

Amy Watson

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Education

Yale University, New Haven, CT

PhD in History, May 2018

Dissertation: "Patriot Empire: The Rise of Party Politics in the British Atlantic, 1716-1748"

University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

MPhil in Early Modern History with distinction, July 2011

Gates Cambridge Scholar

Yale University, New Haven, CT

BA in History with distinction, summa cum laude, May 2010

Employment

University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

Assistant Professor of History, 2021-Present

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the History of the Early Modern Americas / Atlantic World, 2018-2020

Publications

Book

Patriots Before Revolution: The Rise of Party Politics in the British Atlantic, 1714-1763 (Yale University Press, Lewis Walpole Series in Eighteenth-Century Culture and History, 2025).

Reviews: *Law & Liberty*

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

"The New York Patriot Movement: Partisanship, the Free Press, and Britain's Imperial Constitution, 1731-1739," *The William and Mary Quarterly* 77, No. 1 (January 2020): 33-64.

“Patriotism and Partisanship in Post-Union Scotland, 1724-1737,” *The Scottish Historical Review* 97, No. 1 (April 2018): 57-84.

Forthcoming

“The Death of William Pitt and British Patriotism,” (Accepted *Journal of British Studies*, Expected Publication: May 2026)

Edited Volumes

Steven Pincus and Amy Watson, “Patriotism after the Hanoverian Succession,” in *The Hanoverian Succession in Great Britain and its Empire*, edited by Brent Sirota and Allan MacInnes, (Woodbridge, UK: Boydell Press, 2019): 155-174.

Book Review

“The Archive of Empire: Knowledge, Conquest, and the Making of the Early Modern British World by Asheesh Kapur Siddique,” *American Historical Review* 130, no. 4 (December 2025): 1763-1764.

Publications in Progress

“The Banning of John Gay’s *Polly*: Party Politics, Pirates, and Imperial Policy in Walpolean Britain” (Received Revise and Resubmit)

“The Political Afterlife of Captain John Porteous: Scottish Models for the Origins of the American Revolution” (Research/Writing stage)

Selected Awards, Fellowships, and Scholarships

2026-2027	Howard and Dawn Weinbrot Research Fellowship, Huntington Library, San Marino, California
2021-2022	UAB College of Arts and Sciences, Dean’s Humanities Grant
2020	Massachusetts Historical Society, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship
2018	Hans Gatzke Prize for Outstanding Dissertation in European History, Yale University
	Huntington Library Fellowship

- 2017 Library Company of Philadelphia Fellowship (Program in Early American Economy and Society)
- 2016 International Security Studies Research and Travel Award (Smith Richardson Foundation), Yale University
- 2014-2015 MacMillan Dissertation Fellowship, Yale University
International Security Studies Dissertation Fellowship, Yale University
- 2010-2011 Jesus College, Cambridge Foundation Scholarship
Gates Cambridge Scholarship (<http://www.gatesscholar.org/about/>)

Selected Conference Papers, Invited Talks, and Presentations

- 2026 “Partisan Newspapers and Political Change in the Eighteenth-Century British Empire,” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA, (November 2026).

“The Political Afterlife of Captain John Porteous: A Scottish Model for the American Revolution,” Omohundro Institute Annual Conference, “Revolutionary Arcs, Revolutionary Orbits.” Nashville, TN, (June 2026).
- 2025 “The Banning of John Gay’s *Polly* and Critiques of Walpolean Imperial Policy,” North American Conference on British Studies Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada, (November 2025).

“Patriots Before Revolution: Georgia and the British Origins of the American Revolution,” Invited talk for “Year of the UK,” Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA, (September 2025).
- 2024 “The Political Afterlife of Captain John Porteous: A Scottish Model for the American Revolution,” North American Conference on British Studies Annual Meeting. Denver, CO, (November 2024).
- 2023 “The Patriot Resistance to the Excise Tax of 1733,” North American Conference on British Studies Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD, (November 2023).

“The Stamp Act and the Transatlantic Political Origins of the Revolution,” USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute, 20th Anniversary Conference. San Marino, CA, (October 2023).

