

"Economic Growth and Income Patterns," and "American Economic Association and the New Economics," *The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Business, Labor, and Economic History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013).

## Works in Progress

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"This Land is My Land," book project under contract, Princeton University Press.

"Populist Thought and Political Ecology," under revision, (for resubmission to *Modern American History*)

## Other Writing

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Foreword to new edition of Charles Wood, *The Kansas Beef Industry* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2020).

"Coronavirus in the Slaughterhouse," *The Pandemic* (web feature for the Harvard/Cambridge Joint Center for History and Economics), June 2020.

"Cash Cows: Meatpacking and the Specter of Coronapolitics," *The Baffler*, May 4, 2020.

"American Bull," *Aeon*, June 2019.

"I Thought My Meatless Burger Was the Real Thing," *MarketWatch*, May 28, 2019.

"Why Are American Men So Obsessed With Steak?" *Lithub*, May 8, 2019.

"Hamburgers Have Been Conscripted into the Fight Over the Green New Deal. The History of American Beef Shows Why," *Time.com*, May 7, 2019.

"The Price of Plenty: How Beef Changed America," *The Guardian* (Longread), May 7, 2019.

"Minister, leave these grants alone," *Australian Broadcasting Corporation online*, October 31, 2018.

"Finding Its Way: Thoughts on Environmental History," *Process* (Organization of American Historians blog), January 2016, <http://www.processhistory.org/?p=1426>.

## Book Reviews

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*Western Water A to Z: The History, Nature, and Culture of A Vanishing Resource*, Robert R. Crifasi (Pacific Historical Review).

*The Fulton Fish Market: A History*, Jonathan H. Rees, *Gotham* (blog; CUNY Gotham Center for New York City History)

*Cattle Beet Capital: Making Industrial Agriculture in Northern Colorado*, Michael Weeks, *Annals of Wyoming*

*Land of Milk and Money: The Creation of the Southern Dairy Industry*, Alan L. Marcus, *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 119 (4).

*Meatpacking America: How Migration, Work, and the Faith Unite and Divide the Heartland*, Kristy Nabhan-Warren, *Indiana Magazine of History* 118 (2).

*Cow: A Natural and Cultural History*, Catrin Rutland, *Agricultural History* 96 (1-2).

*Big Business in America: The Corporate Century (1900-2000)*, Thomas J. Dorich, *Business History Review* (Fall 2021), 95(3).

*Chicken: A History from Farmland to Factory*, Paul R. Josephson, *History: Reviews of New Books* (July 2021), 49(4).

*Porkopolis: American Animality, Standardized Life, and the Factory Farm*, Alex Blanchette, *Western Historical Quarterly* (Winter, 2021).

Contributor, H-ENVIRONMENT roundtable on Robichaud, *Animal City*.

*The Nature of the Future*, Emily Pawley, H-ENVIRONMENT (November, 2020), <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=55435>.

*Animal City*, Andrew Robichaud, *Business History Review* (2020), 94(3).

*Capitalist Pigs: Pigs, Pork, and Power in America*, J. L. Anderson, *American Historical Review* (February 2020), 125(1).

*Dead Tree Media*, Michael Stamm, *Business History Review* (Spring 2019), 93(1).

*Building Nature's Market*, Laura Miller, *Australasian Journal of American Studies* (December 2018), 37(2).

*Slaughterhouse: Chicago's Union Stock Yard and the World It Made*, Dominic A. Pacyga, *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* (Winter 2017), 115(1).

*The Highest Glass-Ceiling: Women's Quest for the American Presidency*, Ellen Fitzpatrick, student/professor dual review for *Reinvention: an International Journal of Undergraduate Research*, 9(2).

*Traqueros: Mexican Railroad Workers in the United States, 1870 to 1930*, Jeffrey Marcos Garcilazo, for H-SHGAPE (June 2013), <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=38756>.

*Restoration and History*, Marcus Hall, ed., in *Environment and History* (August 2011), 488-490.

## Presentations

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"Comparative Meat Cultures: China and the U.S.," invited comment, Food History Seminar, Beijing Normal University, November 2, 2021.

"What the History of Beef Tells Us About Sustainability," **invited presentation**, George Mason University School of Business, October 27, 2021.

"Pandemic in the Slaughterhouse: The Long History of the 2020 American Meat Crisis," **invited presentation**, The Reification of the Living: FleischWissen (Berlin/virtual), February 25, 2021.

"Opportunities and Challenges: The Historical Relationship Between Stock Growers and Meat Processors," **Keynote**, Wyoming Stock Grower's Association (WSGA) Winter Round-up, December 8, 2020.

Panel comment on "Meeting Grounds of Rural Western Sport, Culture, and Memory" at Western History Association annual conference, October 14, 2020.

"Red Meat Republic," New York City Department of Education "History Talks!", February 13, 2020.

