

Matthew Mulcahy

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Education

Ph. D., History, University of Minnesota – 1999
M.A., History, University of Minnesota – 1994
B.A., History, Macalester College, magna cum laude, high honors in history – 1990

Academic Positions

Associate Dean for the Humanities, 2022-
Professor, Loyola University Maryland, 2014-
Chair, Department of History, Loyola University Maryland, 2007-2013, 2017-2019
Associate Professor, Loyola University Maryland, 2005 - 2013
Assistant Professor, Loyola College in Maryland, 1999 – 2005
Instructor, University of Minnesota, 1997 – 1999
Research Assistant, Historical Census Projects, University of Minnesota, 1992 – 1994
Research Assistant, National Museum of American History, Washington DC, 1990 – 1992

Grants and Awards

Short-Term Research Fellowship, Huntington Library, 2020-21 (declined)
Nachbahr Award for Scholarly Contributions to the Humanities, Loyola University Maryland, 2016
Dean's Supplemental Travel Award, Loyola University Maryland, 2013, 2016
Summer Faculty Research Grant, Loyola College, 2000, 2001, 2006, 2008, 2016, 2017
Junior Faculty Sabbatical, Center for the Humanities, Loyola College, 2002
Andrew Mellon Foundation Fellowship, The Huntington Library, 2000
Isaac Comly Martindale Resident Research Fellowship, American Philosophical Society, 2000
Helen Watson Bucker Fellowship, John Carter Brown Library, 1998
Academic Scholarship, Colonial Dames of North America, 1998
Albert J. Beveridge Research Grant, American Historical Association, 1997
Dissertation Fellowship, Department of History, University of Minnesota, Fall, 1997, 1998
Special Doctoral Dissertation Grant, University of Minnesota, 1997
Union Pacific Research Grant, Center for Early Modern History, University of Minnesota, 1996, 1997
Macmillan Travel Grant, University of Minnesota, 1997
Travel Grant, Early American Workshop, University of Minnesota, 1997
Kenneth and Martha Holmes Prize in American History, Macalester College, 1990

Books

Rethinking American Disasters: New Essays in Cultural, Political, and Environmental History, edited by Cynthia A. Kierner, Matthew Mulcahy, and Liz Skilton (Louisiana State University Press, 2023)

Sea and Land: An Environmental History of the Caribbean, with Philip D. Morgan, J.R. McNeill, and Stuart Schwartz (Oxford University Press, 2022)
Hubs of Empire: The Southeastern Lowcountry and British Caribbean (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014)
Hurricanes and Society in the British Greater Caribbean, 1624-1783 (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006; paperback edition, 2008).

Articles

- “Hazards, Environments, and Experience in Colonial British America,” in *Rethinking American Disasters: New Essays in Cultural, Political, and Environmental History*, edited by Cynthia A. Kierner, Matthew Mulcahy, and Liz Skilton Louisiana State University Press, 2023), 11-28
- “Climate and Climate Change in Early America,” in *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History*, ed. Jon Butler (New York: Oxford University Press, 2023):
<https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.013.940>
- “Miserably Scorched: Drought in the Plantation Colonies of the British Greater Caribbean,” in *Atlantic Environments and the American South*, eds. Thomas Earle and D. Andrew Johnson (Athens GA: University of Georgia Press, 2020), 65-89.
- (With Stuart Schwartz), “Nature’s Battalions: Insects as Agricultural Pests in the Early Modern Caribbean,” *William and Mary Quarterly* 75:3 (July 2018): 433-464. (PR)
- “Making Sense of Disasters in Early America – and Today,” *The American Historian* 15 (February 2018): 36-42.
- “‘That fatall spott’: The Rise and Fall – and Rise and Fall Again – of Port Royal, Jamaica,” in Carole Shammas, ed. *Investing in the Early Modern Built Environment: Europeans, Asians, Settlers, and Indigenous Societies* (Brill, 2012), 191-218.
- “Building for Disaster: Hurricanes and the Built Environment in the British Greater Caribbean,” *Material Culture in Anglo-America: Regional Identity and Urbanity in the Tidewater, Lowcountry, and Caribbean*. Edited by David S. Shields. University of South Carolina Press, 2009, 29-57. (PR)
- “The Port Royal Earthquake and the World of Wonders in Seventeenth-Century Jamaica,” *Early American Studies* (Fall 2008): 391-421. (PR)
- “Hurricanes, Poverty, and Vulnerability: An Historical Perspective.” Social Science Research Council On-line Forum, “Understanding Katrina.” www.understandingkatrina.ssrc.org. (September 2005). Excerpts reposted on The History News Network. <http://hnn.us>. (September 2005)
- “Weathering the Storms: Hurricanes and Risk in the British Greater Caribbean.” *Business History Review* 78 (Winter 2004): 635-663. Excerpts reprinted as “Hurricane Season in the Colonies,” in *Working Knowledge: The On-line Newsletter of the Harvard Business School*, June 20, 2005. (PR)
- “Urban Disasters and Imperial Relief in the British-Atlantic World, 1740-1780.” In *States of Emergency: Coping with Emergency in European History*. Edited by Genevieve Massard-Guilbaud, et al. Peter Lang Press. 2002.
- “A Tempestuous Spirit called Hurri cano: Hurricanes and Colonial Society in the British Greater Caribbean.” In *American Disasters*. Edited by Steven Biel. New York University Press. 2001.
- “‘Melancholy and Fatal Calamities’: Disasters and Society in Eighteenth-Century South Carolina.” In *Money, Trade, and Power: The Evolution of Colonial South Carolina's Plantation Society*. Edited by Jack P. Greene, Rosemary Brana-Shute, and Randy Sparks. University of South Carolina Press. 2001. (PR)
- “The ‘Great Fire’ of 1740 and the Politics of Disaster Relief in Colonial Charleston.” *South Carolina Historical Magazine* 99 (April 1998): 135-157. (PR)

