

CURRICULUM VITAE
JAMES ROBERT SMITHER
Department of History
Grand Valley State University
Allendale, MI 49401
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EDUCATION

Dates	Institution	Degree
1989	Brown University	Ph.D., History
1983	Brown University	M.A., History
1982	The University of Chicago	B.A., History

Dissertation

"Myth and Reality of Kingship during the French Wars of Religion"
(Philip Benedict, Nancy Roelker, advisors)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Dates	Institution and Rank
2004-present	Grand Valley State University Professor
1996-2004	Grand Valley State University Associate Professor
1990-1996	Grand Valley State University Assistant Professor
1988-1990	The University of Dayton Visiting Assistant Professor
1987	The University of Connecticut Lecturer
1985-1986	Lycée Marcel Roby, St.-Germain-en-Laye, France English Teacher
1983-1985, 1988	Brown University

Teaching Assistant

Courses taught: Western Civilization I and II
World History I and II
European History since the Later Middle Ages
Early Modern Europe
Renaissance and Reformation Europe
European Social and Cultural History
European Military History to 1815
Early Modern France
Writing History
Honors European Civilization
History of Warfare
History of Witches and Witch-hunting
Reformation Europe
Tudor & Stuart England
Twentieth Century Europe
Varieties of History (capstone)
War (Graduate-level)
Reformation Europe (Graduate-level)
Americans in Vietnam (junior research seminar)

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed works

"The St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre and Images of Kingship in France, 1572-1574." The Sixteenth Century Journal XXII, 1 (Spring 1991):27-46

"Propaganda and Theater: Authorial Intent and Audience Response to Political Pamphlets in France, 1550-1650." Cahiers du dix-septième V, 2 (Fall 1991):179-194

A Surgeon's Civil War: The Civil War Letters and Diary of Daniel M. Holt, M.D. Coeditor with James Greiner and Janet Coryell. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1994

Video (all part of GVSU Veterans History Project)

Currently working on documentary video series on Marines who served in Vietnam. The project started with a team of student interns researching the war and interviewing the veterans, and several of those students and some new ones have helped with the editing, together with a team of current GVSU film students. The first episode, *Boot Camp*, was screened in Sept. 2016, and the other four segments are in production.

Currently working with Dr. Janet Coryell of Western Michigan University on a series of short

videos focusing on different aspects of the experiences of former players in the All American Girls Professional Baseball League. These videos are intended to supplement the documentary we produced (see below) on the league, and make more material from the 50 interviews in the collection more accessible to a broad audience. The first piece, on the league's 1947 spring training trip to Cuba, was screened at the league's reunion in 2017. We plan to produce fifteen such films over the course of 2017 and 2018.

Served as coordinating producer for *Nightmare in New Guinea*, a documentary created by GVSU students, faculty and staff in the Department of History and School of communications based on the oral histories of West Michigan national guardsmen who served in World War II. Project planning began in 2004, and the documentary premiered on campus in Nov. 2006. The television premiere (WGVU TV, Grand Rapids) was in March of 2007.

Served as coordinating producer for "Up From the Bottoms," a documentary on African American migration to Muskegon during WW II and its social and cultural ramifications. I served primarily as the manager of the grants for the project, and as oral history consultant. The documentary premiered locally in May, 2009.

Co-produced with (Frank Boring of the School of Communications) *A Team of Our Own*, a documentary based on oral history interviews with former players from the All American Girls Professional Baseball League. We completed the film in 2015 and premiered it at Loosemore Auditorium on Oct. 21 and have been doing screenings across the Midwest since then

Co-produced with Frank Boring and James Schaub of the School of Communications an 18-minute video on the Veterans History Project and a series of one-minute interview spots for WGVU-TV. (2008)

Oral History/Veterans History

Director, GVSU Veterans History Project, 2006-present

Conducted over 800 oral history interviews with area veterans between May 2007 and the present.

Worked with GVSU Archivist to set up archive for interviews conducted by participants in and partners with the GVSU Veterans History Project. Over 1000 interviews (videos and text files) are now posted in the digital archive, with more in process.

