

ALEXANDER SAYF CUMMINGS

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EDUCATION

Columbia University, (New York, New York), 2003-2009

PhD in Modern United States History, with distinction (May 2009)

Dissertation: *Music Piracy and the Value of Sound, 1909-1998*

Committee: Elizabeth Blackmar (adviser), Barbara Fields, Brian Larkin, Sarah Phillips, and Andie Tucher

MPhil in Modern United States History (May 2006)

Examination Fields: *Colonial America; Nineteenth and Twentieth Century United States; Media Technology and Modernity*

MA in Modern United States History (May 2005)

Thesis: *Portland, Oregon and the Making of the One-Newspaper Town*

University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 1999-2003

BA in History, *Summa cum laude*, with University Honors (May 2003)

Thesis: *Orientalism, Religion, and the West China Border Research Society, 1911-1948*

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Georgia State University, 2010-present

Consortium for Faculty Diversity Fellow, Media Studies Program, Vassar College, 2008-2010

Teaching Assistant, Department of History, Columbia University, 2004-2007

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK:

Democracy of Sound: Music Piracy and the Remaking of American Copyright, 1909-1998 (under contract with Oxford University Press).

ARTICLES:

"Marketing the 'Information Revolution': The 1960s Campaign for Automation," revise and resubmit at *Technology and Culture*.

"From Monopoly to Intellectual Property: Music Piracy and the Remaking of American Copyright, 1909-1971," *Journal of American History* 97 (Dec. 2010): 659-81.

"Collectors, Bootleggers, and the Value of Jazz, 1930-1952," in David Suisman and Susan Strasser, eds., *Sound in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009), 95-114.

"Life in the Menagerie: David Crockett Graham and Missionary-Scientists in Sichuan, China, 1911-1948," *American Baptist Quarterly* (Fall 2009).

REVIEWS:

Inherent Vice: Bootleg Histories of Videotape and Copyright, by Lucas Hilderbrand, in *Visual Resources: An International Journal of Documentation* (forthcoming).

Tactical Media, by Rita Raley, in *Technology and Culture* 53 (July 2011): 51-53.

TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

Comment on "To Be Bound as Her Adopted Child" and "Girl Guiding and the Civilizing Mission of Imperialism," Association of Georgia State University Historians conference, Georgia State University (Atlanta, GA), 16 April 2011.

"Honor among Thieves? The Music Industry's Effort to Create a Moral Panic over Piracy in the 1970s," at Georgia Association of Historians 2011 Annual Meeting (Savannah, GA), 24-26 February 2011.

"'Climate' Change: Inventing an Urban Milieu in North Carolina's Research Triangle, 1954-1965," at Southern American Studies Association 2011 Biennial Conference, Georgia State University (Atlanta, GA), 17-19 February 2011.

"The Rise of the Free Information Culture," at the Spring Intellectual Buffet, Vassar College, 6 May 2010.

"Bootlegging as a Form of Anti-Capitalist Consumerism," in the session "The Commerce of Social Change: Business, Consumer Culture, and American Politics, 1950-1980," at 2010 Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians (Washington, DC), 7-10 April 2010.

"Culture Industries," chair, at 2010 Annual Meeting of the Business History Conference (Athens, GA), 27 March 2010.

"Using New Media to Map the History of the Information Economy," poster session at 2010 Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association (San Diego, CA), 9 January 2010.

"The Technology and Rhetoric of Democratic Access to Sound Recordings," at Humanities and Technology Association Conference, University of Virginia (Charlottesville, VA), September 24-26 2009.

"The Forms of Bootleg Culture in Twentieth Century America," invited talk at the Department of Art and Art History, St. Olaf College (Northfield, MN), 21 April 2009.

“Sound Recording and the Rise of an Intellectual Property Movement in the United States,” talk at the Department of History, Vassar College (Poughkeepsie, NY), 27 March 2009.

“Technology, Counterculture, and the Bootleg Boom,” at *Popular Music & Popular Culture: Intersections and Histories* (IASPM-Canada annual conference), Brock University (St. Catharines, Ontario), May 9-11, 2008.

