

**Molly Taylor-Poleskey**

Assistant Professor of History, Middle Tennessee State University

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**EDUCATION:**

Stanford University, Stanford, CA 2008-2016  
M.A., History (2010), PhD, History (2016)  
with certificate in Digital Humanities  
Dissertation: The Great Elector's Table: Food and the Rise of  
Brandenburg-Prussia, 1640-1688.  
Advisor: Laura Stokes. Committee: Laura Stokes, Paula Findlen, Carolyn Lougee.

Universität Osnabrück, Germany (as Congress-Bundestag fellow) Fall 2006

Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA 2001-2005  
B.A. in History, Minor: Music. Magna cum laude with a high honors history thesis  
Thesis: The Italian Journey of Hester Lynch Piozzi: The personal and cultural  
transformation of a Georgian lady.

Università di Bologna, Italy (Study abroad through Indiana University) 2003-2004

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

Middle Tennessee State University, Assistant Professor, Fall 2016-Present  
HIST 6994: Advanced Projects in Public History  
HIST 6920: Selected Studies in Digital History  
HIST 6205/7205: Research Seminar in European History  
HIST 3090: Topics in European History: Science, Religion, Magic  
HIST 6993/7993: Digital History Field School "Hidden Town in 3D"  
HIST 6920: Selected Studies in European History  
HIST 6450/7450: Digital Tools for Historians Graduate Seminar  
HIST 3870: Digital Public History  
HIST 4985: Senior Seminar  
HIST 2010: Survey of U.S. History to 1877  
HIST 3075: Study Abroad to Italy (Postponed due to COVID-19)

University of Arkansas, Co-leader, DH Graduate Summer Workshop (Postponed to 2022)

Stanford University:

Early Modern Europe Survey, Lecturer (Spring 2016)  
Global History, 1300-1800, Teaching Assistant (Winter 2015)  
Identities of Early Modern Noble Women, Instructor (Spring 2011)  
Early Modern Europe Survey, Teaching Assistant (Fall 2010)  
Enlightenment and the Arts, Teaching Assistant (Spring 2010)  
Introduction to Modern Europe, Teaching Assistant (Fall 2009)

## TEACHING FIELDS:

Digital History, Modern and Early Modern Europe, Early Modern Global, Reformation, Enlightenment, Women & Gender, and Food History

## PUBLICATIONS:

*Food and Culture at the Court of the Great Elector* (Under contract with the University of Virginia Press).

“Essen und Trinken” solicited article for *Körperbilder der Macht in Europa 1300-1800*. Edited by Marisa Mandabach, Ulrich Pfisterer and Jörg Bellin (forthcoming).

“Teaching Culture Games: Re-interpreting Slavery at a Living History Museum,” co-authored with Rick Lewis. *Journal of Computing and Cultural Heritage*, April 2021, Vol. 14, No. 2, Article 26.

Review of *Der Große Kurfürst. Neu Betrachtet*, by Jürgen Luh. *German History*, Fall 2020, 43:3.

“Digital Humanities Preservation: A Conversation for Developing Sustainable Digital Projects,” with Alissa Miller. In Mary Balkun and Marta Deyrup, eds., *Transformative Digital Humanities: Challenges and Opportunities*. Abingdon: Routledge, 2020.

“A Simple Process for Charting Urban Change with Digital Tools,” in Christopher Young, ed., *Quick Hits: Teaching with the Digital Humanities*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2020.

Review of *Food, Religion and Communities in Early Modern Europe*, by Christopher Kissane. *Cultural History*, February 2020, vol. 7/2.

“When the Tomato was Purely Ornamental: Considering New World Foods in Seventeenth-Century Berlin,” in Martina Kaller and Frank Jacob, eds., *Transatlantic Trade and Global Cultural Transfers*. Abingdon: Routledge, 2019.

Review of *Networked Nation: Mapping German Cities in Sebastian Münster’s Cosmographia*, by Jasper van Putten. *Renaissance Quarterly*, Summer 2019, vol. 72/2.