Served as consultant for the Johnson Center for Philanthropy on the creation of an oral history program on Michigan philanthropy and continue to serve as consultant and interviewer for their project.

Served as consultant for the Grand Rapids Humanities Council on oral history techniques for their documentary production *Eating in Place*, which premiered in 2010.

Gave presentations at and/or arranged partnerships with retirement communities, schools, museums, libraries, veterans' organizations across West Michigan.

Reviews

Review of Barbara Diefendorf, Beneath the Cross: Catholics and Huguenots in Sixteenth-Century Paris. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991, in The Catholic Historical Review (January 1993):109-110

Review of Jeffrey Sawyer, Printed Poison: Pamphlet Propaganda, Faction Politics and the Public Sphere in Early Seventeenth-Century France. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990, in The Journal of Modern History 65, 3 (September 1993):620-621

Review of S. Amanda Eurich, The Economics of Power: The Private Finances of the House of Foix-Navarre-Albret during the Religious Wars. Kirksville: Sixteenth Century Essays and Studies, 1994, in Renaissance Quarterly 492 (Summer 1996):402-403

Review of Mary Leefe Laurence, Daughter of the Regiment: Memoirs of a Childhood in the Frontier Army, 1878-1898. Ed. Thomas T. Smith. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1996, in The Michigan Historical Review 22:2 (1997):209-210

Review of Donald Kelley, The Writing of History and the Study of Law. Aldershot: Ashgate, 1997, in The Sixteenth Century Journal XXIX/3 (1998):801-803

Review of George Blackburn, French Newspaper Opinion on the American Civil War. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1997, in The Journal of Southern History 64:4 (Nov. 1998):754-755

Review of David Potter, ed., The French Wars of Religion: Selected Documents. New York: St. Martin's, 1997, in The Sixteenth Century Journal XXIX/4 (1998):1187-1188

Review of Daniel Cuisiat, ed., Lettres du Cardinal Charles de Lorraine (1525-1574). Geneva: Droz, 1998, in The Sixteenth Century Journal XXX/1 (1999):190-192

Review of David Parrott, Richelieu's Army. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001, in Renaissance Quarterly LV/4 (Winter 2002):1414-1415

Review of Nathalie Blancardi, Les petits princes: Enfance noble à la cour de Savoie (XVe siècle), Cahiers Lausannois d'Histoire Médiévale 28. (Lausanne, Université de Lausanne, 2001), in The Sixteenth Century Journal XXXIV/1 (Spring 2003):231-233

Review of Margaret McGowan, The Vision of Rome in Late Renaissance France. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000, in Renaissance Quarterly LVI/2 (Summer 2003):491-492

Review of Mario Turchetti, Tyrannie et tyrannicide de l'Antiquité à nos jours. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 2001, in The Sixteenth Century Journal XXXIV/2 (Summer 2003):566-568

Review of D.J.B. Trim, ed., The Chivalric Ethos and the Development of Military Professionalism. Leiden: Brill, 2003, in Renaissance Quarterly LVII/1 (Spring 2004):237-238

Review of Hugues Daussy, Les Huguenots et le roi: Le combat politique de Philippe du Plessis-Mornay (1572-1600). Geneva: Droz, 2002, in Renaissance Quarterly LVII/2 (Summer 2004):637-638

Review of Kenneth Chase, Firearms: A Global History to 1700. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003, in The Sixteenth Century Journal XXXVI/1 (2005):202-204

Review of Jean M. Fallon, His Story, Her Story: A Literary Memoir of Renaissance France. New York: Peter Lang, 2003, in The Sixteenth Century Journal XXXVI/1 (2005):281-282

Review of Denise Turrel, Le Blanc de France: La construction des signes identitaires pendant les guerres de Religion. Geneva: Droz, 2005, in Renaissance Quarterly LVIII/4 (Winter 2005):1359-1360.

