

# Joshua Specht

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## Academic Positions

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Continuing Lecturer (Assistant Professor equivalent), History, Monash University 2015 – Present

S.V. Ciriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of California: Berkeley 2014-2015

## Education

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Ph.D., History, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 2014  
Dissertation: "Red Meat Republic: The Rise of the Cattle-Beef Complex, 1865-1905"  
Committee: Walter Johnson (advisor), Emma Rothschild, Jill Lepore, Elliott West

A.M., History, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 2010

B.A., History (highest honors and *Cum Laude*), The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA 2007  
Honors thesis: "Boodle-carriers, Shovers, and Cony-men: Counterfeiting in Nineteenth-century America"; advisor Scott Reynolds Nelson

## Publications

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

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

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

"'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.

"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).

## Other Writing

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"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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Review of *Dead Tree Media*, Michael Stamm, *Business History Review*, 93, no. 1 (Spring 2019).

Review of *Slaughterhouse: Chicago's Union Stock Yard and the World It Made*, Dominic A. Pacyga, *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, 115, no. 1 (Winter 2017).

Review of *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, no. 2.

Review of *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>.

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

## Presentations

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"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 talk (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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"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 / Interviews

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“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 my book in *The New Republic*, May 7, 2019.

“Ribeye on the Prize,” *NextDraft*, May 7, 2019.

“Behind the Beef Machine” (interview on my current book project), UC Berkeley Social Science Matrix, September, 2014.

## Teaching

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Honours Thesis Advisor, History / International Studies (Monash University) 2015-present

Unit Coordinator, Monash University 2016-present  
(ATS3616: Race and Rights: Twentieth-Century America; ATS2107: Colonial America; ATS3908: American Empire; ATS2617: The American Civil War; ATS4205: Methods in International Studies)

Teaching Fellow, “History 97: Sophomore Tutorial,” course head: Jill Lepore (Harvard University) Spring 2013  
*Recipient of Harvard Certificate of Distinction in Teaching.*

Senior Thesis Advisor (Harvard University) Fall 2012

Head Teaching Fellow, “International Financial History,” course head: Niall Ferguson (Harvard University) Fall 2012

Teaching Fellow, “The History of Economic Thought Since 1750,” course head: Emma Rothschild (Harvard University) Fall 2010  
*Recipient of Harvard Certificate of Distinction in Teaching.*

## Awards

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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

## Leadership

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Honours Coordinator, International Studies (Monash University)	2016-present
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## Professional Service

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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-present
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

## References

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**Walter Johnson**  
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**Jill Lepore**  
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**Emma Rothschild**  
 CGIS-South 424  
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