

Carla Cevasco

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2017— Assistant Professor, American Studies, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey
Graduate Faculty, History
Co-Director, New Jersey Folk Festival

EDUCATION

2017 Ph.D., American Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Dissertation: “Feast, Fast, and Flesh: Hunger and Conflict in New England and New France, 1637-1763”
2013 A.M., American History, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
2011 B.A., English and American Literatures, *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Early North America and the Atlantic World, Food Studies, Borderlands, Native and Indigenous History, Race, Material Culture, History of Medicine and the Body, Childhood, Gender, Public Humanities

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Books

Violent Appetites: Hunger in the Early Northeast. Forthcoming, Yale University Press, April 2022.

- 2020 Early Career Book Prize, Rutgers University Center for Cultural Analysis.

Articles

“‘Nothing which hunger will not devour’: Disgust and Sustenance in the Northeastern Borderlands,” *Early American Studies* 19, No. 2 (Spring 2021), 264-293.

- Highly Commended, 2021 Sophie Coe Prize, Oxford Food Symposium.

“‘Look’d Like Milk’: Infant Feeding and Colonialism in the English Atlantic World,” *Journal of Early American History* 10, No. 2-3 (2020), 147-178, doi: 10.1163/18770703-10020009.

- 2021 *Nursing Clio* Best Article Prize.

Articles (continued)

“Hunger Knowledges and Cultures in New England’s Borderlands, 1675-1770,” *Early American Studies* 16, No. 2 (Spring 2018), 255-281, doi: 10.1353/eam.2018.0009.

- 2020 Belasco Prize for Scholarly Excellence, Association for the Study of Food and Society.

“This is My Body: Communion and Cannibalism in Colonial New England and New France,” *New England Quarterly* 89, No. 4 (December 2016), 556-586, doi: 10.1162/TNEQ_a_00564

Reviews

“Unraveling the Vast Past,” Review of Jessica Yirush Stern, *The Lives in Objects: Native Americans, British Colonists, and Cultures of Labor and Exchange in the Southeast* (2017), *Reviews in American History* 46, No. 2 (June 2018): 196-202, doi: 10.1353/rah.2018.0030

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2021	Incubation Grant (for New Jersey Folk Festival), New Jersey Council for the Humanities
2021	“Before Farm to Table: Early Modern Foodways and Cultures” Short-Term Fellowship, Folger Shakespeare Library
2020	Art Works Grant (for New Jersey Folk Festival: Oaxaca), National Endowment for the Arts [delayed to 2021 due to COVID-19]
2017—18	Medical Humanities Seminar Fellowship, Rutgers University Center for Cultural Analysis
2016	History Prize Instructorship, Harvard University History Department
2016	Conference Grant, Harvard University Graduate Student Council
2015	Short-Term Research Fellowship, Winterthur Museum
2015	Charles H. Watts Memorial Short-Term Research Fellowship, John Carter Brown Library
2015	Summer Research Grant, Harvard University Graduate Student Council
2014	Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference Grant (co-writer), Harvard University Mahindra Humanities Center
2014	Term-Time Grant for Dissertation Research, Harvard University Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History
2014	Artemas Ward Fellowship for Summer Dissertation Research, Harvard University History Department

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- 2019 “We Have Nothing to Eat: Hunger and Resistance to British Authority in the Northeastern Borderlands, 1700-1763,” Columbia University Seminar on Early American History and Culture, New York, September 17
- 2018 “Hunger’s Horrors: Disgust and Sustenance in the Northern Borderlands,” Empowering Appetites: The Political Economy & Culture of Food in the Early Atlantic, Huntington Library, Pasadena, CA, October 12-13

