

# Alexandra Finley, PhD

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

### University of Pittsburgh

Assistant Professor

Pittsburgh, PA

August 2019 – Present

### Mississippi State University

Assistant Professor

Starkville, MS

August 2017 – August 2019

## EDUCATION

### College of William & Mary

*Doctor of Philosophy*

Williamsburg, Virginia

May 2017

“Blood Money: Sex, Family, and Finance in the Antebellum Slave Trade”

Dissertation advisor: Scott Reynolds Nelson

Dissertation committee: Henry Louis Gates, Jr.; Cindy Hahamovitch; Hannah Rosen

### College of William & Mary

*Master of Arts*

Williamsburg, Virginia

May 2012

American History

“‘Cash to Corinna’: Silas and Corinna Omohundro and the Politics of Overt Interracial Relationships in the Antebellum Upper South”

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

- *An Intimate Economy: Enslaved Women, Work, and America’s Domestic Slave Trade* (University of North Carolina Press, August 2020)

### Articles and Book Chapters

- “‘Cash to Corinna’: Domestic Labor and Sexual Economy in the ‘Fancy Trade,’” *Journal of American History* 104 no. 2 (September 2017): 410-430.
- "A Gentleman and a Scoundrel? Alexander McDonald, Financial Reputation, and Slavery’s Capitalism" in Jeff Forret and Bruce Baker, eds. *Southern Scoundrels: Grifters and Graft in the Nineteenth Century*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2021.

### Public-Facing Scholarship

- New Books in History Podcast on *An Intimate Economy*  
<https://newbooksnetwork.com/alexandra-j-finley-an-intimate-economy-enslaved-women-work-and-americas-domestic-slave-trade-unc-press-2020/>

- "Women's household labor is essential. Why isn't it valued? Covid-19 has exposed enduring inequality in domestic divisions of labor," Made By History for the Washington Post (May 29, 2020) <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/05/29/womens-household-labor-is-essential-why-isnt-it-valued/>
- American History TV (CSPAN-3 January 16, 2020)

### **Web-based Publications**

- "What's in a Name? Or, Who Put the Omohundro in the Institute of Early American History and Culture?" *Uncommon Sense: the Blog of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture*, <http://blog.oieahc.wm.edu/whats-name-put-omohundro-institute-early-american-history-culture/> (June 29, 2016)

### **Book Reviews**

- Review of *The Price for Their Pound of Flesh*, by Daina Ramey Berry, *Journal of Civil War History*
- Review of *Dark Work: the Business of Slavery in Rhode Island*, by Christy Clark-Pujara, *Labor*

### **AWARDS**

- Organization of American Historians Learner-Scott Prize for the best dissertation in Women's History (April 2018)
- Coordinating Council for Women Historians Chaudhuri Award for best first article (2018)

### **INVITED TALKS**

- Richards Civil War Era Center at Penn State Webinar on *An Intimate Economy* (December 3, 2020)
- Labor and Working Class History Association Book Talk on *An Intimate Economy* (January 21, 2021)

### **FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

- University of Pittsburgh College of Arts and Sciences Junior Faculty Summer Stipend (Summer 2021)
- Provost Dissertation Fellowship, College of William & Mary (2016-2017)
- McNeil Center for Early American History Advisory Council Fellow (2015-2016)
- Glucksman Fellow, College of William & Mary (2015-2016)
- Dean's Research Fund, College of William & Mary (2015)
- Provost Grant, College of William & Mary (2015)
- Betty Sams Christian Fellowship in Business History, Virginia Historical Society (2014)

- Parker-Dooley Visiting Scholar, Southern Historical Collection, UNC – Chapel Hill (2014)

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES**

- "A First-Rate Seamstress For Sale": Gender, Slavery, and the Contested Meaning of Home" Labor and Working Class History Virtual Conference (May 22, 2021)
- "A Murder and Some Furniture: Household Goods as Business Strategy" Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders and Sexualities, Baltimore (May 2020 – cancelled due to COVID-19)
- "The Movable Property of Women," McNeil Center for Early American History and Culture Seminar (April 3, 2020)
- "Bed and Board in a Southern City," Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, Louisville (November 2019)
- Chair and comment, "New Perspectives on Gender in Early America," Omohundro Institute for Early American History Annual Conference, Williamsburg, VA (June 2018)
- Panel organizer, "To Rely on a Trusty Woman: Social Reproduction and the Domestic Slave Trade," Southern Association of Women Historians Triennial Conference, Tuscaloosa, AL (June 2018)
- "The Sexual Economy of the New Orleans Slave Market," Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, New Orleans (April 2017)
- "Family/Business: the Private Sides of Business and Empire in Antebellum America," Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Denver (January 2017)
- "Women and the Economy of Slavery in Early America," OIEAHC Region and Nation in American Histories of Race and Slavery Conference, Mount Vernon (October 2016)
- "Mrs. Omohundro's Boarding House: Domestic Economy and the Richmond Slave Market," Society for Historians of the Early Republic Annual Meeting, Raleigh, NC (July 16-19, 2015)
- Panel Member, "To Be Sold: the American Slave Trade in Virginia and New Orleans" Symposium, a joint conference of the Library of Virginia, the Midlo Center at the University of New Orleans, and the Historic New Orleans Collections (March 21, 2015)
- "The Life and Love of Slave Trader Silas Omohundro," Invited Speaker for the Library of Virginia's "To Be Sold" Exhibit (February 24, 2015)
- Consulting Historian, "Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr." (Season 2, 2014)
- "The Cost of the Trade: A Slave Trader's Business Network in Antebellum Richmond, Virginia," The Virginia Forum, George Mason University (March 2014)

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- Membership Committee, Southern Historical Association (2019)
- Membership Committee for Mississippi, Southern Historical Association (2018)
- Co-editor, *Teaching the JER*
- Virginia Forum, Nominating Committee (2021)
- Labor and Working Class History Association Book Talk committee (2020-)
- Contributing Editor, *Labor* (2021-)

## **RESEARCH FIELDS**

Women's history

Labor history

Gender and sexuality

Antebellum South

History of slavery

African American history

History of capitalism

Nineteenth-century U.S.

## **TEACHING FIELDS**

United States history

African American history

Comparative slavery

Economic history

Women's history

History of capitalism

Southern History

Gender and Sexuality

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Historical Association

Coordinating Council for Women in History

Labor and Working Class History Association

Organization of American Historians

Southern Association of Women Historians

Southern Historical Association

Southern Labor Studies Association