**Curriculum Vitae**

**Eric H. Ash**

Department of History 1835 Lochmoor Blvd.

3094 Faculty/Admin. Bldg. Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

656 West Kirby 313-577-2525 (phone)

Wayne State University 313-577-6987 (fax)

Detroit, MI 48202 ericash@wayne.edu

**Academic Appointments:**

# Wayne State University, Department of History

## Professor, tenured, 2017 – present

## Associate Professor, tenured, 2006 – 2017

## Assistant Professor, 2002 – 2006

Courses taught:

HIS 1300, “Europe and the World, 1500-1945”

HIS 5407, “The Scientific Revolution”

HIS 5550, “Britain, 1485-1714”

HIS 5555, “Britain in the Age of Empire”

HIS 5996, “Capstone Course for History Majors”

HIS 8235, “Early Modern European History” (graduate seminar)

***Dibner Institute***

* **Postdoctoral Fellow**, 2001 – 2002

***Princeton University, Department of History***

* **Lecturer**, 2000 **–** 2001

**Education:**

***Princeton University***

* **Ph.D.** (2000), Program in the History of Science, Department of History

*Dissertation:* “‘The skylfullest men’: Patronage, Authority, and the Negotiation of Expertise in Elizabethan England”

*Advisor:* Anthony Grafton

*Readers:* Peter Lake (Princeton), Michael Mahoney (Princeton), Mario Biagioli (Harvard)

* **M.A.** (1996), Program in the History of Science, Department of History

General Examination Fields:

“The Scientific Revolution, 1450-1700,” Mary Henninger-Voss

“Renaissance Humanism in Italy, 1350-1550,” Anthony Grafton

“Tudor and Early Stuart England, 1485-1640,” Peter Lake

***Harvard University***

* **A.B.** (1994), Concentration in History and Science, *magna cum laude*

**Publications:**

### Books

* *The Draining of the Fens: Projectors, Popular Politics, and State Building in Early Modern England* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2017).
* *Power, Knowledge, and Expertise in Elizabethan England* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004).

***Edited Volume***

* *Expertise: Practical Knowledge and the Early Modern State*; *Osiris* vol. 25 (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010).

***Articles and Chapters (Peer-Reviewed)***

* “By Any Other Name: Early Modern Expertise and the Problem of Anachronism,” *History and Technology* 35.1 (2019): 3-30.
* “Reclaiming a New World: Fen Drainage, Improvement, and Projectors in Seventeenth-Century England,” *Early Science and Medicine* 21 (2016): 445-69.
* “Expertise and the Early Modern State,” *Osiris* 25 (2010): 1-24.
* “Amending Nature: Draining the English Fens,” in *The mindful hand: inquiry and invention from the late Renaissance to early industrialisation*, ed. Lissa Roberts, Simon Schaffer, and Peter Dear (Amsterdam: Edita, and Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007), 117-143.
* “Navigation Techniques and Practice in the Renaissance,” in *The History of Cartography*, vol. 3, *Cartography in the European Renaissance,* ed. by David Woodward (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007), 509-27.
* “Trading Expertise: Sebastian Cabot between Spain and England” (co-authored with Alison Sandman), [*Renaissance Quarterly*](http://www.rsa.org/rq.htm) 57 (2004): 813-46.
* “‘A note and a Caveat for the Merchant’: Mercantile Advisors in Elizabethan England,” *The Sixteenth Century Journal* 33 (2002): 1-31.
* “Queen v. Northumberland, and the Control of Technical Expertise,” *History of Science* 39 (2001): 215-40.
* “‘A perfect and an absolute work’: Expertise, Authority, and the Rebuilding of Dover Harbor, 1579-1583,” *Technology and Culture* 41 (2000): 239-68.

***Encyclopedia Entries***

* “Practical Knowledge,” entry commissioned for the *Encyclopedia of Renaissance Philosophy*, ed. Marco Sgarbi, et al. (New York: Springer, forthcoming).
* “Edward Wright,” entry commissioned for the *Encyclopedia of Maritime History*, ed. John B. Hattendorf, et al. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007).

