

APRIL R. MERLEAUX

Department of History
Green School of International & Public Affairs
Florida International University
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor, Department of History, Florida International University, August 2016-Present
Assistant Professor, Department of History, Florida International University, August 2010-July 2016
Part Time Acting Instructor, Departments of History and American Studies, Yale University, 2008, 2010

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Yale University, American Studies (Dissertation Approved with Distinction)	2010
M.A., M.Phil., Yale University, American Studies	2007
M.S., Tufts University, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy Program in Agriculture, Food, and Environment	2002
B.A., Reed College, History (Phi Beta Kappa)	1995

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Sugar and Civilization: American Empire and the Cultural Politics of Sweetness (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015). Winner of the 2016 Myrna F. Bernath Prize from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations.

Articles

“Sugar, Surveillance, and Citizenship: The Global Crisis of 1919-1920 in Buenos Aires and New York,” *Global Food History* 2, no. 1 (Spring 2016).

“Sweetness, Power, and Forgotten Food Histories in America’s Empire,” *Labor: Studies in Working Class History of the Americas* 12, no. 1-2 (Spring 2015).

“The Political Culture of Sugar Tariffs: Immigration, Race, and Empire, 1898-1930,” *International Labor and Working Class History Journal* 81 (Spring 2012).

Encyclopedia Articles

“Sugar Trust,” “Sugar, Unrefined,” and “Legislation, Historical,” in *The Oxford Companion to Sweets*, edited by Darra Goldstein. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Books Reviews

Review of *The ‘Conspiracy’ of Free Trade’: The Anglo-American Struggle over Empire and Economic Globalisation, 1846-1896*. By Marc-William Palen. Cambridge University Press, 2016.
Forthcoming in the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* (Spring 2017).

Review of *Strangers on Familiar Soil: Rediscovering the Chile-California Connection*. By Edward Dalam Melillo. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015. *Southern California Quarterly* 98, no. 4 (Spring 2017).

Review of *Making the Empire Work: Labor & United States Imperialism*. Edited by Daniel E. Bender and Jana K. Lipman. New York: New York University Press, 2015. H-SHGAPE, the list-serv for the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=44667>

Review of *Sovereign Sugar: Industry and Environment in Hawai’i*. By Carol A. MacLennan. Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2014. Published in *Agricultural History* 89, no. 4 (Fall 2015).

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Review of *Soft Soil, Black Grapes: The Birth of Italian Winemaking in California*. By Simone Cinotto. New York: New York University Press, 2012. Published in the *Journal of American Ethnic History* 34, no. 2 (Winter 2015).

Review of *North for the Harvest: Mexican Workers, Growers, and the Sugar Beet Industry*. By Jim Norris. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2009. Published in *Agricultural History* 85, no. 1 (Winter 2011).

GRANTS

Co-Principle Investigator with Ken Lipartito and Jessica Adler, NEH Next Generation Ph.D. Planning Grant, 2016-2017 (\$25,000).

Principle Investigator, "Ecohumanities for Cities in Crisis," National Endowment for the Humanities Initiative on the Humanities in the Public Square, 2016-2017 (\$162,245).

Co-Principle Investigator with Alexandra Cornelius and Ken Lipartito, Florida Teacher Quality Grant, Florida Department of Education, 2012 (\$500,000); 2013-2014 (\$487,947), to provide high school teachers from the Miami-Dade County Public School System with a M.A. in U.S. history.

Coordinator, Technology Information Center Grant, FIU College of Arts and Sciences, 2011, \$150,879, to purchase the Archive of Americana Historical Newspapers online database for the FIU libraries.

Wolfsonian-FIU Teaching Gallery, Exhibition Development Grant, 2011, \$2,000, to curate an exhibit, "Modern Meals: Remaking American Foods from Farm to Kitchen," on view September-December 2011 in The Wolfsonian Teaching Gallery at Florida International University's Frost Art Museum, and reshowed at The Wolfsonian-FIU, Miami Beach, Summer 2013.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2016 FIU Humanities Faculty Research Award

2016 FIU Top Scholar Award

2016 Myrna Bernath Book Prize, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations

2016 Schlesinger Library Research Support Grant, Harvard University

2014 Morris and Anita Broad Research Fellowship Award, Florida International University

2011 Summer Faculty Development Award, Florida International University

2009 Yale University Dissertation Fellowship

2007 Lamar Center for the Study of Frontiers and Borders Fellowship, Yale University

2007 John F. Enders Fellowship and Research Grant, Yale University

2006 Program in Agrarian Studies, Yale University, Preliminary Planning Grant

2006 Ethnic Studies Affiliate, Program in Ethnicity, Race, and Migration, Yale University

2005 Program in Agrarian Studies, Yale University, Preliminary Planning Grant

2005 Yale Center for International and Area Studies, Pre-Dissertation Mini-Grant

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lecture presented at the Connaught Cross-Disciplinary/Cross-Cultural Seminar "City Food: Lessons from People on the Move," University of Toronto, October 2016.