Short Essays:

- “Great South Carolina Hurricane of 1752.” Ballard Campbell, ed. *Disasters, Accidents, and Crises in American History*. (Facts of File, 2008)
- “Natural Disasters.” *The Encyclopedia of the New American Nation*. Edited by Peter Onuf, et al. (Charles Scribners, 2005).
- "Geographic Variables in the Public Use Microdata Samples." (with Ron Goeken). *Historical Methods* 28 (Winter 1995): 74-76.
- "Forum: 'Why the West is Lost'; A Response." (with Russell Menard). *William and Mary Quarterly* 51 (October 1994): 740-744.

Work-in-Progress

- “A Reluctant Absentee: Robert Graham of Gartmore, Climate, and Identity in the British Atlantic World”

Book Reviews:

- Dale Tomich, Reinaldo Funes Monzote, Carlos Venegas Fornias, and Rafael de Bavar Marquese *Reconstructing the Landscapes of Slavery: A Visual History of the Plantation in the Nineteenth Century Atlantic World*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2021 in *Agricultural History* (November 2022)
- Jonathan Todd Hancock. *Convulsed States: Earthquakes, Prophecy, and the Remaking of Early America*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2021 in *Journal of the Early Republic* (Spring 2022).
- Kate Mulry, *An Empire Transformed: Remolding Bodies and Landscapes in the Restoration Atlantic*. New York University Press, 2021 in *William and Mary Quarterly* 79 (January 2022): 167-70.
- Edward Melillo, *The Butterfly Effect: Insects and the Making of the Modern World*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2015 for *The Journal of British Studies* 60 (Sept. 2021)
- Kathleen E.A. Monteith, *Plantation Coffee in Jamaica, 1790-1848*. Kingston: University of the West Indies Press, 2019 to *New West Indian Guide* (May 2020)
- Carla Gardina Pestana, *The English Conquest of Jamaica: Oliver Cromwell's Bid for Empire* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2017). *Journal of Modern History* (January 2019).
- Pablo Gómez, *The Experimental Caribbean: Creating Knowledge and Healing in the Early Modern Atlantic* (Chapel Hill, NC, 2017), in *Early Science and Medicine* 22:4 (2017): 390-92.
- “Documenting Life Beyond the Line,” review essay of Carla Pestana and Sharon Salinger, eds., *The Early English Caribbean, 1570-1700*,” 4 vols. (London, 2014) in *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* (Spring 2016).
- “Tales of Misery and Woe,” review essay of Kathleen Donegan, *Seasons of Misery: Catastrophe and Colonial Settlement in Early America* (Philadelphia, 2014) and Amy Mitchell-Cook, *A Sea of Misadventures: Shipwreck and Survival in Early America* (Columbia, SC, 2013) in *Reviews in American History* (September 2015): 434-440.
- Conevery Bolton Valencius, *The Lost History of the New Madrid Earthquakes* (Chicago, 2013). H-Environment Roundtable (March 17, 2015)
- James Rodger Fleming, *Fixing the Sky: The Checkered History of Weather and Climate Control* (Columbia University Press, 2010). *American Historical Review* (October 2011): 1099
- J.R. McNeill, *Mosquito Empires: Ecology and War in the Greater Caribbean, 1620-1914* (Cambridge, 2010). *William and Mary Quarterly* 67 (October 2010): 788-791