“A Baker, the Great Elector and Prussian Statebuilding: Territorial Integration in the Everyday,” *German History*, February 2019, 37/1.

“Teaching in the Digital Humanities - an RSA Roundtable Summary,” co-editor. *Kunsttexte.de* 4/2018-1. <http://www.kunsttexte.de/index.php?id=55>.

“Brandenburg-Prussia’s Cultivated Natural Food Landscape,” *Food and Landscape. Proceedings of the Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery 2017*, ed. Mark

McWilliams. London: Prospect Books, 2018.

“Journey Down the Rhine: The Story Map of the 1613 Wedding Journey of Elizabeth Stuart and Friedrich V of the Palatinate,”  
<http://web.stanford.edu/group/spatialhistory/cgi-bin/site/pub.php?id=129>,  
*Stanford Spatial History Project*, 2018.

“British Architects in Italy: Visualizing transformation on the Grand Tour,” *American Historical Review*. Co-authored with G. Ceserani, N. Coleman, and S. Murray, 122: 2 (April 2017), 425-450.

Review of *Food and Health in Early Modern Europe: Diet, Medicine and Society, 1450-1800*, by David Gentilcore. *Early Science and Medicine* 21: 6 (2016), p. 602 - 604.

„Speisen und Konsum in den Residenzen des Großen Kurfürsten: Preußen, Kleve und Brandenburg im Vergleich, 1640-1688.” in Bernhart Jähmig, Jürgen Kloosterhuis, Wulf Wagner, eds., *Preußenland und Preußen. Polyzentrik im Zentralstaat 1525-1945*. Berlin: Geheimes Staatsarchiv, 2016.

“Mapping the Journey up the Rhine: Digital Representations of the Marriage Journey,” in Sara Smart and Mara R. Wade, eds., *The Palatine Wedding of 1613. Context, Celebration, and Consequence of an Anglo-German Alliance*. Wolfenbüttel: Wolfenbütteler Arbeiten zur Renaissanceforschung, 2013, 171-190.

“Burney’s Journey: Visualizing social and research networks of one 18<sup>th</sup>-century ‘Grand Tourist’” in *The CESTA Anthology 2013*, edited by Jake Coolidge with an introduction by Zephyr Frank. Stanford: The Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA), 2013, 51-58.

Review of *As American as Shoofly Pie: The Foodlore and Fakelore of Pennsylvania Dutch Cuisine*, by William Woy Weaver. *Food, Culture & Society* 17:4 (December 2014).

Contributor to the Stanford Humanities News Service, Vivarium (the Stanford Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies blog), the Recipes Project ([recipes.hypotheses.org](http://recipes.hypotheses.org)), and the New Books in History podcast

#### **DIGITAL PROJECTS:**

MTSU’s COVID-19 Archive Submissions page (with students in HIST 6450, Summer 2020)  
<https://mtsu.edu/covidarchive/>

Digital Holy Roman Empire Mapping Project (In planning)

Hidden Town in 3D (Collaboration between Old Salem Museum and MTSU’s DH Field School) <https://www.hiddentown3d.org/> or <http://www.mtsu.edu/hiddentown3D/>

Bygone Nashville (Class project for HIST 3870: Digital Public History)  
<https://bygone-nashville.mtsu.edu/>

Mapping the Republic of Letters Grand Tour Project (2008-2012)  
<http://republicofletters.stanford.edu/casestudies/grandtour.html>

Königsberg Foodstuff Database  
<https://www.taylor-poleskey.net/koenigsbergfood.html>

Journey up the Rhine Digital Map of the 1613 Marriage Journey  
<http://www.taylor-poleskey.net/jutr.html>

#### **GRANTS, AWARDS AND AFFILIATIONS:**

NEH Summer Stipend (Summer 2021)

Ludwig Maximilian Universität, München, Guest scholar, Sonderforschungsbereich  
"Vigilanzkulturen" (Spring 2021)

MTSU Walker Library Information Literacy Integration Grant, 2020

German History Society Article Prize 2019 for 'A Baker, the Great Elector and  
Prussian State-Building in the Everyday.'