***Book Reviews***

* Pamela O. Long, *Engineering the Eternal City: Infrastructure, Topography, and the Culture of Knowledge in Late Sixteenth-Century Rome* (Chicago: Chicago University Press, reviewed for *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, 2018 (in press).
* Koji Yamamoto, *Taming Capitalism before its Triumph: Public Service, Distrust, & “Projecting” in Early Modern England* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018), reviewed for *Journal of Modern History* (in press).
* Vera Keller, *Knowledge in the Public Interest, 1575-1725* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015), reviewed for *Early Science and Medicine* 21 (2016): 399-401.
* Pamela O. Long, *Artisan/Practitioners and the Rise of the New Sciences, 1400-1600* (Corvallis, OR: Oregon State University Press, 2011), reviewed for the *American Historical Review* 118 (2013): 920-21.
* Chandra Mukerji, *Impossible Engineering: Technology and Territoriality on the Canal du Midi* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2009), reviewed for *Renaissance Quarterly* 63 (2010): 676-78.
* Rory Rapple, *Martial Power and Elizabethan Political Culture: Military Men in England and Ireland, 1558-1594* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009), reviewed for *Journal of Modern History* 82 (2010): 681-83.
* Stephen Alford, *Burghley: William Cecil at the Court of Elizabeth I* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2008), reviewed for *American Historical Review* 114 (2009): 1524-25.
* Rhodri Lewis, *Language, Mind and Nature: Artificial Languages in England from Bacon to Locke* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), reviewed for *Journal of British Studies* 47 (2008): 689-90.
* Ronald W. Cooley, *‘Full of all knowledge’: George Herbert’s* Country Parson *and Early Modern Social Discourse* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2004), reviewed for *Isis* 97 (2006), 748-49.
* Sylvia Bowerbank, *Speaking for Nature: Women and Ecologies of Early Modern England* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004), reviewed for *Journal of British Studies* 44 (2005), 822-23.
* Karen Piper, *Cartographic Fictions: Maps, Race, and Identity* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2002), reviewed for *Isis* 95 (2004), 134-35.
* Pamela O. Long, *Openness, Secrecy, Authorship: Technical Arts and the Culture of Knowledge from Antiquity to the Renaissance* (Baltimore, 2001); reviewed for *Early Science and Medicine* 7 (2002): 398-400.

**Paper Presentations:**

***Academic***

* “Drainage, Improvement, and State Building in 17th-century England,” presented at the American Society for Environmental History annual meeting, Washington, DC, March 2015.

* “The Origins of Naval Expertise,” keynote address at the conference on “Naval Expertise and the Making of the Modern World,” Wolfson College, Oxford University, May 2013.
* “Who Owns the Fens? Expertise and Land Reclamation in 17th-Century England,” presented at the workshop “Experts in Early Modern Expansion,” at the Center for Advanced Studies, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany, February 2013.

* “Reclaiming a New World: Fen Drainage, Improvement, and Projectors in Seventeenth-Century England,” presented at the conference “The New World of Projectors,” The Huntington Library, June 2012. Longer versions of this paper were also presented at the History Seminar, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany, May 2013; and the Seminar on History and Philosophy of Science, Caltech, February 2014.
* “Shifting Knowledge, Shifting Nature: The Drainage of the English Fens,” presented at the WSU Humanities Center Faculty Fellows Conference, March 2010.
* “‘The good or bad success of this project’: Projectors and the Fens, 1580-1630,” presented at the History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ, November 2009.
* “‘The Unrecovered Country’: The Non-Drainage of the Fens, 1619-20,” presented at the conference “Drowned and Drained: Exploring Fenland Records and Landscape,” Wolfson College, Cambridge University, March 2009; also presented at the Cabinet of Natural History seminar series, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge University, March 2009; and the History of Science, Technology and Medicine Colloquium, UCLA, April 2014.
* “Pushing and Pushing Back: Central vs. Local Interests in Draining the English Fens,” presented at the History of Science Colloquium, Johns Hopkins University, March 2007.
* “Making a Fruitful Soil: Expertise and Water Management in the English Fens,” presented at the History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, November 2005.
* “Avoiding the Quagmire: Establishing Expertise in the English Fens,” presented at the North American Conference on British Studies, Philadelphia, PA, November 2004.
* “Correcting Nature: The Drainage of the English Fens,” presented at the John J. Reilly Center, Program in History and Philosophy of Science Colloquium, University of Notre Dame, November 2004.
* “Draining the Fens,” presented at the conference “Inventive Intersections: Sites, Artifacts, and the Rise of Modern Science and Technology,” Royal Dutch Academy of Arts and Sciences, Amsterdam, September 2004.
* “Serving the ‘Prince of Purpoole’: Francis Bacon and the Expertise of Natural Philosophy,” presented at the History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Cambridge, MA, November 2003.
* “Water Management and Social Resistance in Seventeenth-Century England,” presented at the Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, March 2003.
* “Enlarging the Realm: Land Reclamation and the Seventeenth-Century English State,” presented at the History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, WI, November 2002; co-organizer of the session, “Practical Knowledge and the State, 1550-1850.”
* “The King’s Hydrographer: Sir Cornelius Vermuyden and the Drainage of Hatfield Chase,” Harvard Early Modern Workshop, May 2002; also presented as “Cornelius Vermuyden, Royal Hydrographer,” at the Dibner Institute lunchtime colloquium, April 2002.
* “Manipulating Expertise: The Case of Queen v. Northumberland,” at the conference “Shell Games: Scams, Frauds, and Deceits (1300-1650),” Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, University of Toronto, April 2001.
* “Queen v. Northumberland: Royal Mining Rights and the Dilemma of Expertise,” at the History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Vancouver, November 2000.
* “A Failure of Mediation: Ignorance, Mistrust, and the Company of Mines Royal,” at the Princeton-Harvard Joint Colloquium in the History of Science, May 2000.
* “Secants and Sailors: Mathematical Expertise and the Art of Navigation in Elizabethan England,” at the History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, November 1999; organizer of the session, “Theory and Practice in Early Modern Navigation.”
* “Navigation in Harriot’s Time,” at the Thomas Harriot Seminar, Homerton College, Cambridge University, September 1999.
* “‘A note and a Caveat for the Merchant’: Mercantile Expertise in Elizabethan England,” at the International Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World, Harvard University, August 1999.
* “‘Playne dealing... in mynerall affaires’: Agents of Communication in Early English Mining Companies,” at the conference “Institutional Culture in Early Modern Europe: Histories and Anthropologies,” King’s College London, July 1999.
* “Experience, Expertise, and Elizabethan Arctic Navigation,” at the History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Kansas City, October 1998; organizer of the session, “Expertise and Authority in Early Modern Science and Medicine.”
* “The Rebuilding of Dover Harbour, 1576-1585,” at the Tudor and Stuart Seminar, Institute of Historical Research, University of London, March 1998; also presented at the post-graduate seminar, Warburg Institute, University of London, February 1998; and the British Studies Seminar, Princeton University, December 1997.