Presentations

- 2021 “The Tobacco-Pipe Makers Arms: Gender, Race, Clay, and Tobacco in the Early English Atlantic and Beyond,” Washington Early American Seminar, University of Maryland, April 9
- 2020 “The Tobacco-Pipe Makers Arms: Gender, Race, Clay, and Tobacco in the Seventeenth-Century Chesapeake,” *Art History* “Vast Early America” special issue workshop, July 7
- 2019 Roundtable, “Food, Travels, and Tastes in a Globalized Atlantic,” Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, June 13-16
- 2019 “Fasting, Foraging, Fermenting: Native Foodways, ‘Poverty,’ and Colonialism in Early North America,” Agricultural History Society, Washington, DC, June 6-8
- 2019 Roundtable, “Making and Doing Things in the Early American Classroom,” Society for Early Americanists Biennial Conference, Eugene, Oregon, February 28-March 2
- 2018 “Mortification and Meat: Natives, Settlers, and the Undisciplined Body in Colonial North America,” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, November 8-11; and Amsterdam Symposium on the History of Food, November 16-17
- 2018 “Plant Agency in the Early Atlantic,” Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture Annual Conference, Williamsburg, VA, June 14-17
- 2018 “‘Do Objects Lie?’: A New Pedagogical Film About Ceramics and Material Culture,” Restating Clay: Making, Learning, Communicating & Collecting Contemporary Studio Ceramics, York, England, March 19-20, with Christopher Allison
- 2017 “‘Look’d Like Milk’: Feeding Infants in Early North American Borderlands,” Early Modern History Workshop: Bodies Corporeal and Rhetorical, North American Conference on British Studies, Denver, CO, November 3-5; and American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Denver, January 5-8
- 2016 “Unruly Appetites: Food, Alcohol, and Resistance in the Seven Years’ War,” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Denver, November 17-20
- 2015 “The Violence of My Appetite: Theorizing Disgust in Colonial New England and New France,” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, October 8-11
- 2015 “This is My Body: Communion and Cannibalism in Colonial New England and New France,” Cannibalism in the Early Modern Atlantic Conference, University of Southampton, Southampton, England, June 15-16; and American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New York, January 2-5
- 2013 “William Dorrill’s Shoes: Religion, Republicanism, and Unrefinement,” International Society for Landscape, Place, and Material Culture Annual Conference, Utica, NY, October 9-12

Other Talks

2018 Opening Talk, *From Cooking Pot to Melting Pot: New Jersey's Diverse Foodways* Exhibit, Rutgers University Special Collections and University Archives, November 12

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- 2020 “COVID-19 Didn’t Break the Food System. Hunger Was Already Here,” *Nursing Clio*, <https://nursingclio.org/2020/05/26/covid-19-didnt-break-the-food-system-hunger-was-already-here/> Reprints: *History News Network*: <https://historynewsnetwork.org/article/175689>
Bunk History: <https://www.bunkhistory.org/resources/6029>
- 2018— Member/Contributor, *The Junto: A Group Blog on Early American History* <https://earlyamericanists.com/author/carlacevasco/>
- 2018 “Do Objects Lie?,” Pedagogical Film, Chipstone Foundation, co-created with Christopher Allison, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mdt7mZWcEAw>
- 2017 “Why Eighteenth-Century Hangriness Might Be A Thing (And Why It Matters),” *Nursing Clio*, <https://nursingclio.org/2017/04/19/why-eighteenth-century-hangriness-might-be-a-thing-and-why-it-matters/>
- 2016 “Feed on Humane Flesh and Blood? Strang mess!?: A Puritan Communion Cup,” *Common-Place* 16.3 (June 2016), <http://common-place.org/book/feed-on-humane-flesh-and-blood-strang-mess-a-puritan-communion-cup/>
- 2015— Contributor, *The Recipes Project* [academic group blog] <https://recipes.hypotheses.org/author/carlacevasco>
- 2013 “This is Not a Chair,” Pedagogical Film, Chipstone Foundation Object Lab, co-created with Christopher Allison, John Bell, and Cara Kiernan Fallon, <https://youtu.be/MurjslsVJuo?t=29s>

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

- 2022 New Jersey Folk Festival: On the Move: Transportation and Migration
- 2021 New Jersey Folk Festival: Oaxaca
- 2020 New Jersey Folk Festival: Oaxaca
- 2019 New Jersey Folk Festival: 45th Anniversary
- 2018 New Jersey Folk Festival: Native Americans in New Jersey
- 2013 “Dining and Discontentment: Negotiations Over Food at Harvard, 1635-2013,” Teaching Exhibit for *Tangible Things: Harvard’s Collections in World History*, Harvard University Archives (co-curator)

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Awards

2019—2020 Rutgers University School of Arts and Sciences Award for Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Education

Teaching, Rutgers University

Learning from the Past: Early America and the 21st Century
American Food, Past and Present
Material Things in the Digital Age
Folk Festival Curation
Introduction to American Studies
Approaches to American Studies: Natives, Settlers, and Borderlands

Undergraduate Advising, Rutgers University

Emily Borowski, “Eugenics in New Jersey: How the New Jersey State Village for Epileptics Perpetuated Eugenics Throughout the State,” American Studies Honors Thesis, 2020—2021
Emma Young, “The Trajectory of Fry Bread: From Colonization to Indigenous Food Sovereignty Movement,” American Studies Honors Thesis, 2020—2021 (second reader)
SJ Waldman, “Telling It Straight: Hegemony, Queerness, and the American Family Sitcom,” American Studies Honors Thesis, 2019—2020
Melissa Wilson, “The *Different* Museum: The National Museum of the American Indian’s Educational Mission for Free Choice Learning,” American Studies Honors Thesis, 2018—2019
Tiffany Yang, “Eating of Motherland(s): Gastronomical Rituals in *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan,” Interdisciplinary Honors Thesis, 2018—2019
Susan Franco, “Although Weak at Home, She is Strong Abroad: Irish Nationalism in the American Civil War,” American Studies Honors Thesis, 2018—2019 (second reader)