NEH Summer Seminar, "Material Maps in the Digital Age" (Director, Jim  
Akerman), Newberry Library, Chicago, 2019.

MTSU Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity Platinum Grant (2019),  
faculty sponsor for Holy Roman Empire digital mapping project

MTSU Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology Award (2018)

MTSU Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity Grant (2018), faculty  
sponsor for Holy Roman Empire digital mapping project

MTSU Faculty Research and Creative Activity Grant (Summer 2017)

MTSU Walker Library Digital Initiatives Seed Grant (2017 and 2020)

Giles Whiting Humanities Fellowship (2014-5)

Iter Gateway Digital Humanities Travel Grant (2014)

Stanford Humanities + Design Lab Graduate Research Fellow (2013-14)

Campus d'été, Institut Européen d'Histoire et des Cultures de l'Alimentation,  
Université François-Rabelais de Tours (2013)

Lane Research Grant in the History of Science, Medicine and Technology (Summer 2013)

Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz Graduate Research Grant (2013)

Ludwig Maximilian Universität, München (2012-13), Guest scholar

Central European History Society Travel Grant (2012)

DAAD Graduate Research Fellowship (2011-12)

Fulbright Research Grant to Germany (2011-12), declined

Interdisziplinäre Institut für Kulturgeschichte der Frühen Neuzeit, Universität  
Osnabrück (2011-12), Guest scholar

Hume Graduate Fellowship Fund in History (Fall 2008-2011), Stanford University

Congress-Bundestag Fellowship to Germany (2006-7)

Mary Lyons Scholar (2004-5), Mount Holyoke College award for academic excellence

Almara Grant (January 2005), Mount Holyoke College funding for thesis research in the  
U.K.

Pugh Grant in History (2004), Mount Holyoke College funding for thesis research in Italy  
and the U.K.

#### **INVITED LECTURES AND CONFERENCE TALKS:**

Oberseminar Frühe Neuzeit, Ludwig Maximilian Universität, Munich (April 26, 2021)  
“Poison: The ever-present, hidden threat”

Food and the Book Digital Conference, Center for Renaissance Studies at the Newberry  
Library and the Folger Institute’s collaborative research project, Before ‘Farm to  
Table’: Early Modern Foodways and Cultures (October 2020)  
Invited speaker for panel on food history in the archives.

*Interdisziplinärer Arbeitskreis Historische Geographische Informationssysteme &  
Digital Humanities* Guest lecture, Universität Heidelberg (July, 16, 2019)  
“Mapping 1613 in 2019: What Digital Mapping Tools Can and Should do for  
Historians.”

Renaissance Society of America, Toronto (March 16-19, 2018)  
Discussant, “Teaching and Researching the Early Modern with Digital Tools”  
Roundtable Presenting Author, “Materials of the Meal: Tools of the Prussian  
Court Kitchen”  
Digital Learning Seminar Leader, “A Hands-on Introduction to 3D Modeling,”

Slave Dwelling Conference (October 26, 2018)  
“Augmented Interpretation of the Slave Dwelling”, moderator and panelist

Forsyth County Preservation Month Lunchtime Lecture (May 25, 2018)  
“Hidden Town in 3D: Old Salem and New Technologies”

Renaissance Society of America, New Orleans (March 22-24, 2018)  
Moderator and co-organizer, “Teaching in the Digital Humanities” Roundtable  
Frühe Neuzeit Interdisziplinär, Washington University, St. Louis (March 8-10, 2018)  
“The Holy Roman Empire in the Digital Age”

German Studies Association Conference (October 5, 2017), Digital Humanities Seminar  
“Can Taste be Tracked? Data Visualizations of 17th-Century Consumption”