Roundtable panelist, "Global Regimes of Regulation, Governance, and Exclusion," Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, June 25, 2016.

"From Cane to Candy: Race, Childhood, and the Cultural Politics of Sweetness in America's Sugar Empire," Invited keynote lecture at the Bavarian American Academy Summer Academy on Material Culture, Miami Beach, FL, June 6, 2016.

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- “Narcotics Policy and the Making of a New Environmentalism,” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Environmental History, Seattle, WA, March 30-April 3, 2016.
- “The Agrarian Origins of the War on Drugs,” Paper presented on invitation from the Workshop in the History and Geography of Food, Place, and Power at the University of Georgia, October 24, 2014.
- “The Spatial Logic of the Sugar Tariff in America’s Empire,” Invited talk given at the Geography Colloquium, University of Georgia, October 24, 2014.
- “Sugar, Surveillance, and Citizenship: The Global Crisis of 1919-1920 in Buenos Aires and New York,” Article draft presented at the American (Inter)Dependencies Conference, New York University, New York, NY, April 3-4, 2014.
- “Sugar, Surveillance, and Citizenship: The Global Crisis of 1919-1920 in Buenos Aires and New York,” Paper presented at the American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., January 2-5, 2014.
- “Labor Radicalism, Latina/o Nationalisms and U.S. Sugar Politics in the 1930s,” Paper presented at the Labor & Working Class History Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, June 6-8, 2013.
- “‘This Peculiarly Indispensable Commodity’: Sugar, the United States, and the Logic of Commodification during World War I,” paper presented at the American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 3-6, 2013.
- “Sugar and Sovereignty in the Global New Deal,” paper presented at the American Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 15-18, 2012.
- “The Role of Labor in the Field of Food Studies,” Roundtable presenter at the Joint Meeting and Conference of Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society (AFHVS), Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS), & Society for Anthropology of Food and Nutrition (SAFN), New York, New York, June 20-24, 2012.
- “Land Use, Sugar, and Puerto Rican Reconstruction in the 1930s,” paper presented at the American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting, Madison, Wisconsin, March 28-31, 2012.
- “Spectacles of Sweetness: Internalizing Empire after the Spanish American War,” paper presented at the American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, October 23, 2011.
- “Drowned in Sweetness: Sugar, Empire, and New Deal Commodity Cultures,” Manuscript chapter presented at the Tepoztlán Institute for Transnational History of the Americas, Tepoztlán, Mexico, July 27-August 3, 2011.
- “Drowned in Sweetness: Sugar, Imperial Failure, and New Deal Commodity Cultures,” paper presented at the American Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas, November 20, 2010.
- “The Keyword Historian: Adventures in the Digital Archives,” paper presented at The Past’s Digital Presence: Database, Archive, and Knowledge Work in the Humanities Graduate Conference, Yale University, February 20, 2010. Viewable online at <http://archive.org/details/pdp2010-4a-Merleaux>
- “Race, Empire, and Sugar Tariffs in the Early Twentieth Century United States,” Paper presented at the American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. November 6, 2009.
- “Commodity Cultures and Cross-Border Desires: Piloncillo between Mexico and the United States in the 1910s through 1930s,” Paper presented at The 2009 Joint Conference on “Migration, Border, and the Nation-State,” Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, April 9, 2009.
- “Latinidad Azucarera: Labor Radicalism, National Identities, and U.S. Sugar Politics, 1928-1934,” Paper presented at Connecticut Latin American Studies Research Conference, Central Connecticut State University, December 5, 2008.

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“From Cane to Candy: Race, Gender, and the Cultural Politics of Sweetness in the 1920s,” conference presentation, American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 16, 2008.

CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED OR CHAIRED

“Environmental Histories of the War on Drugs: The Politics of Herbicides in Historical Perspective,” Panel Organizer, panel for the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Environmental History, Seattle, WA, March 30-April 3, 2016.

“Food Commodities in Wartime: Soy, Wheat, Sugar and U.S. Global Power in the Twentieth Century,” Panel Organizer, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., January 2-5, 2014.