"Red Meat Republic," **invited presentation** (Michigan State University), February 6, 2020.

"Hardy Cattle and Fuzzy Math: Insights from *Red Meat Republic*," **invited presentation** (University of Chicago), January 22, 2020.

"The Greatness of the United States is Founded on Agriculture': From *Red Meat Republic* to *Bitter Harvest*," **invited presentation** (Kansas State University), December 9, 2019.

"Red Meat Republic" **invited presentation** (Center for History and Economics Seminar, Harvard University), December 4, 2019.

"The Failure of Corporate Ranching, the Rise of the Chicago Meatpackers, and "Power" in Agricultural History," Agricultural History Society annual conference, June 8, 2019.

"Red Meat Republic" **invited presentation** (Colgate University), April 23, 2019.

"Horses, Water, and Stampedes: The Ecology of North American Cattle Trailing," American Society for Environmental History annual conference, April 11, 2019.

"Hardy Cattle and Fuzzy Math, or, How to Make Money in the Texas Panhandle during the 1880s," **invited presentation** (Yale University), November 2018.

"How to Lose Money in the Cattle Business: Ecology and Capital in Nineteenth-Century Texas," United States Economic History Workshop (Melbourne University), October 2018.

"The Railroad State: Western Governance and the American Civil War," The American Civil War: Global Perspectives (Monash University), August 2018.

"Amity with the United States: Indian Depredations and Narrative," American Cultures Workshop (University of Sydney), May 2017.

"Don't You Find You Are Not in the Deal? Scale and the National Market for Cattle in the United States, 1870-1900," Scales of the Economy workshop, University of Sydney, July 2016

"Technology, Labor, and the Myth of the Texas Longhorn," History Program Research Seminar (Monash University), September 2015.

"Dog Fighters, the SPCA, and the 1881 'Dog Fighting Championship of America,'" Agricultural History Society Annual Meeting, June 2015.

"The US Army Beef Scandal and the Rise of Industrial Food Production," American Society for Environmental History Conference, March, 2015.

"Rustling Qualities: The Rise and Fall (and Rise) of the Texas Longhorn," Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, February 2015.

"The Rise and Fall of the Texas Longhorn," Massachusetts Historical Society, January 2015.

"Vexatious and Embarrassing: Cattle Disease, Quarantine Law, and the Politics of Mobility," American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, November 2014.

"Hard Winters, International Capital, and the Rise and Fall of the Land and Cattle Company in the United States" - Business History Conference (Columbus), March 22, 2013. *Honorable mention, Kerr Prize.*

"The Most Efficient Instrumentality: Cattle Ranching, Indian War, and the Ecology of the Plains" - American Society for Environmental History Conference (Madison), March 29, 2012.

"The Grand Trunk Railway and the Rise of the Cattle-Beef Complex" - Tobin Project Graduate Student Forum, December 2011.

"Grassroots of Dependency: Buffalo, Cattle, and the Ecology of the Plains" - Energy and Environment: A Global History (Harvard University), April 2011.

"'Civilization has the right of way': Conquest and the Creation of the Cattle-Beef Complex" - Project on Justice, Welfare, and Economics Lunch, April 2011.

"The End of Cattle Trailing" - Tobin Project Graduate Student Forum, February 2011.

"A Failure to Prohibit: New York City's Underground Veal Trade" - Center for History and Economics Graduate Workshop, October 2009.

## Engagement / Outreach

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Interviewee, meat history documentary, feature project (Hourglass Films), projected 2022.

Interviewee, "Chicago Stories: The Union Stockyards" (WTTW), filmed Spring 2021, airing Spring 2022.

"Squashing Beef: Epicurious And America's Favorite Red Meat," panelist on *1A* (National Public Radio), May 5, 2021.

Research on meat processing and coronavirus contributed to / quoted in Associated Press (AP), *Bloomberg*, *USA Today*, *Business Insider*, *Ouest-France*, and other outlets, April and May, 2020.

"Cattle is King," Oklahoma Book Festival, September 21, 2019.

"Red Meat Republic," *Constant Wonder* (BYU Radio), August 22, 2019.

"Author Q&A: American History As Told Through Beef," *The Daily Yonder*, August 7, 2019.

Contributor, "Can Our Planet Afford Meat?" *Business Daily* (BBC World Service), July 30, 2019.

"Why Beef Is What's For Dinner," *Think* (KERA radio), July 5, 2019.

"Joshua Specht: *Red Meat Republic*," *Weird History Podcast*, June, 2019.

"Joshua Specht: *Red Meat Republic*," *AskHistorians Podcast*, June, 2019.

"How Beef Changed America," *That Got Me Thinking*, May 28, 2019.

"The Legacy of Red Meat in America," *1A* (National Public Radio), May 22, 2019.

"In 'Red Meat Republic,' the Story of How Beef Made Chicago and Changed America" *Chicago Tonight* (WTTW television), May 6, 2019.