Middle Tennessee Learning Teaching & Innovative Technologies Center (September 8,

2017) Panelist: “Fake News and Information Literacy”  
Oxford Symposium on Food & Cookery (July 2017)  
“Brandenburg-Prussia’s Cultivated Natural Food Landscape”  
Universität Greifswald (May 29, 2017)  
“Digital Projections of Early Modern Space: A Modern Story Map of the Palatine Wedding of 1613.”  
Renaissance Society of America, Chicago (March 30-April 1, 2017)  
“Journey Down the Rhine: Story Map of the Palatine Wedding of 1613.”  
Chair: “Digital Humanities and Literature: Digital Editing and Network Visualizations”  
MTSU’s College of Basic and Applied Sciences Research Exchange (March 2, 2017)  
Lightning talk: “Big Data in Digital History”  
MTSU History Department “Caffeine and Cake” Discussion Forum (February 1, 2017)  
Organizer and discussant: “Reacting to the Present: Digital Media Literacy in the History Classroom”  
Middle Tennessee Walker Library DH Seminar (November 11, 2016)  
“Defining Digital Humanities and the Future of DH at MTSU”  
Vanderbilt University’s German History Seminar (November 10, 2016)  
“The Baker, the Great Elector, and Prussian State Formation: Everyday Absolutism in 17th-Century Königsberg”  
Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis and History Department, Stanford (May 5, 2016)  
Organizer and moderator: “Launching a Career in the Digital Humanities”  
Renaissance Society of America, Boston (April 1, 2016)  
“The Great Elector and the Baker: A Microhistory of Statebuilding in Seventeenth-Century Brandenburg-Prussia”  
Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis, Stanford (November 18, 2015)  
Discussant for Panel: “Does Digital Humanities scholarship count?”  
The Renaissance Graduate Research Series, Stanford University (November 2, 2015)  
Public conversation on my research and the state of early modern European food history with Professor Ken Albala, University of the Pacific  
Back-to-Class 2015, Mount Holyoke College Reunion Lecture (May 15, 2015)  
“Transformation in the Pot: Blancmange and the Revolution in European Cuisine.”  
Renaissance Society of America, Berlin (March 27, 2015)  
“‘Mostly eaten by worms and no longer useful.’ The Demise of the Kitchen Tools One Court Left Behind.”  
Institut für Geschichte der Medizin, Charité Berlin (March 19, 2015)  
Study day on Dr. Johann Sigismund Elsholtz  
Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Stanford University (February 19, 2014)  
“Material Culture of the 17th-Century Court Kitchen.”  
*Der Kreis* German History Working Group, UC Berkeley (February 11, 2015)  
“The Great Elector’s Table: Food and the Rise of Brandenburg-Prussia, 1640-1688.”  
Sixteenth Century Society Conference, New Orleans (October 2014)  
“A Feast for the Eyes: Digital Visualizations of Consumption at the Court of Brandenburg-Prussia in the 17th Century.”  
Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Stanford University (March 6, 2014)  
“Festival and Everyday Dining at the Court of the Great Elector of Brandenburg-Prussia (1640-1688).”  
Research Center for the Theory and History of Science, University of West Bohemia,