Review of Guillaume du Vair, Parlementaire et écrivain (1556-1621). Ed. Bruno Petey-Girard and Alexandre Tarrête. Geneva: Droz, 2005, in The Sixteenth Century Journal XXXVIII/2 (2007):528-529

Review of Histoire de Sébastien le Pelletier (1579-1592). Ed. Xavier le Person. Geneva: Droz, 2006, in The Sixteenth Century Journal XXXIX/1 (Spring 2008):212-214

Review of René de Lucinge, Lettres de 1588: Un monde renversé. Ed. James J. Supple. Geneva: Droz, 2006, in The Sixteenth Century Journal XXXIX.2 (Summer, 2008) 536-537.

Review of Didier Poton, Duplessis-Mornay: le "pape des Huguenots". Paris: Perrin, 2006, in The Sixteenth Century Journal XXXIX/1 (Spring, 2008):250-251.

Review of Jacqueline Boucher, Société et mentalités autour de Henri III. Paris: Honoré Champion, 2007, in Renaissance Quarterly LXI.2 (2008) 554-556.

Review of Matthew A. Vester, Jacques de Savoie-Nemours: L'apanage de Genevois au Coeur de la puissance dynastique savoyarde au XVIe siècle. Cahiers d'Humanisme et Renaissance 85. Geneva: Librairie Droz, 2008, in Renaissance Quarterly LXII.2 (Summer 2009):562-564.

Review of Joël Blanchard, Commynes et les process politiques de Louis XI: Du nouveau sur la lese-majesté. Paris: Picard, 2008, in The Sixteenth Century Journal XLI/2 (Summer 2010): 618-619.

Review of Rémy Scheurer and Loris Petris, ed., Correspondance du Cardinal Jean du Bellay, Vol. 3, 1537-1547. Paris: Société de l'Histoire de France, 2008, in The Sixteenth Century Journal XLI/2 (Summer, 2010) 632-633.

Review of Grégory Champeaud, Le Parlement de Bordeaux et les paix de religion (1563-1600):

Une genèse de l'Edit de Nantes. Nérac: Editions d'Albret, 2008, in *The Sixteenth Century Journal* XLI/3 (Fall, 2010) 809-811.

Review of Charloote Duplessis-Mornay, *Les Mémoires de Madame de Mornay*, ed. Nadine Kuperty-Tsur. Paris: Honoré Champion, 2010, in *The Sixteenth Century Journal* XLII/4 (Winter 2011) 1170-1171.

Review of *Les lettres de pardon du voyage de Charles IX (1565-1566)*, ed. Michel Nassiet. Paris: Société de l'Histoire de France, 2010. *The Sixteenth Century Journal* XLIII/4 (Winter 2012) 1238-1239.

Review of Cédric Michon, ed., *Les Conseillers de François Ier*. Rennes: Presses Universitaires de Rennes, 2011. *The Sixteenth Century Journal* XLIII/4 (Winter 2012) 1235-1236.

Review of *England and Scotland at War, c. 1296-c. 1513*, ed. Andy King and David Simpkin. London: Brill, 2012. *The Sixteenth Century Journal* XLIV/3 (Fall 2013) 828-830.

Review of James Wright, *Those Who Have Borne the Battle: A History of America's Wars and Those Who Fought Them*. New York: Public Affairs, 2012. *Michigan War Studies Review* (online) 2013 (049).

Review of Bernard Bachrach, *Early Carolingian Warfare: Prelude to Empire*. Philadelphia, U. of Pennsylvania Press, 2011 (reprint of 2001 ed.). *Michigan War Studies Review* (online) 2013 (092).

Review of Bevin Alexander, *MacArthur's War: The Flawed Genius Who Challenged the American Political System*. New York: Public Affairs, 2012. *Michigan War Studies Review* (online) 2014 (005).

Review of Joël Blanchard, *Procès de Jacques d'Armagnac*. Geneva: Droz, 2012. *The Sixteenth Century Journal* XLIV/4 (Winter 2013) 1119-1121.

Review of Michèle Clément, *Etienne Dolet 1509-2009*. Geneva: Droz, 2012. *The Sixteenth Century Journal* XLIV/4 (Winter 2013) 1116-1118.

Review of William Mortimer Moore, *Free France's Lion: The Life of Philippe Leclerc*. Philadelphia: Casemate, 2012. *Michigan War Studies Review* (online) 2014 (100).

