

## JOYCE E. CHAPLIN

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### EDUCATION

Ph. D., Department of History, Johns Hopkins University, 1986.  
Fulbright Scholar to the United Kingdom, 1985-86.  
Visiting Student, St. Catherine's College, Oxford University, 1985-86.  
M. A., Department of History, Johns Hopkins, 1984.  
B. A., American Culture/Psychology (neuroscience), Northwestern University, 1982.

### PROFESSIONAL CAREER

James Duncan Phillips Professor of Early American History, Department of History, Harvard University, 2006-  
Member, Standing Committee on the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Planning, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, 2015-  
Affiliate, Department of the History of Science, Harvard University, 2012-  
Member, Program in American Studies, Harvard University, 2000-  
Professor, Department of History, Harvard University, 2000-06.  
Associate Professor, Department of History, Vanderbilt University, 1993-2000.  
Assistant Professor, Department of History, Vanderbilt University, 1986-1993.

### VISITING APPOINTMENTS

Professor, Ca' Foscari School of International Education-Harvard Summer School Program (Venice), 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2023.  
Visiting Faculty, Maritime Studies, Sea Education Association (in Woods Hole, MA, and aboard SSV *Corwith Cramer* in North Atlantic), summer 2004 and 2005.  
Visiting Professor, Department of History, University of Sydney, 2004.  
Visiting Associate Professor, Department of History, Harvard University, 1998-99.  
Visiting Professor, School of History, University of Leeds, 1991-92.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Books

*The Franklin Stove: An Unintended American Revolution* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, forthcoming).  
*The New Worlds of Thomas Robert Malthus: Rereading the Principle of Population*, with Alison Bashford (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016).  
*Round about the Earth: Circumnavigation from Magellan to Orbit* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2012).  
Translated into Korean (2013), Estonian, (2013).  
*Benjamin Franklin's Political Arithmetic: A Materialist View of Humanity* (Washington, D. C.: Smithsonian Institution, 2009).

*The First Scientific American: Benjamin Franklin and the Pursuit of Genius* (New York: Basic Books, 2006).

Finalist, Los Angeles Times Book Prize.

Winner, Annibel Jenkins Prize, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.

*Subject Matter: Technology, the Body, and Science on the Anglo-American Frontier, 1500-1676* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2001).

*An Anxious Pursuit: Agricultural Innovation and Modernity in the Lower South, 1730-1815* (Chapel Hill: Institute of Early American History and Culture, 1993).

Winner, Willie Lee Rose Book Prize, Southern Assoc. of Women Historians.

#### Edited Works

Thomas Robert Malthus, *An Essay on the Principle of Population*, A Norton Critical Edition (New York: W. W. Norton, 2017).

*Genealogies of Genius*, essays edited with Darrin McMahon (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015).

*Food in Time and Place*, essays edited with Paul Freedman and Kenneth Albala (Berkeley, California: University of California, 2014).

*Benjamin Franklin's Autobiography*, Norton Critical Edition (New York: W. W. Norton, 2012).

"Benjamin Franklin: A How-to Guide. Catalog of an Exhibition," double issue of the *Harvard Library Bulletin*, vol. 17, no. 1 (2007).

#### Essays (last 15 years)

"The Franklin Stove: Modern Materiality, Made in Pennsylvania," *William & Mary Quarterly*, 81 (2024): 219-54.

"Historians of Ideas Rush in Where Stratigraphers Fear to Tread," *Journal of the History of Ideas*, 84 (2023): 775-801.

"Why Drink Water? Diet, Materialisms, and British Imperialism," *Osiris*, 35 (2020): 99-122.

With Heather Clifford (first author) et al., "A 2000 Year Saharan Dust Event Proxy Record from an Ice Core in the European Alps," *JGR: Atmospheres* (Nov. 2019), <https://doi.org/10.1029/2019JD030725>

"Can the Nonhuman Speak? Breaking the Chain of Being in the Anthropocene," *Journal of the History of Ideas* 78 (2017): 509-29.

"Was Knowledge Power? Science in the British Atlantic," in *The World of Colonial America: An Atlantic Handbook*, ed. Ignacio Gallup-Diaz (Routledge: New York, 2017).

"The Problem of Genius in the Age of Slavery," in *Genealogies of Genius*, ed. Joyce E. Chaplin and Darrin McMahon (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015).

"The Lives of an American Life: Benjamin Franklin's *Autobiography*," in *On Life Writing*, ed. Zachary Leader (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015).

"Epistémologies coloniales aux Etats-Unis," in *Histoire des sciences modernes*, vol. II, ed. Kapil Raj et Otto Sibum (Paris: Éditions du Seuil, 2015).