- Bertrand Van Ruymbekke. *From New Babylon to Eden: The Huguenots and Their Migration to Colonial South Carolina*. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2006. *Journal of Church and State* 48 (Autumn 2006): 892-893.
- Brian F. Atwater, et al. *The Orphan Tsunami of 1700: Japanese Clues to a Parent Earthquake in North America*. (United States Geological Survey in association with University of Washington Press, 2005). *Environmental History* (July 2006).
- Elizabeth Mancke and Carole Shammas, eds. *The Creation of the British Atlantic World* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005). *Business History Review*. (Spring 2006).
- Sharon Salinger. *Taverns and Drinking in Early America*. (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002). *South Carolina Historical Magazine* (July 2003): 205-207.
- James Raven. *London Booksellers and their American Customers: Transatlantic Literary Community and the Charleston Library Society, 1748-181*. (University of South Carolina Press). H-Net Review for H-Atlantic. (January 2003).
- Louis Perez. *Winds of Change: Hurricanes and the Transformation of Revolutionary Cuba* (University of North Carolina Press, 2001). *Hispanic American Historical Review* (May 2002): 365-67.
- Peter McCandles. *Moonlight, Magnolias, & Madness: Insanity in South Carolina from the Colonial Period to the Progressive Era*. (University of North Carolina Press, 1996). *South Carolina Historical Magazine* 98 (January 1997): 105-107.

Short Reviews

- Ben Hughes, *Apocalypse 1692: Empire, Slavery, and the Great Port Royal Earthquake* (Yardley, PA 2017) in *Choice* (June 2018).
- Gerrit Jasper Schenk, ed. *Historical Disaster Experiences: Towards a Comparative and Transcultural History of Disasters across Asia and Europe* (Switzerland: Springer, 2017). *Choice* (November 2017).
- Robert Bush, ed. *Surveying the Early Republic: The Journal of Andrew Ellicott, U.S. Boundary Commissioner in the Old Southwest, 1796-1800*. (Baton Rouge, LA, 2016). *Choice* (April 2017).
- William Taylor, et al, eds. *The "Katrina Effect" on the Nature of Catastrophe* (London, Bloomsbury, 2015). *Choice* (March 2016)
- Michelle LeMaster and Bradford J. Wood, *Creating and Contesting Carolina: Proprietary Era Histories* (Columbia, SC, 2013). *Choice* (May 2014).
- Kristin Block, *Ordinary Lives in the Early Caribbean: Religion, Colonial Competition, and the Politics of Profit* (Georgia, 2012). *Choice*. (January 2013).
- The True and Exact History of the Island of Barbados*, ed., Karen Ordahl Kupperman (Indianapolis, 2011). *Choice* 49 (April 2012).
- David Welky. *The Thousand-Year Flood: The Ohio-Mississippi Disaster of 1937* (Chicago, 2011). *Choice* 49 (April 2012)
- Julie Ann Sweet. *William Stephens: Georgia's Forgotten Founder* (Baton Rouge, 2010). *Choice* 48 (March 2010).
- Rebecca Solnit, *A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities that Arise in Disasters* (New York, 2009). *Choice* 47 (January 2010).
- James Walvin, *The Trader, the Owner, the Slave; Parallel Lives in the Age of Slavery* (Jonathan Cape, 2008). *Choice* 46 (April 2009).
- Susan Dwyer Amussen. *Caribbean Exchanges: Slavery and the Transformation of English Society, 1640-1700*. (University of North Carolina Press, 2007). *Choice* 45 (August 2008).
- Chester Hartman and Gregory Squires, eds. *There is No Such Thing as a Natural Disaster: Race, Class, and Hurricane Katrina*. (Routledge, 2006). *Choice* 44 (July 2007).