- 2022 “William Pitt, Habeas Corpus, and the Politics of Impressment in the Seven Years War,” North American Conference on British Studies Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL, (November 2022).
- “Georgia: A British Imperial Project in an Age of ‘Neglect,’” Crafting Narratives of Empire: Contested Roots of Revolution in the Long Eighteenth Century Conference. Institute of Thomas Paine Studies, Iona University, New Rochelle, NY, (September 2022).
- 2021 “Rule Britannia: The Partisan Origins of the War of Jenkins’ Ear,” North American Conference on British Studies Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA, (November 2021).
- 2020 “A Patriot Colony: Party Politics in the Origins of Georgia, 1729-43,” invited talk for joint session of the Huntington Library’s American Origins and Early Modern British History seminars. San Marino, CA, (December 2020).
- “Georgia: A Patriot Experiment in Enlightened Imperialism, 1729-43,” invited talk for City University of New York, Early American Republic Seminar. New York, NY, (October 2020).
- “Imperial Patriots and the Siege of Louisbourg of 1745,” invited talk for the Massachusetts Historical Society Brown-Bag Series. Boston, MA, (October 2020).
- 2019 “The New York Succession Crisis of 1736-39: The Politics of Executive Prerogative and Popular Sovereignty,” North American Conference on British Studies Annual Meeting. Vancouver, Canada, (November 2019).
- “The English Origins of American Patriotism,” Consortium on the Revolutionary Era Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA, (March 2019).
- “Party of Empire: The Rise of the English Patriot Opposition, 1716-1733,” invited talk for the Empires & Atlantics Forum, University of Chicago. Chicago, IL (February 2019).
- 2018 “The John Peter Zenger Trial Re-examined: New York Newspaper Politics and Transatlantic Partisanship,” North American Conference on British Studies Annual Meeting. Providence, RI, (October 2018).
- “Charitable Migrations: Humanitarianism and Political Economy during the Founding of Georgia, 1732-1739,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting. Washington D.C., (January 2018).
- 2017 “Competing Visions of Empire in the Founding of Georgia, 1730-1748,” North American Conference on British Studies Annual Meeting. Denver, CO, (November 2017).

- “Patriot Empire: Party Politics and Political Economy in the British Atlantic,” invited talk for The Library Company of Philadelphia, Program in Early American Economy and Society Colloquium. Philadelphia, PA, (September 2017).
- "The Patriot Movement in New York: Judicial Sovereignty, Newspaper Politics, and Britain's Imperial Constitution, 1732-1740," invited talk for joint session of Yale Early Modern Empires Colloquium and Yale International Security Studies Colloquium. New Haven, CT, (January 2017).
- 2016 “The Porteous Crisis of 1736-1737: Military Violence, Popular Politics, and Sovereignty in Post-Union Edinburgh,” North American Conference on British Studies Annual Meeting. Washington D.C., (November 2016).
- 2015 “The Malt Tax Crisis of 1725: Partisanship, Political Economy, and Patriotism in Post-Union Scotland,” Yale CHESS Conference, States and Capitalism: Past, Present, and Future. New Haven, CT, (October 2015).
- 2014 "The Rise of the Patriot Movement in Scotland and British North America, 1716–1748," American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting. Williamsburg, VA, (March 2014).
- 2013 “Patriot Empire: The Rise and Transatlantic Spread of a Radical Whig Ideology,” Finance, Communication and Eighteenth-Century Empires Conference. Dundee, Scotland, UK, (July 2013).

Public History: Podcasts, Blogs, and Virtual Talks

- 2026 *Fireside Chats: A Digital Series*, Library Company of Philadelphia, “Patriots Before Revolution: The Rise of Party Politics in the British Atlantic, 1714-1763,” (January 2026)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iroNEDIxmo0>
- Guest Historian, *Historians & Their Histories* Podcast, Massachusetts Historical Society, “Patriots Before Revolution: The Rise of Party Politics in the British Atlantic, 1714-1763,” (January 2026)
<https://www.masshist.org/podcast/hath-episode-30-Watson>
- 2025 Virtual Book Talk: “Patriots Before Revolution: The Rise of Party Politics in the British Atlantic, 1714-1763,” North American Conference on British Studies, (October 2025)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-pIZFzKN9c>