- Pilzen, Czech Republic (November 18, 2013)  
 “The Great Elector’s Physician: Johann Sigismund Elsholtz and Diet at the Court of Brandenburg-Prussia, 1640-1688.”  
 Neue Forschungen zur Frühen Neuzeit Oberseminar, Ludwig Maximilian Universität, Munich (June 20, 2013)  
 “The Manner of the Meal: Assessing Court Dining Culture Beyond Festival Literature.”
- Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference, San Diego (April 4, 2013)  
 “Wartime Dining at the Court of Brandenburg-Prussia.”
- Stanford University Libraries’ Series on Paleography and Manuscript Studies (April 3, 2013)  
 “How to Ignite a Palace with a Cat Bomb and other Early Modern German Secrets: A History of *Kurrentschrift* and Some Practical Tools for Reading It.”
- Stanford in Berlin orientation lecture (October 1, 2012)  
 “Berlin in the 17th and 18th Centuries: Rise of a European Capital.”
- Baroque Bodies, International Conference of the European Networks of Baroque Cultural Heritage, Vienna (September 26-29, 2012)  
 “Festkultur trifft Alltagsgeschichte: Kitchen Administration Reforms at Court of Brandenburg-Prussia.”
- Neuere Forschungskolloquium des Interdisziplinäres Institut für Kulturgeschichte der Frühen Neuzeit an der Universität Osnabrück (May 15, 2012)  
 Dissertation Concept: “The Brandenburg Court Food System in the Seventeenth Century.”
- Doktorandenkolloquium der Professorin Claudia Ulbrich , Friedrich Meineke Institute, Freie Universität, Berlin (February 28, 2012)  
 Dissertation Project Concept: “Dining and Food Production at the Court of the Great Elector.”
- Concert Producer and Lecturer, Stanford University (May 13, 2011)  
 “Mapping the Present State of Music in Italy, 1770: Music from the Grand Tour of Charles Burney.” Available online at <http://vimeo.com/28069755>
- Republic of Letters Conference, Fondazione Cini, Venice (March 17-19, 2011)  
 “‘All Roads Lead to Rome?’ Travelers’ Routes in Eighteenth-century Italy”
- Una Roma Visuale: Giuseppe Vasi’s Rome Symposium, University of Oregon (Nov. 12, 2010) “Travelers to Vasi’s Rome: Mapping Eighteenth-century Mobility”

## POSTERS:

- Immersive Storytelling Symposium, MTSU (September 2018)  
 “Introducing Hidden Town in 3D”
- Oxford Digital Humanities Summer School Poster, Oxford (July 2017)  
 “Journey Up the Rhine: Mapping European Geopolitics on the Eve of the 30 Years War”
- Sixteenth Century Society Conference Poster with Suzanne Sutherland and Hannah Marcus, New Orleans (October 2014)  
 “Introducing Palladio: Tool for Visualizing Humanities Data”

## MEDIA:

- MTSU New Faculty Profile for series on “Service to Students During Pandemic” by Gina Logue (October 22, 2020)

<https://mtsunews.com/service-to-students/>  
New Books in History Podcast, interview with Donna Bilak and Tara Nummendam on *Fugue and Furnace: A Digital Edition of Michael Maier's "Atalanta fugiens" (1618) with Scholarly Commentary*. (October 21, 2020)  
MTSU News "Out of the Blue" television interview about Bygone Nashville (May 2020)  
<https://mtsunews.com/out-of-the-blue-may-2020/>  
New Books in History Podcast, interview with Karima Moyer-Nocchi on *The Eternal Table: A Cultural History of Food in Rome* (March 19, 2020)  
<https://newbooksnetwork.com/karima-moyer-nocchi-the-eternal-table-a-cultural-history-of-food-in-rome-rowman-and-littlefield-2019/>  
New Books in History Podcast, interview with Jodi Campbell on *At the First Table: Food and Social Identity in Early Modern Spain* (January 29, 2019)  
<https://newbooksnetwork.com/jodi-campbell-at-the-first-table-food-and-social-identity-in-early-modern-spain-u-nebraska-2017/>  
MTSU News Article about Hidden Town in 3D (May 2018)  
<https://mtsunews.com/mtsu-old-salem-project-summer2018/>  
Moderating Tennessee District 14 Senate Forum (February 2018)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgcFSCdyv-A>  
MTSU News Announcement of Fake News Lecture Series (January 2018)  
<http://mtsunews.com/fake-news-lectures-spr2018/>  
MTSU News Article about Bygone Nashville (January 2018)  
<http://mtsunews.com/nashville-history-digital-walking-tour/>  
Radio interview for Bygone Nashville (November 2017)  
<https://mtsunews.com/taylor-poleskey-on-the-record-nov2017/>  
Video for the Recipes Project Virtual Conversation, "What is a recipe?" (July 2017)  
[https://youtu.be/1\\_993y-QPNg](https://youtu.be/1_993y-QPNg)  
Video lecture and concert, "Mapping the Present State of Music in Italy, 1770: Music from the Grand Tour of Charles Burney" (May 2011) <http://vimeo.com/28069755>