“Globalizing Modern Sugar: Power, Nation-State, and New Histories of Sweetness,” Panel Organizer, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 3-6, 2013.

“Commodity Cultures, Sovereignty, and Post-Colonial Divisions of Labor,” Panel Organizer, American Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 15-18, 2012.

“Global Environmental Politics and the New Deal,” Panel Organizer, American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting, Madison, Wisconsin, March 28-31, 2012.

“Commodity Crises, Chains, and Fetishes: A Dialogue on Cultural Approaches to Political Economy,” Panel Organizer, American Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas, November 20, 2010.

“Commodity Cultures, Contested Citizenships, and Transnational American Studies,” Panel Organizer, American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. November 5, 2009.

SERVICE

Service to the Profession

Book manuscript peer review: University of North Carolina Press

Journal article peer review: *Western Historical Quarterly*

Book Proposal Reviewer: University of California Press; Bloomsbury Publishing, Inc.,

Peer reviewer for the Wolfsonian-FIU Fellowship program. February 2013.

Peer reviewer for manuscript, *Food in the Civil War Era: The North*, edited by Helen Zoe Veit. Michigan State University Press. December 2011.

Service to the Department, School, and University

2016-2017 Public History Coordinator, History Department
Graduate Committee, Latin American and Caribbean Center
Vice President and Senator, United Faculty of Florida – FIU
Vice Chair, Faculty Assembly, Green School of International and Public Affairs

2015-2016 Public History Coordinator, History Department
History Department Advisory Committee
Graduate Committee, Latin American and Caribbean Center
Vice President and Senator, United Faculty of Florida – FIU
School of International and Public Affairs Ad-Hoc Constitution Committee

2014-2015 Public History Coordinator, History Department
History Department Advisory Committee
Ad Hoc Constitutional Revision Committee, History Department
Graduate Committee, Latin American and Caribbean Center

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Senator, United Faculty of Florida – FIU

2013-2014 History Department Undergraduate Committee
History Department Steering Committee
Graduate Committee, Latin American and Caribbean Center
European History Instructor Search Committee
Senator, United Faculty of Florida – FIU

2012-2013 History Department Undergraduate Committee
Temporary Assistant Chair, History Department Undergraduate Committee
Chair, Ad Hoc Committee for Online Teaching in History
Senator, United Faculty of Florida – FIU

2011-2012 History Department Undergraduate Committee
Digital History Instructor Search Committee
European History Instructor Search Committee

2010-2011 Library Committee; contributor to Undergraduate Committee evaluation process

NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

“Scholars Do, in Fact, Agree on Basics of Plagiarism,” Letters, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, July 22, 2016, <http://chronicle.com/blogs/letters/scholars-do-in-fact-agree-on-basics-of-plagiarism/>

“Sidney Mintz’s Long, Sweet Legacy,” *Process: A Blog for American History*, June 23, 2016, <http://www.processhistory.org/sidney-mintz-legacy/>

“Come Create How We Live With Nature’s Power,” *The Miami Herald*, April 4, 2016, <http://www.miamiherald.com/opinion/op-ed/article69932312.html>

“The Mexican Soda Tax Debate,” UNC Press Blog, December 9, 2015 <http://uncpressblog.com/2015/12/09/april-merleaux-the-mexican-soda-tax-debate/>

“The Subtlety of the Sugar Babies,” UNC Press Blog, September 21, 2015 <http://uncpressblog.com/2015/09/21/april-merleaux-the-subtlety-of-the-sugar-babies/>

INVITED PUBLIC LECTURES AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Invited Speaker, “Historical Perspectives: Professional and Pedagogical,” Center for Humanities in the Urban Environment, Florida International University, January 27, 2016.

Invited Speaker, “NEH Grant Writing in the Humanities: Faculty Mentor Program Workshop,” Florida International University, January 26, 2016.

Invited Speaker, “Sugar and Civilization: American Empire and the Cultural Politics of Sweetness,” presentation to the Sociology, Anthropology & Geography Graduate Students Association (SAGGSA) Geography Colloquium, Florida International University, December 5, 2015.

Invited Speaker, Panel Discussion, “BeeWare: The Impact of Climate Change and Habitat Destruction on Food Production,” CLIMA Series <http://cortada.com/events/2015/CLIMA>, Milander Arts and Entertainment Center, Hialeah, FL, December 9, 2015.

Invited Speaker, “Conversations in History: *Sugar and Civilization* from Idea to Book,” Department of History Graduate Student Association, Florida International University, October 6, 2015.

Invited Moderator, “Making Myth: World War I and American Culture,” Scholarly Panel, Wolfsonian-FIU, Miami, Florida, March 7, 2015.