The Way of Improvement Leads Home Blog, Author's Corner, "Patriots Before Revolution: The Rise of Party Politics in the British Atlantic, 1714-1763," (September 2025)

<https://thewayofimprovement.blog/tag/authors-corner-series/>

Virtual Talk, "The Battle of Louisbourg," The Bidwell House Museum, Monterey, MA (August 2025)

2021 Guest Contributor, The Beehive: The Official Blog of the Massachusetts Historical Society, "New England Bravery," (January 2021).
<http://www.masshist.org/bee hiveblog/2021/01/new-england-bravery/>

2020 Public Television Broadcast, "Patriot Movement Before the Revolution," CSPAN-3, (October 2020).
<https://www.c-span.org/video/?477285-1/patriot-movement-american-revolution>

Guest Historian, Ben Franklin's World Podcast, "Episode 284: Democracy and Voting in British America," (October 2020).

<https://benfranklinworld.com/episode-284-democracy-voting-in-british-america/>

Teaching Experience

- 2021-present University of Alabama at Birmingham, Assistant Professor
- HY 102: Western Civilization II (7 times)
 - HY 291/391: The British Origins of American Democracy (3 times)
 - HY 333/437: Resistance in British America (2 times)
 - HY 360: Scottish and Irish History
 - HY 464: Modern Great Britain (2 times)
 - HY 497: History Capstone (2 times)
 - HY 654: Early Modern Britain and its Empire
 - HY 654: British Revolutions
- 2018-2020 University of Southern California, Visiting Faculty/Postdoctoral Fellow:
- GESM 120: Resistance, Rebellion, and Revolution in Early America
 - GESM 120: Democracy, Diplomacy, and Duels: Party Politics from the English Revolution to the Age of Hamilton

Service to Department, University, and Community

- 2026 Leading Scholar, “Causes of Revolution Institute,” Alabama Department of Education, Achieving Civic Excellence, Teacher Institute, Montevallo, AL (July 2026)
- 2025-present Member, UAB CAS Academic Integrity Board
- 2025 Committee Member and Panel Moderator, UAB CAS Graduate Research Symposium
- 2024-present Member of Outreach and Engagement Committee, Department of History
- 2023-2024 Member of Chair Advisory Committee, Department of History
- 2021-2025 Faculty Advisor for Phi Alpha Theta, History Honor Society
Activities Include: Organizing history trivia nights (5), Initiation (3), Documentary/Film Screenings (2), Birmingham Black Radio Focus Group (Received UAB Student Engagement Grant); Moderator/Faculty Judge for PAT Alabama State Conference (2); What’s the Tea on the American Revolution?: 250th Anniversary Event
- 2021- 2022 Member of Chair Advisory Committee, Department of History
- Fall 2021 Member of Faculty Search Committee for History of Medicine, Department of History

Service to Profession

- 2024-present Committee Member, Walter D. Love Prize for Best Journal Article in British Studies, North American Conference on British Studies
- 2022-present Peer Reviewer, *Journal of British Studies* (3x)
- 2023 Moderator/Faculty Judge, Phi Alpha Theta Alabama State Conference. Auburn University at Montgomery, Montgomery, AL, (February 2023)
- 2022 Peer Reviewer, *The Historical Journal*
- Moderator/Faculty Judge, Phi Alpha Theta Alabama State Conference. Samford University, Homewood, AL, (February 2022).
- 2021 Panel Chair, “New Perspectives on the Royal Navy, the Slave Trade, and the Empire in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries,” North American Conference on British Studies Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA, (November 2021).

- 2020 Panel Commentator, “Trade, Politics, and Revolution in the Long Eighteenth Century,” Southern Conference on British Studies Annual Meeting, Online, (November 2020).
- 2019 Panel Moderator, “Virginia 1619: A California Conversation,” Early Modern Studies Institute, The Huntington Library. San Marino, CA (September 2019).
- 2015 Yale CHESS Conference Coordinator, “States and Capitalism: Past, Present, and Future,” (October 2015.)

Research Interests

The British Atlantic world, the origins of the American Revolution, the development of party politics, migration, democracy, political economy, war and society, humanitarianism, slavery, the politics of gender, free speech and censorship, popular politics, print culture