- David Wilson. *The Southern Strategy: Britain's Conquest of South Carolina and Georgia, 1775-1780*. (University of South Carolina Press, 2005). *Choice* 43 (November 2005).
- Alice Fothergill. *Heads above Water: Gender, Class, and Family in the Grand Forks Flood*. (State University of New York Press, 2004). *Choice* 42 (April 2005).
- Bradford Wood. *This Remote Part of the World: Regional Formation in the Lower Cape Fear, North Carolina, 1725-1775*. (University of South Carolina Press, 2004). *Choice* 42 (March 2005)
- Eric Hindraker and Peter Mancall. *At the Edge of Empire: The Backcountry in British America*. (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003). *Choice* 41 (January 2004).
- Judith Van Buskirk. *Generous Enemies: Patriots and Loyalists in Revolutionary New York*. (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002). *Choice* 40 (May 2003).
- Susan Hoffman and Anthony Oliver-Smith, eds. *Catastrophe and Culture: The Anthology of Disasters*. (School of American Research, 2002). *Choice* 40 (January 2003).
- Verene Shepard, ed. *Working Slavery, Pricing Freedom: Perspectives from the Caribbean, Africa, and the African Diaspora* (Palgrave, 2002). *Choice* 40 (December 2002).
- Diana Paton, ed. *A Narrative of Events since the First of August, 1834, by James Williams, an Apprenticed Laborer in Jamaica* (Duke University Press, 2001). *Choice* 39 (April 2002).
- Alex Bontemps. *The Punished Self: Surviving Slavery in the Colonial South* (Cornell University Press, 2001). *Choice* 39 (December 2001).
- Leslie Hall. *Land and Allegiance in Revolutionary Georgia* (University of Georgia Press, 2001). *Choice* 39 (October 2001).
- James Drake. *King Philip's War: Civil War in New England, 1675-1676* (University of Massachusetts Press, 1999). *Choice* 37 (June 2000).

Invited Lectures and Conference Presentations

- “Early American Regions and the Greater Caribbean: Issues of Lumping and Splitting,” Harvard University Graduate Seminar on “Landscapes of Slavery and Freedom,” and moderator for panel discussion Oct. 15 and Nov. 6, 2021.
- “Natural Disasters and the Archives: Stories Told and Untold,” plenary lecture, Rare Book and Manuscript Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, June 22, 2018.
- “‘Miserably Scorched’: Drought in the Early Modern British Caribbean,” 24th Annual Omohundro Institute Conference, Williamsburg, VA, June 17, 2018.
- “Nature’s Battalions: Insects as Agricultural Pests in the Early Modern Caribbean,” (with Stuart Schwartz), Association of Caribbean Historians, Havana, Cuba, June, 2016
- “‘The Surest and Severest’ of Calamities: Drought and the Plantation Colonies of the Greater Caribbean,” Invited paper for Greater Caribbean symposium, University of Notre Dame, Feb. 7 -8, 2016
- “‘The Surest and Severest’ of Calamities: Drought and the Plantation Colonies of British America,” Invited paper for the “Atlantic Environments conference, Rice University, Feb. 5-6, 2016
- “Rethinking Early American Regions: The Case for the Greater Caribbean,” Symposium Honoring Russell Menard, University of Minnesota, May, 2012
- “The Fall of Port Royal and the Rise of Kingston: Disasters and Urban Centers in Eighteenth-Century Jamaica,” invited talk to graduate students at George Mason University, February 2012.
- “Beyond the Earthquake: The Port Royal Fire of 1703,” paper presented to the Association of Caribbean Historians Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, May, 2011.
- “The Port Royal Fire of 1703,” paper presented at “Disasters! A Conference on Catastrophes in History,” Hagley Museum, Wilmington DE, April, 2011
- “Environmental Threats and Imperial Celebrations: Days of Fasting and Thanksgiving in the British