***Non-academic***

* “The Spanish Armada in Context,” presented at the Christ Church Grosse Pointe adult forum, April 2016.
* “Humoral Medicine in the Time of Shakespeare,” presented at the public exhibition “‘And There’s the Humor of It: Shakespeare and the Four Humors,” sponsored by the U. S. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health; Shiffman Medical Library, WSU, October 2015.
* “Caught in the Middle: The Crisis of Catholics in Protestant England,” presented at the Christ Church Grosse Pointe adult forum, April 2015
* “Churchill’s First World War,” presented at the Cinema Detroit film series on World War I, August 2014
* “The Age of Elizabeth and Our Anglican Roots,” presented at the Christ Church Grosse Pointe adult forum, April 2013
* “Life After Henry VIII: The Mid-Tudor Crisis,” presented at the Christ Church Grosse Pointe adult forum, April 2013
* “The King’s Great Matter: Henry VIII and the Origins of the Church of England,” parts 1 & 2, presented at the Christ Church Grosse Pointe adult forum, September 2012
* “The Occult Sciences in Renaissance England,” presented at the Wayne Public Library (Wayne, MI), August 2011

**Awards and Fellowships:**

***Research fellowships***

* Dibner Fellowship in the History of Science, The Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, 2013-2014.
* Visiting Fellowship at the Center for Advanced Studies, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany, May 2013
* WSU Humanities Center Faculty Fellowship, 2009-10.
* Career Development Chair Award, Wayne State University, 2007-08.
* National Science Foundation Scholar’s Award, Science and Technology Studies Division, 2002-04 (SES-0301851).
* Post-doctoral fellowship, Dibner Institute for the History of Science, MIT, 2001-02.
* History Department Post-Enrollment Fellowship, Princeton University, 1999.
* Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Program, Summer Stipend, Princeton University, 1999.
* National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant, Science and Technology Studies Division, 1997 (SES-9729740).
* Princeton University Summer Stipend in the Humanities and Social Sciences, 1997.
* Committee for European Studies Dissertation Research Grant, Princeton University, 1997.
* Mellon Summer Research Fellowship, Princeton University, 1996.

***Teaching awards***

* WSU President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2008-09.
* College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Teaching Award, Wayne State University, 2005-06.

**Graduate Advising:**

***Dissertations directed***

* Frank Petersmark, Ph.D. dissertation, “London Calling: The London Corresponding Society and the Ascension of Popular Politics,” completed in February 2015
* Renee Bricker, Ph.D. dissertation, “Violence, (Dis)Loyalties, and the English Subject-Citizen, 1569-1588,” completed in April 2010

**Professional Affiliations:**

* History of Science Society
* North American Conference on British Studies
* Midwest Conference on British Studies
* Local Arrangements Chair, 2015 annual meeting, Detroit, MI
* American Society for Environmental History
* Society for the History of Technology