#### **SERVICE:**

Renaissance Society of America Digital Humanities Advisory Board (2017-present)  
Walker Library Digital Seed Grant Committee (2019)  
Strickland Lecture Committee (2018-Present)  
MTSU's Data Science Institute Advisory Board Member (2018-Present)  
ACE Learning Center Parent Liaison Committee (2017-Present), President (2018-19)  
MTSU Instructional Technologies Development Committee (2017-2019, chair 2018-19)  
MTSU Fake News Lecture Series organizer (2018)  
MTSU History Department Full-time Teaching Faculty Conversion Committee (2018)  
MTSU History Department African-American History Search Committee (2017-18)  
MTSU History Department Liaison Committee (2017-18)



MTSU Information Literacy Faculty Advisory Group (2017)

MTSU Digital Partner (2016-Present)

MTSU Public History Committee (2016-Present)

National History Day Judge (2006, 2017-2020)

Graduate liaison for the Certificate of Digital Humanities (2015), Stanford University

Founder of the Digital Humanities Reading Group (2015), Stanford University

Advisory Committee to the WorkLife office (2014-2016), Stanford University

Graduate Student Representative to History Faculty (2009-2010), Stanford University

Congress-Bundestag Fellowship Referee and Promoter (2008, 2010, and 2014)

Mount Holyoke College History Department Search Committee Student Representative (2003) and admissions volunteer (2009-present)

**RELATED EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE:**

Freelance German paleography consultant (2018-present)

Grand Tour Explorer Web Application, Research liaison for scholars (2015-2016)

Republic of Letters Research Workshop at the Stanford Humanities Center (2010-2011),  
Co-coordinator

Mapping the Republic of Letters Project (2010), Project Coordinator

Grand Tour, Mapping the Republic of Letters (2008-2011), Research Assistant for Prof.  
Giovanna Cesarani

Herzog August Bibliothek (Spring 2007), Intern, Publications Department and Fellowship  
Program

Museumsdorf Cloppenburg (Winter 2006), Intern for *Adel auf dem Land* exhibit and  
conference

American Antiquarian Society (June 2005-July 2006), Assistant Cataloger of Rare Books

Mount Holyoke College Art Museum and Skinner Museum (September 2002-May 2005),  
Student guard

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

DH2019 Pre-conference Workshop, "Complexity and Uncertainty in DH Projects: A

Co-design Approach Around Data Visualization,” Utrecht, the Netherlands (July 9, 2019)  
NEH Summer Seminar “Material Maps in the Digital Age” (Director, Jim Akerman), Newberry Library, Chicago (June-July 2019)  
Oxford Digital Humanities Summer School, “Data Science for the Humanities,” (July 2017)  
Workshop, “CartoDB@Stanford,” Stanford University (March 2016)  
Workshop, Edward Tufte Visualization Workshop, San Francisco, California (May 2015)  
Franckesche Stiftung, Halle, “Einführungskurs in die Arbeit mit Handschriften und alten Drucken aus den Beständen des Archivs und der Bibliothek der Franckeschen Stiftungen” (Summer 2011)  
German Historical Institute Summer Seminar (Summer 2011)

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:**

- American Food Studies Association
- German Studies Association
- American Historical Association
- Renaissance Society of America
- Association of State and Local History
- Women and Gender Minorities in Digital Humanities

**LANGUAGES:**

English native speaker, Italian and German fluency, French proficiency, early modern Dutch and Latin reading ability