"The Other Revolution," *Early American Studies* 13 (2015), 285-308.

- “Ogres and Omnivores: Early American Historians and Climate History,” *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ser., 72 (2015), 25-32
- “Food and the Material Origins of Early America,” in *Food in Time and Place*, ed. Freedman, Chaplin, Albala (2014).
- “How Size Matters: The Question of Scale in History,” an AHR Conversation (also with Sebouh Aslanian, Ann McGrath, and Kristin Mann), *American Historical Review*, 118 (2013), 1431-72.
- “The Pacific before Empire,” *Pacific Histories: Ocean, Land, People*, ed. David Armitage and Alison Bashford (New York: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2013).
- “Planetary Power?: The United States and the History of around-the-World Travel,” *Journal of American Studies*, 47 (2013), 1-21.
- “Earthsickness: Circumnavigation and the Terrestrial Human Body, 1520-1800,” *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 86 (2012), 515-42.
- “The British Atlantic,” in *Oxford Handbook to the Atlantic World*, ed. Nicholas P. Canny and Philip D. Morgan (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011).
- “1722: Benjamin Franklin’s Silence Dogood Letters,” in *A New Literary History of America*, ed. Greil Marcus and Werner Sollors (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2009).
- “Roanoke ‘counterfeited according to the truth,’” in *A New World: England’s First View of America*, ed. Kim Sloan (London: British Museum Press, 2006).  
Book short-listed for Berger Prize for British Art History.  
Japanese translation, 2009.

#### Review and Other Essays

- “Having Vaccines Alone Isn’t Enough to Defeat Covid-19,” *Washington Post* (Feb. 23, 2021).
- “Even Andrew Jackson Showed More Leadership than Donald Trump in a Pandemic,” *Washington Post* (Apr. 1, 2020).
- “David McCullough’s Idealistic Settlers,” *New York Times* (May 13, 2019).
- “Why Americans Trust Technology But Not Science,” *Washington Post* (Jan. 17, 2019).
- “Slouching toward Bethlehem,” *Times Literary Supplement* (June 5, 2018).
- “What Cheer, Though?” *Times Literary Supplement* (Jan. 26, 2018).
- “Malthusian Tea with a Lump of Utopia,” *Aeon* (aeon.co)
- “The Fever of 1721,” *New York Times Book Review* (Mar. 4, 2016).
- “Climate History is the Room of Requirement,” *Uncommon Sense* (Feb. 2015)
- “The Hand-Held’s Tale,” *Aeon* (aeon.co).
- “Bedbugs and Broomsticks,” *London Review of Books*, 35, no. 11 (June 2013).
- “Revolution Redux,” *New York Times Book Review* (June 7, 2013).
- “What Would the Tahitians Say?” *London Review of Books*, 34, no. 10 (May 2012).
- “Roger Williams: The Great Separationist,” *New York Times Book Review* (Dec. 30, 2012).
- “When Women Lost the Vote,” *New York Times Book Review* (June 17, 2011).
- “Benjamin Franklin and Science, Continuing Opportunities for Study,” *Perspectives on Science*, 14 (2006).
- “Overboard: A Historian’s Life at Sea,” [www.common-place.org](http://www.common-place.org) (Jan. 2006).
- “A Timely Look at Ben Franklin, Nation Builder,” *Chicago Tribune* (Apr. 17, 2005).

## **CLIMATE and ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTIVISM**

Member, Scientist Rebellion (2023- ).

Co-author, “Harvard’s Response to the Climate Crisis, Faculty of Arts and Science [White Paper](#)” (Nov. 2019).

Signatory, “[Brief of Amici Curiae](#), Environmental History Professors in Support of Plaintiffs,” USA, et al., v. Kelsey Cascadia Rose Juliana, et al., (Mar. 2019).

Co-founder, Harvard Faculty Divest (2014- ).

## **HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Corresponding Fellow, Australian Academy of the Humanities (elected 2022).

Member, American Philosophical Society (elected 2020).

Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences (elected 2019).

Guggenheim Fellowship, 2018-19.

NEH Fellowship, Library Company of Philadelphia, 2018.

Gladys Krible Delmas Foundation Fellow, John Carter Brown Library, 2017.

Research Fellow, Neubauer Collegium, University of Chicago, 2014-15.

Benjamin Meeker Visiting Professor, University of Bristol, fall 2014.

Australian Research Council (grant for project # DP140101392, “Malthus and the New World, Alison Bashford and Joyce E. Chaplin), 2014-18.

Member, Colonial Society of Massachusetts (elected 2011).

Pitt Professorship of American History and Institutions, University of Cambridge (declined).

Fellow, Massachusetts Historical Society (elected 2008).