“Jazz Collectors and Copying as Preservation,” at *Sound in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction* (conference), Hagley Museum and Library (Wilmington, Delaware), November 29, 2007.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“The Crack Epidemic,” “The Election of Benazir Bhutto,” “The Execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg,” “FDR and the New Deal,” “The Great Leap Forward,” “The Emergence of Pentecostalism,” “The US Enters World War I,” and “The WTO Protest in Seattle,” in Bianca Jackson and Jonathan Morton, eds., *Defining Moments in History: Over a Century of the People, Discoveries, Disasters, and Political and Cultural Events that Rocked the World* (London: Cassell Publishing, 2008).

“Arab Hillbilly Goes to New York,” in *Not Quite What I Was Planning: Six Word Memoirs by Writers Famous and Obscure* (New York: Harper Perennial, 2008).

“Is Piracy Killing Independent Music?” *Brooklyn Rail*, December 2007.

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies Recent Doctoral Recipients Fellowship, 2010-2011

Society of American Historians Allan Nevins Dissertation Prize nominee, 2010

Bancroft Dissertation Prize nominee, Columbia University, 2009

Harvard Society of Fellows nominee, Harvard University, 2009

Christian A. Johnson Consortium for Faculty Diversity Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Vassar College, 2009-2010

Consortium for Faculty Diversity Scholar Travel Fund Grant, 2009

Christian A. Johnson Consortium for Faculty Diversity Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, Vassar College, 2008-2009

Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2008-2009 (declined)

Whiting Fellowship, 2008-2009 (declined)

Summer Research Fellowship, Columbia University, 2007-2008

Torbet Prize, American Baptist Historical Society, 2007

Research Fellow, Center for Popular Culture Studies, Bowling Green State University, 2007

Hofstadter Fellowship, Department of History, Columbia University, 2003-2008

Secondary Education Teaching Award, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 2003

Davenport Scholar, Department of History, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 2001

North Carolina Teaching Fellow, 1999-2003

COURSES TAUGHT

Georgia State University, 2011

Assistant Professor

Seminar in Twentieth Century United States History

Introduction to Historical Studies

Vassar College, 2008-2010

Instructor

Art, Appropriation, and New Media

Geography of Media

Approaches to Media Studies

Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies, Empire State College, 2009

Instructor

Critical Labor Studies

Columbia University, 2004-2007

Teaching Assistant

American Urban History, Professor Kenneth Jackson

The Radical Tradition in America, Professor Eric Foner

American Civilization to the Civil War, Professor Robert McCaughey

America since 1960, Professor Sarah Phillips

The American West, Professor Ellen Baker

United States, 1900-1940, Professor Sarah Phillips

University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 2005

Instructor

Connecting with College (writing seminar)

Teaching Assistant

Visual Performance: The Language of Our Time, Professor James Vesce

THESES ADVISED

Vassar College, Media Studies Program

Evan Altshuler, *The Google Brand and the Search for Its Marketing Strategies* (2009)
Ben Krakow, *Hail to the Thief: Music Blogs and the Propagation of New Music* (2009)
Paul Noonan, *Self Identification with Music* (2010)
Sarajane Tarlow, *Journalism 2.0: Rethinking Potentials for Specificity of Online News in the Digital Age* (2009)

RESEARCH WORK

Research Assistant for George Stephanopoulos, 2008

Historical background for study of presidential leadership (Hyperion Books).

Research Assistant for Professor Steve Gillon, 2007

Revision of US history survey textbook, *The American Experiment* (Houghton-Mifflin).

Columbia Business School (New York, New York), 2006-2007

Research Assistant for Professor Sheena Iyengar
Historical background for book project on social psychology of economic choice.

University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 2003

Research Assistant for Professor Kathleen Donohue
Collected primary sources for a history of the Freedom of Information Act.

MULTIMEDIA

Tropics of Meta, 2010-2011

Designed and edited website for discussion of culture, politics, and research by historians and other scholars, at <http://www.tropicsofmeta.com>.

Videri Project, 2005-2007, 2009-2010

Designed and organized collaborative wiki database for summary and analysis of historical literature, at <http://videri.wikidot.com>.

LICENSES/CERTIFICATIONS

North Carolina Secondary (9-12) Social Studies Teaching License

REFERENCES

Elizabeth Blackmar
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Barbara Fields
212 662 1403

Sarah Phillips
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sarahphi@bu.edu

Eric Foner
212 854 5253
ef17@columbia.edu