Review of Ed Offley, *The Burning Shore: How Hitler's U-Boats Brought World War II to America*. New York: Basic Books, 2015, in *Michigan War Studies Review* (online) 2015 (118).

Review of Eric Cline, *1177 B.C.: The Year When Civilization Collapsed*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2014, in *Michigan War Studies Review* (online) 2015 (75).

Review of Xiaobing Li, *China's Battle for Korea: The 1951 Spring Offensive*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2014, in *Michigan War Studies Review* (online) 2015 (48).

Review of Robert Sander, *Invasion of Laos 1971*. Robert Sander. Norman: University of

Oklahoma Press, 2014, in *Michigan War Studies Review* (online) 2015 (15)

Review of James Willbanks, *A Raid Too Far: Operation Lam Son 719 and Vietnamization in Laos*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2014, in *Michigan War Studies Review* (online) 2015 (15).

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

“European Military Systems and the Origins of World War I,” World War I lecture series, Silversides Museum, Muskegon, Michigan (December 1, 2015).

“Women in World War II,” Women's City Club, Grand Rapids (November 20, 2015).

Screening and discussion of documentary *A Team of Their Own*, Grand Rapids Public Museum, (November 10, 2015).

Keynote address, Veterans Dinner, Knights of Columbus, Conklin, MI, (November 1, 2015).

"Return to Vietnam," screening and panel discussion of film about Vietnam veterans who went back to Vietnam in 1995, Silversides Museum, Muskegon, MI (October 27, 2015).

“Return to Vietnam,” screening and panel discussion of film about Vietnam veterans who went back to Vietnam in 1995 (yes, we did the program in two locations on same day), Forest Hills Civic Center, Forest Hills, MI (October 27, 2015).

“West Michigan in World War II,” Cascade and Ada Historical Associations, Cascade, MI (October 27, 2015).

Premiere and discussion of *A Team of Their Own*, Loosemore Auditorium, GVSU, Grand Rapids (October 21, 2015).

Panelist in discussion of *Debt of Honor*, PBS Documentary, screened at WGVU Salute to Veterans, Allendale (October 17, 2015).

Screening of preview version of *A Team of Their Own* at All American Girls Professional Baseball League Association Reunion, South Bend, IN (August 7, 2015).

Keynote speech, Memorial Day Parade, Kent County United Veterans, Grand Rapids, (May 30, 2015).

"Surviving in Hitler's Europe", presentation for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Aquinas College. (May 5, 2015).

"Flying Tigers", presentation conducted with Frank Boring, Loutit Library, Grand Haven, MI (April 30, 2015).

“Return to Vietnam,” presentation for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Aquinas College,

(April 30, 2015).

"After D-Day: The Normandy Campaign", presentation for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Aquinas College (April 28, 2015).

Keynote Address., Kent County Veteran of the Year Banquet, Kent County United Veterans, Wyoming, MI (April 24, 2015).

"How We Got Into Vietnam", presentation at Cool Valley retirement community, Grand Rapids (April 21, 2015).

Presentation on Veterans History Project and Women's Baseball Documentary, Comstock Park Rotary, Comstock Park, MI (March 17, 2015).

Presentation on Veterans History Project, Clark Retirement Community, Grand Rapids (February 20, 2015).

Veterans Fair, WGVU Engage, Allendale, "GVSU Veterans History Project." (November 8, 2014).

"Eyewitness World War II: D-Day." Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids. (October 21, 2014).

"Send the Marines." Lowell Historical Museum, Lowell, MI, (November 12, 2014).

"West Michigan in World War II." Mayflower Congregational Church, Grand Rapids. (November 11, 2014).

"Eyewitness World War II: D-Day." Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids. (October 14, 2014).

"Omar Bradley and George Patton." Grand Forum, Eberhard Center. (May 6, 2014).

"My Year in Vietnam: Vietnamization and Withdrawal." GVSU Veterans History Project, Loosemore Auditorium, (April 9, 2014).

"My Year in Vietnam: With the Cav." GVSU Veterans History Project, Gerald R. Ford Museum, Grand Rapids. (March 27, 2014).