Member, American Antiquarian Society (elected 2007).

Fletcher Jones Distinguished Research Fellow, Huntington Library, 2006-07.

Walter Channing Cabot Fellow, Harvard University, 2006-07.

The Molly and Sidney N. Zubrow Award “in Recognition of the Role of History in Society,” Pennsylvania Hospital, 2006.

Charles H. Watts Memorial Fellowship, the John Carter Brown Library (winter 1998).

Mayers Fellowship, Huntington Library (fall 1997).

Fulbright Scholarship to the United Kingdom, 1985-86.

## **MAJOR LECTURES**

Inaugural Benjamin Franklin Distinguished Lectures, McNeil Center for Early American Studies (declined).

Huntington Library Centennial Lecture, 2019.

Meigs Lecture in United States History, Wesleyan University, 2018.

Lovejoy Lecture, *Journal of the History of Ideas*, 2016.

Benjamin Franklin Project Lecture, Illinois Institute of Technology, 2015.

Benjamin Franklin Project Lecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2013.

Naval Historical Foundation lecture, National Museum of the United States Navy, 2012.

Sproat Lecture, University of South Carolina, 2012.

Plenary lecture, British Association of American Studies, 2012.

Ward Lecture, University of Sydney, 2010.

Sonia Galletti Lecture, John Carter Brown Library, 2010.

Plenary lecture, National Maritime Museum/Royal Society, London, 2008.  
 Exhibition lecture, Yale Center for British Art, 2008.  
 Colloquium, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 2008.  
 Public interview, Musée des arts et métiers, Paris, 2007.  
 Dibner Lecture, Smithsonian Institution Libraries, 2006.  
 Distinguished Lecturer, Houston Museum of Natural Science, 2006.  
 Wistar Institute Authors Series, Philadelphia, 2006.  
 Zubrow Lecture, Pennsylvania Hospital, 2006.  
 Crotty Lecture, Huntington Library, 2006.  
 Hart Institute Lecture, Pomona College, 2005.

### **SELECT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Faculty Steering Committee, Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability, Harvard University, 2023-  
 Board of Governors, the John Carter Brown Library, 2020-  
 Advisory Board, Massachusetts Historical Society, 2019-  
 Faculty Executive Board, Harvard Museums of Science and Culture, 2015-  
 Guest curator for “Resetting the Table: Food and Our Changing Tastes,” Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography, Harvard University, 2019-22.  
 Chair, American Studies, Harvard University, 2015-18.  
 Guest curator for “Air,” one of four exhibits on the four elements at the John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, 2016.  
 Steering Committee, Initiative on the Science of the Human Past, Harvard University, 2013-  
 Adams Papers Administrative Committee, Massachusetts Historical Society, 2015-21.  
 Board of editors, *Journal of American Studies*, 2016-22.  
 Board of editors (founding member), *Global Food History*, 2014-  
 Search committee, Paul Mellon Professorship of American History, Cambridge University, 2013-14.  
 Faculty editorial advisor, *Graduate Journal of Food Studies*, 2014 -  
 Editorial advisor, *American Yawp*, 2013-  
 Committee, Morris D. Forkosch Book Prize, *Journal of the History of Ideas*, 2014-16.  
 Board of advisors, *Configurations*, 2013-  
 Search committee, director of the John Carter Brown Library, 2012-13.  
 Administrative Board, *Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, Yale University/American Philosophical Society, 2012-  
 Trustee, Massachusetts Historical Society, 2011-19  
 “World of Possibilities” Educational Panel, Benjamin Franklin House, London, 2011-  
 Board of editors, *Journal of the History of Ideas*, 2009-  
 Co-editor, “Early America: History, Context, Culture,” monograph series, the Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001-19.  
 Director, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University, 2007-10.  
 Co-curator, “Benjamin Franklin, a How-to Guide,” exhibition at Houghton Library and Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments, Harvard University, 2006.  
 Joint Committee of the Organization of American Historians and Advanced Placement,

“America on the World Stage,” series of essays placing U. S. history in global context, 2003-06.

Board of editors, *Environmental History*, 2001-05.

Nominating Committee, American Historical Association, 2001-03 (chair of committee, 2003).

Board of editors, *Journal of Southern History*, 1999-2004.

Co-organizer, “From Bacon to Bartram: Early American Inquiries into the Natural World,” conference sponsored by the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture and the American Museum of Natural History, New York (Mar. 2002).

Founding editor for section on North America, *History Compass* (Blackwell Publishers): [www.blackwell-compass.com/subject/history/](http://www.blackwell-compass.com/subject/history/), 2001-03.

Council, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, 1994-96.

**May 2024**