History Council Of Victoria: History Roadshow, secondary school outreach program, ("Origins and Consequences of the American Revolution"), September 12, 2017

## Media Coverage

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"Longhorns Long Gone (and Returned)" research feature, *JSTOR Daily* (July 2023), <https://daily.jstor.org/longhorns-long-gone-and-returned/>

"How the Beef Industry and the US Co-Evolved and Shaped Each Other" (*Red Meat Republic* review), *The Wire* (India), January 3, 2021.

"Slaughterhouse 2.0," *University of Notre Dame Stories* (<https://www.nd.edu/stories/slaughterhouse-two-point-zero>), August 2020.

"How Cheap Meat Became an 'Essential' American Value," with Rebecca Onion, *Slate*, (May 14, 2020).

"Ausbeutung und billiges Fleisch" (*Red Meat Republic* review), *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, November 9, 2019.

"A Once and Future Beef," review of *Red Meat Republic* for *Longreads*, July 2019.

"Empire of Meat," review of *Red Meat Republic* in *The Baffler*, June 13, 2019.

"How America Became the 'Red Meat Republic'," *Civil Eats* interview, May 9, 2019.

(republished in *High Country News*, July 4, 2019)

"The Price of Meat," review of *Red Meat Republic* in *The New Republic*, May 7, 2019.

"Ribeye on the Prize," *NextDraft*, May 7, 2019.

"Behind the Beef Machine," UC Berkeley Social Science Matrix, September, 2014.

## Teaching

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Business in America (University of Notre Dame)	Fall 2022
History Workshop (University of Notre Dame)	Spring 2022
The History of Food (University of Notre Dame)	Spring 2022

The History of Food (University of Notre Dame)	Fall 2021
Business in America (University of Notre Dame)	Fall 2021
History Workshop (University of Notre Dame)	Spring 2021
The History of the American West (University of Notre Dame)	Spring 2021
History Workshop (University of Notre Dame)	Fall 2020
The History of Food (University of Notre Dame)	Spring 2020
Business in America (University of Notre Dame)	Spring 2020
The History of Modern America (University of Notre Dame)	Fall 2019
The History of the American West (University of Notre Dame)	Fall 2019
Honours Thesis Advisor, History / International Studies (Monash University)	2015-2018
Unit Coordinator, Monash University	2016-2018
(ATS3616: Race and Rights: Twentieth-Century America; ATS2107: Colonial America; ATS3908: American Empire; ATS2617: The American Civil War; ATS4205: Methods in International Studies)	

## Awards

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Vincent DeSantis Book Prize (Hon. Mention), Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era	2021
Theodore Saloutos Memorial Award, The Agricultural History Society	2019
New Appointee Grant, Monash University	2016
Graduate Student Fellowship, Harvard University	2008-2014
K. Austin Kerr Prize (Honorable Mention), Business History Conference	2013
Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Canada Program Research Grant	2011
Charles Warren Center Term-time Research Grant	2011
Democracy & Markets Research Fellowship, The Tobin Project	2011
Democracy & Markets Research Fellowship, The Tobin Project	2010
Dissertation Research Fellowship, Project on Justice, Welfare, and Economics	2010
Lyon Gardiner Tyler Scholarship for Undergraduate Research	2007

## Departmental / Institutional Service

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Dissertation committees

- Josh Tonkel, in progress.
- David Carlson, in progress.
- Jake Swisher, in progress.
- Wenzheng Fang, in progress.

Exam field, Environmental History (Wenzheng Fang)	Spring 2023
Exam field, Environmental History (Jake Swisher)	Spring 2022
Search committee, Latinx history	Fall 2021
Exam field, The History of American Expansion (David Carlson)	Spring 2021
Exam field, Business History exam field (Josh Tonkel)	Fall 2020
Honours Coordinator, International Studies (Monash University)	2016-2018
Postgraduate Supervision (Monash University) Vivienne Sano (PhD), Larissa Sutherland (PhD) Sam Horewood (MA), Elizabeth Miller (MA)	2017-2018

## Professional Service

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Manuscript reviewer: Oklahoma University Press, Nebraska University Press, Broadview Press, University of British Columbia Press, University of Chicago Press, Polity Press, Johns Hopkins University Press	
Workshop organizer, "The American Civil War: Global Perspectives"	August 2018
Referee, <i>Environmental History</i>	2016-present
Referee, <i>Business History Review</i>	2016-present
Referee, <i>Australasian Journal of American Studies</i>	2016-2019
Graduate Student Associate, Center for History and Economics (Harvard University)	2009 - 2014
Co-organizer, <i>Capitalism in Action</i> , Graduate Student Conference (Cambridge, MA)	2011
Organizer, Center for History and Economics Graduate Workshop (Harvard University)	2009 - 2011
Co-president, Henry Adams History Graduate Student Organization (Harvard University)	2009 - 2011