Teaching, Harvard University

The History of Hunger
Teaching Fellow: How to a Read a Book, Or, Fictions and Histories of Reading; American Encounters: Art, Contact, and Conflict; Tangible Things: Harvard’s Collections in World History

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2021 Omohundro Institute “Coffeehouses” (research and writing groups): Childhood and Youth in Early America; Food in Early America
- 2017—2020 Rutgers University Program for Early Career Excellence
- 2016 Harvard Museums Seminar on Innovative Curatorial Practice, Cambridge, Massachusetts, April 11-12
- 2014 Reading Historic Cookbooks Seminar, Schlesinger Library at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Cambridge, Massachusetts, June 8-13
- 2013 Object Lab, Chipstone Foundation, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 6-9

SERVICE

Service to the Profession

Article Referee, *Journal of Religious History*, *War in History*, *New England Quarterly*, *Gastronomica: The Journal of Critical Food Studies*

- 2021 Panel Chair, “Tides of Untold Stories: Subaltern Subjectivities in Maritime Food Geographies,” Convention Internationale d’Histoire et des Cultures de l’Alimentation/International Convention on Food History and Cultures, European Institute for Food History and Cultures, May 31-June 5
- 2019 Panel Commentator, “Negotiating Race in Antebellum Era Foodways,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Meeting, Cambridge, Massachusetts, July 18-21
- 2018 Panel Organizer, “Animal States: Materiality, Animality, and Desire,” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, November 8-11
- 2017 Panel Co-organizer, “Rethinking Captivity in the Early Atlantic World,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Denver, January 5-8
- 2016 Panel Co-organizer, “The Anatomy of Home: Early American Bodies,” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Denver, November 17-20
- 2015 Conference Co-organizer, “The Future of Food Studies,” Graduate Association for Food Studies Graduate Conference, Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University, October 23-25
- 2014—2016 Editor in Chief, [Graduate Journal of Food Studies](#)
- 2014 Founding Member, Graduate Association for Food Studies (now graduate student caucus of Association for the Study of Food and Society)

Departmental and University Service

- 2020—2023 American Studies Departmental Representative, New Brunswick Faculty Council
- 2019— Director, American Studies Undergraduate Certificate in Curation and Cultural Programming
- 2018 Advisory Board, *New Jersey’s Diverse Foodways* Exhibit, Rutgers University Archives and Special Collections
- 2018 Search Committee, Administrative Director of New Jersey Folk Festival/Instructor of Folklife, American Studies
- 2017 Search Committee, Assistant Professor of American Studies (Native American and Indigenous Studies)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Historical Association
American Studies Association
Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture

CONSULTING

2020— Food Studies Consultant for “Beyond Statistics,” Insurgo Project and Southern Jersey Family Medical Centers (funded by New Jersey Council for the Humanities)

MEDIA COVERAGE

“Captivity, Breastmilk, and the Myth of Colonial Supremacy: An Interview with Carla Cevasco,” *Nursing Clio*, June 17, 2021, <https://nursingclio.org/2021/06/17/captivity-breastmilk-and-the-myth-of-colonial-supremacy-an-interview-with-carla-cevasco/>

“New Jersey Foodways,” *Old Ways in New Jersey*, East Brunswick Television, 2019, <https://vp.telvue.com/preview?id=T01258&video=343671>

“New Jersey Folk Festival Heritage Area,” *Old Ways in New Jersey*, East Brunswick Television, June 18, 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xFEwVrysQI>

“This is My Body: Communion and Cannibalism in Colonial New England and New France,” MIT Press Podcasts, June 5, 2018, <https://mitpress.podbean.com/e/this-is-my-body-communion-and-cannibalism-in-colonial-new-england-and-new-france/>

Luke Hinrichs, “Day of Mourning challenges story behind Thanksgiving,” *The Daily Targum*, November 11, 2017, <http://www.dailytargum.com/article/2017/11/native-people-at-thanksgiving>

Corydon Ireland, “Gripes Between Bites: Exhibit explores student discontent in the history of Harvard dining,” *Harvard Gazette*, December 2, 2013, <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2013/12/gripes-between-bites/>