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Invited Speaker, "An Environmental History of the War on Drugs," at the Sociology, Anthropology & Geography Graduate Students Association (SAGGSA) Annual Conference, Florida International University, March 5, 2015.

Invited Speaker, "WWI Commemoration: One Hundred Years After— A FIU Panel Discussion," MEUCE/Broad Series, School of International and Public Affairs, October 9, 2014.

Participant, Provost's Course Design Institute, Center for the Advancement of Teaching, Florida International University, May 2014.

Invited Speaker, "On Ethical Meat Consumption," Tuesday NY Times Roundtable Discussion, Florida International University, October 29, 2013.

Invited Speaker, "Environmental History and the Puerto Rican Sugar Industry," Environmental Studies Seminar Series on Ecosystems, People and Disturbance, Florida International University, October 9, 2013.

Invited Speaker, "Consuming Passions: Four Perspectives on Food in Our Lives," Books & Books, Coral Gables, Florida, September 27, 2013.

Participant, THATCamp Caribe, Digital Humanities Workshop University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez, November 12-14, 2012.

"Conference Papers: How to do them and Why," Lecture for African & African Diaspora Studies Graduate Student Association Professional Development Conference. Florida International University, Miami, Florida. February 2, 2012.

"Revising Thanksgiving Curriculum," Teaching American History Workshop for Elementary Education Teachers. Miami, Florida. November 19, 2011.

"Modern Meals: Remaking American Foods from Farm to Tables," Lecture for Docents of the Frost Art Museum, Florida International University, Miami, Florida. October 10, 2011.

WORKING GROUP PARTICIPATION

2016	Environmental Humanities Faculty Working Group, Founding Member, FIU
2011-2013	Wolfsonian-FIU Museum and Visual Culture Lab Workshop, Participant
2011	History Faculty Working Group, FIU, Organizer and Participant
2011	African and African Diaspora Studies Affiliate Faculty Working Group, FIU, Participant
2009	Latina/o Studies Working Group, Yale University, Organizer and Participant
2008-2010	Asian American Studies Working Group, Yale University, Participant
2006	Ethnicity, Race, & Migration Graduate Fellows, Yale University, Participant
2005-2006	Esquina Latina, Yale University, Participant

Professional Memberships and Affiliations

American Studies Association

American Historical Association

National Council for Public History

Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center Faculty Affiliate, Florida International University

African and African Diaspora Studies Faculty Affiliate, Florida International University

LANGUAGES

Spanish [proficient academic reading; beginning speaking]

French [beginning reading and speaking]

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING AND MENTORING

Merleaux

Committee Chair

Christopher Davis (History), advanced to candidacy 08/2016

Exam Field: Caribbean history

Dissertation Topic: "The American Eugenic Empire in British Jamaica: The Collaboration to Control Race in the Atlantic"

Felix Jean-Louis (History/African & African Diaspora Studies), anticipated to advance to candidacy 11/2016

Exam Field: Caribbean

Dissertation Topic: 20th century Haitian Intellectuals in Transnational Context

Paul Burkart (History), anticipated to advance to candidacy 10/2016

Exam Field: Modern U.S. History

Dissertation Topic: Civil War memoirs

Current Ph.D. Dissertation Committees

Eric Van Vleet (Global Socio-Cultural Studies), committee member [Chair: Gail Hollander]

Dissertation Topic: Truffle production in France

Joshua Mullenhite (Global Socio-Cultural Studies), committee member [Chair: Gail Hollander]

Dissertation Topic: Climate resilience in Guyana

Eric Rivas (History), committee member [Chair: Darden Pyron]

Dissertation Topic: Charles A. Dana and Nineteenth-Century Transatlantic America

Advanced to Candidacy: November 2015

Grant Slater (Politics and International Relations), committee member [Chair: Félix Martín]

Dissertation Topic: Foreign Policy Evaluation and the Utility of Intervention

Advanced to Candidacy: November 2015

Jordan Malfoy (History), committee member [Chair: Gwyn Davies]

Dissertation Topic: Chemical Weapons and the Rise of Civil Defense, 1898-1945

Advanced to Candidacy: October 2015

Janna L. Lafferty (Global Socio-Cultural Studies), committee member [Chair: Gail Hollander]

Dissertation topic: Native American food sovereignty in the Pacific Northwest

Advanced to Candidacy: May 2014

Billy Hall (Global Socio-Cultural Studies), committee member [Chair: Gail Hollander]

Dissertation topic: Black Foodways and urban development in Miami's Overtown community