- Caribbean, 1670-1780," presented at "National Worship in International Perspective: State Prayers, Fasts and Thanksgiving Since the Sixteenth Century," University of Durham, April 2010
- "The Rise and Fall – and Rise and Fall Again – of Port Royal, Jamaica, 1692-1722," paper at American Historical Association, San Diego, January 2010
- "'That Fatal Spot': The Rise and Fall – and Rise and Fall Again – of Port Royal, Jamaica," paper presented at USC Huntington Library/Omohundro Institute Conference on "Permanence and the Built Environment," October 2008.
- "The Port Royal Earthquake and the World of Wonders in Seventeenth-Century Jamaica," invited paper to MIT Seminar on Environmental and Agricultural History, March, 2008
- "The Port Royal Earthquake and the World of Wonders in Seventeenth-Century Jamaica," paper presented at the 39th Annual Association of Caribbean Historians Meeting, Kingston, Jamaica, May 2007
- "New Directions in the Study of American Plantation Economies," roundtable forum participant, Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, November 2006.
- "Sin City? Revisiting the 1692 Port Royal Earthquake," paper presented at the American Society for Environmental History, St. Paul, MN, March 2006
- "Encountering Hurricanes in the British Greater Caribbean," invited talk to Atlantic History Workshop, New York University, September 2004.
- "Hurricanes, Slavery, and Social Disorder," paper presented Third Biennial Allen Morris Conference on the History of Florida and the Atlantic World, Florida State University, February 2003.
- "Weathering the Storms: Hurricanes and Plantation Agriculture in the British Greater Caribbean," paper presented at Program in the Early American Economy, Library Company of Philadelphia, October 2002.
- "Natural Disasters and the Built Environment in the British Greater Caribbean during the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries," paper presented at the "The Material World of the Tidewater, the Lowcountry, and the Caribbean," conference, College of Charleston, June 2002.
- "Disasters, Politics, and Relief in the Revolutionary Atlantic: The Great Hurricanes of 1780 in Jamaica and Barbados," paper presented at the American Historical Association, San Francisco, January 2002
- "The Politics of Relief in the Revolutionary Atlantic: The Great Hurricanes of 1780 in Jamaica and Barbados," paper presented at the Washington Area Early American Seminar, University of Maryland College Park, March 2001.
- "Hurricanes and Plantation Society in Eighteenth-Century British America: A Case Study of William Senhouse and the Greater Hurricane of 1780 in Barbados," paper read at the Southern Historical Association, Louisville, November 2000.
- "Urban Disasters and Imperial Relief in the British-Atlantic World, 1740-1780," paper read at the Fifth International Conference on Urban History, Berlin, August 2000.
- "Disaster, Politics, and Relief in Revolutionary Barbados: The Great Hurricane of 1780," lecture presented at the John Carter Brown Library, Providence, RI, August 1998.
- "The English Encounter with Hurricanes in the Greater Caribbean," paper read at the 4th Annual Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture Conference, Worcester, MA, June 1998.
- "Judgments of the Almighty? Religion, Natural Philosophy, and the Interpretation of Hurricanes and Earthquakes in the 17th-Century British Caribbean," paper read at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Conference, South Bend, IN, April 1998.
- "'Dreadful' Fires and 'Terrible' Hurricanes: Disasters in South Carolina, 1740-1760," lecture presented at the College of Charleston, Program for Lowcountry Studies, September 1996.

"Melancholy and Fatal Calamities': Disasters and Society in 18th-Century South Carolina," paper read at the First Annual Conference on the Lowcountry and the Atlantic World, Institute for South Atlantic Studies, College of Charleston, May 1995.

"The Rise of Charleston and the Transformation of the Lowcountry Economy," (with Russell Menard), paper read at the annual meetings of the Social Science History Association, Atlanta, GA, October 1994.

I have served as a commentator or chair at a number of conferences, including the American Historical Association, the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, and the Southern Historical Association.

Manuscript Referee for a variety of journals and presses, including Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, the University of North Carolina, the University of Nebraska Press, *The William and Mary Quarterly*, *The American Historical Review*, *Early American Studies*, *Atlantic Studies*, *Environment and History*, *The Journal of Urban History*, *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, *Historical Research*, *Business History Review*, *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, *History Compass*.

Membership in Professional Organizations

American Historical Association
Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture
McNeil Center for Early American Studies

Service

Guest Editor, *Northeastern Naturalist*, 2016
Executive Governance Committee, 2015 – 2018, 2020-22
Loyola Conference, 2015- 2018, 2019-20, 2021-22
Budget Committee, 2015 –2018, 2019-20, 2021-22
Faculty Mentor, Finding the Path Program for Associate Professors, 2014-2018
Program Committee, 2013 Annual Conference of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture
Chair, Department of History, Loyola University Maryland, 2007-2013, 2017-19
Steering Committee, Center for the Humanities, Loyola University Maryland, 2007 – 2013, 2017-2019
Coordinator of Humanities Chairs, Loyola University Maryland, 2008-2013
Global Studies Steering Committee, Loyola University Maryland, 2010-11
American Studies Steering Committee, Loyola University Maryland, 2005-
NEH—Mellon Dissertation Fellowship Committee, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, 2010
College Board of Discipline, Loyola University Maryland, 2000-2007, 2021-22
Committee on Academic Standards, Loyola University Maryland, 2002-2007
Honor Council, Loyola University Maryland, 2001 – 2004

Courses Taught

HS 102: Making of the Modern World: United States I
HS 343: American Environmental History
HS 344: American Women's History

HS 345: The Peoples of Early America
HS 346: Revolutionary America
HS 348: The Civil War and Reconstruction
HS 427: Disasters in American History
HS 463: Seminar: Colonial British America
HS 493: Slavery and Freedom in Baltimore