

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

- Organization of American Historians Lerner-Scott Prize for the best dissertation in Women’s History

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

Peer-reviewed Books

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

Peer-reviewed 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.
 - Named of the 10 best articles in the *JAH* on gender history:
<https://academic.oup.com/jah/pages/womens-history-month-collection-2020>
 - Coordinating Council for Women Historians Chaudhuri Award for best first article

- "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.
- "A Murder and Some Furniture: Gender, Value, and Household Objects in the early U.S.," in Joanna Cohen and Laura Edwards, eds., *New Histories of Value in America* (Princeton University Press; chapter completed/edited collection in progress)

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 talk on *An Intimate Economy* (CSPAN-3 January 16, 2020)
- "A Woman's Work is Never Done" public lecture as part of the *Working Thought* Exhibition, Carnegie Museum of Art (June 2022)

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)

AWARDS

- Organization of American Historians Lerner-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)
- Slavery and Emancipation Lecture, Anti-Black Racism Course for the University of Pittsburgh (2020-)
- Labor and Working Class History Association Book Talk on *An Intimate Economy* (January 21, 2021)

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- Huntington Library Fellow (Summer 2023 – 5 months awarded; accepted 3 due to scheduling): external grant
- American Antiquarian Society Peterson Fellow (July 2022): external grant
- University of Pittsburgh College of Arts and Sciences Junior Faculty Summer Stipend (Summer 2021): internal grant
- 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 Murder and Some Furniture: Gender, Value, and Household Objects in the early U.S." New Histories of Value Conference, Princeton University (May 2023 – invited participant)
- "The Movable Property of Women: Gendering Value in Antebellum New Orleans," Southern Historical Association, Baltimore (November 2022)
- "The Labor of a Wife': Marriage as a Division of Intimate Labor" Conference on Economy and Intimate Life, University of Manchester (June 1, 2022)
- "Producing Intimate Labors: Domesticity, Inequality, and Racial Capitalism" Organization of American Historians, Boston (chair and comment - April 1, 2022)
- "What's Public and Private in the History of American Slavery? Private Controls, Public Interests and Open Secrets under Southern Slavery" American Society for Legal History, New Orleans (November 2021 – accepted panel but withdrawn due to Covid concerns)
- "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)

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*

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Membership Committee for Mississippi, Southern Historical Association (2018)
- Membership Committee, Southern Historical Association (2019)
- Virginia Forum, Nominating Committee (2021)
- Labor and Working Class History Association Book Talk organizing committee (2020-)
- Contributing Editor, *Labor* (2021-)
- Co-organizer, Working Class History Seminar, University of Pittsburgh (2023-)

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

Gender and Women's history
History of capitalism
Southern History
Labor History

UNDERGRADUATE CLASSES TAUGHT

African American History to 1865
Gender and Sexuality to 1865
Introductory Writing Seminar for History Majors
Labor in the Nineteenth Century
Southern History
Women in America (Mississippi State University)
Women in the South (Mississippi State University)

GRADUATE CLASSES TAUGHT

African American History (Mississippi State University)
Comparative Slavery (Mississippi State University)
History of Capitalism (Mississippi State University)
Methods Seminar

GRADUATE STUDENTS ADVISED

Lea Fishburn-Moore, PhD advisor (2023-)
Ann Fleming, Dissertation Committee (2021-)
Emily Culver, Dissertation Committee (2020-)
Diana Clarke, M.A. Committee (2019-2020)
Samantha Schmidt, M.A. advisor (Mississippi State University, 2018-2019)

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Faculty Advisory Committee (2020-2021)
Graduate Committee (2020-2021)
Secondary Appointment Committee (Fall 2021)
College of Arts and Sciences Dean Search Committee (Spring 2023)

Faculty Advisory Committee (2023-24)

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