Advanced to Candidacy: November 2013

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Current Ph.D. Comprehensive Exam Committees

Felix Jean-Louis (History/African & African Diaspora Studies), field in preparation, anticipated 10/2016
Exam Field: Caribbean History

Paul Burkart (History), field in preparation, anticipated 10/2016
Exam Field: Modern U.S. History

Maite Morales (History), field in preparation, anticipated 01/2017
Exam Field: International Histories of the Cold War

Tonya St. Julien (History/African & African Diaspora Studies), field in preparation, anticipated 04/2017
Exam Field: Caribbean History

Dissertation Committees – Completed

John Babb (History), committee member [Chair: Bianca Premo]
Dissertation: The Viceroyalty of Miami: Colonial Nostalgia in the Making of an Imperial City
Defended Dissertation: July 2016

Tiffany West (History), committee member [Chair: Darden Pyron]
Dissertation Topic: Thomas Dixon, Jr. and the Construction of Modern American Nationalism
Defended Dissertation: July 2016

Cesar Vasquez (History), committee member [Chair: Ken Lipartito]
Dissertation topic: A History of the United States Caribbean Defense Command (1941-1947)
Defended Dissertation: March 2016

Nicole Mixon-Perez (Global Socio-Cultural Studies) [Chair: Gail Hollander]
Dissertation topic: Discourse analysis of anti-obesity public policy in Miami, Florida
Advanced to Candidacy: April 2012
Defended Dissertation: April 2014

Ph.D. Comprehensive Exam Committees – Completed

Christopher Davis (History), Committee Chair, completed 04/2016
Exam Field: Modern U.S. History, immigration, empire

Eric Van Vleet (Global Socio-Cultural Studies), completed 04/2016
Exam Field: Agrarian history

Joshua Mullenhite (Global Socio-Cultural Studies), completed 01/2016
Exam Field: Political ecology and environmental history

Eric Rivas (History), completed 10/2015
Exam Field: transnational and comparative; labor history

Ross Nedervelt (History), completed 10/2015
Exam Field: U.S.-Caribbean relations, foreign relations, empire

Jordan Malfoy (History), completed 10/2015
Exam Field: Modern U.S. political/cultural history; environmental history

Tiffany West (History), completed 9/2014
Exam Field: Modern U.S. Culture and Politics

Janna L. Lafferty (Global Socio-Cultural Studies), completed 4/2014
Exam Field: Critical Race and Food Studies; political ecology

Micah Oelze (History), completed 11/2013
Exam Field: Modern U.S. Cultural, Intellectual, and Transnational History

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John Babb (History), completed 11/2013
Exam Field: Modern U.S. Transnational and Cultural History

Billy Hall (Global Socio-Cultural Studies), completed 11/2013
Exam Field: Food Systems and Urban Geographies

Jackal Tanelorn (Global Socio-Cultural Studies), completed 5/2013
Exam Field: Citizenship, Race, and Borders

Jeffrey Austin (History), completed, 12/2012
Exam Field: Modern U.S. Political, Economic, and Cultural History

Nicole Mixon-Perez (Global Socio-Cultural Studies), completed, 4/2012
Exam Field: History of U.S. Food Systems & Critical Food Studies

M.A. Committees – Completed

Isabel Brador (Public History), Committee Chair
Portfolio defense 4/2016

Jeremy Saloum (Public History), Committee Chair
Completed and defended portfolio 4/2015

James Little Almeida (Public History), Committee Chair
Completed and defended portfolio 4/2015

Alecia Chapin (Public History), Committee Chair
Completed and defended portfolio 4/2015

Felix Jean Louis (African and Africana Diaspora Studies), Committee Member
Thesis topic: Haitian political and cultural activism in Harlem in the 1920s.
Defended 2/2014

Cheryl Price (Public History), Committee Member
Completed and defended report 4/2013

Jesse Padron (Public History), Committee Member
Completed and defended report 12/2013

Teaching American History Grant, M.A. program advisees (2013): Rosie Sosa, Sharon Gooden, Lisa Webster, Jesica Soria, and Sindy Garcia.

Florida Teacher Quality Grant, M.A. program advisees (2012-2014): Jaela Vasquez, Matthew Sabatella, Mario Montoya, John Ermer, Brenda Lewis, Mike Pena, Fernando Fernandez, Paula Menasche, Barbara Smith, Harold (Eric) Hafter, David Ramsay, Lolita Samuel, Rafael Brioso, Martin Perez, Jen Murray, Veronica Ramudo, Elena Steadham, and Rolando Rodriguez