"My Year in Vietnam: Cambodia and Ripcord." Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids. (March 18, 2014).

"GVSU Veterans History Project." Fulton Manor, Grand Rapids. (March 6, 2014).

"GVSU Veterans History Project--WW II." East Grand Rapids High School. (February 25, 2014).

“My Year in Vietnam: With the Marines.” GVSU Veterans History Project, Loosemore Auditorium. (February 18, 2014).

“Veterans History Project.” Michigan Society of Military Historians and Collectors, Grand Rapids. (January 13, 2014).

“My Year in Vietnam: After Tet.” GVSU Veterans History Project, Loosemore Auditorium. (January 9, 2014).

[2013: 5 presentations in "My Year in Vietnam" series and other presentations]

Chaired and commented on two sessions at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, "History Writing and Printers in Early Modern France," and "Political Alliances, Interconnections and Patronage," Cincinnati, October, 2012.

Colloquium presentations for GVSU Department of History and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences on sabbatical project, "Tell My Folks I Done My Best: American Soldiers in Vietnam," September, 2012.

Keynote speech, "Why World War I Matters", presented at Gerald Ford Museum, Grand Rapids, during visit of traveling exhibit from the First World War Museum (Kansas City), July, 2012.

Chaired and commented on two sessions at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, "Commercial Development and Religious Violence across the English Channel," and "Conflict, Warfare and Foreign Relations in Early Modern Europe," Fort Worth, October, 2011

Chaired and commented on two sessions at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, "Perspectives on Military, Religious, and Commercial Encounters Between Ottomans and Western Europeans," and "Politics and Identity Markers in Early Modern Europe," Montreal, October, 2010

Conducted oral history workshop at the Grand Rapids Public Museum for the Grand Rapids Women's History Council and the Grand Rapids Quilters Guild, September, 2010

Keynote speaker, Kent City High School Veterans Day event, November, 2009.

Lectured on Leonardo da Vinci as artist and inventor for Grand Forum at the Grand Rapids Public Museum, September, 2009

Moderated panel discussion of Korean War Veterans at GVSU, April, 2009.

“From Insurgency to Revolution: Universities in the Protestant Reformation, 1520-1600.” Chaired and commented on session of the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Salt Lake City, October, 2006.

“Politics, Diplomacy, and Council in Sixteenth-Century England and Spain.” Chaired session of

the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Salt Lake City, October, 2006.

Chaired and commented on McNair Scholars panel, Great Lakes History Conference, Grand Rapids, October, 2006

“Court Society and Noble Culture in Sixteenth and Early Seventeenth Century France.” Chaired and commented on session of the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Atlanta, October, 2005.

“The Battle of the Bulge II.” Moderated panel discussion of veterans organized by the Michigan Military History Institute, Grand Rapids, December, 2004.

“Parachuting into Normandy and Holland: A Comparative Perspective.” Moderated panel discussion of veterans at the reunion of veterans of the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, Grand Rapids, June, 2004.

“The Battle of the Bulge.” Moderated panel discussion of veterans organized by the Michigan Military Museum, Grand Rapids, December, 2003.

“Operation Torch: the American Invasion of North Africa.” Lecture for the Michigan Military Museum, Grand Rapids, December, 2003.

“Spiritual Responses to Social Pressures: Studies from France and the Empire.” Chair and comment on session at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Pittsburgh, November, 2003.

“D-Day Remembered.” Moderated panel discussion of D-Day veterans organized by the Michigan Military Museum, Grand Rapids, September, 2003

“Managing the King’s Image: Royalist Propaganda in France, 1588-1594.” Renaissance Society of America, Toronto, March, 2003

“Rodin’s Paris.” Lecture presented at Frederick Meijer Gardens, February, 2002.

“France.” Chaired and commented on session at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Denver, October, 2001.

"Searching for Women in Renaissance Italy and 19th Century America." Colloquium Presentation, King's College, University of Western Ontario, October, 2000.

"17th Century: The Golden Age of Dutch Art and Culture." Seminar on Exhibition of Dutch Art, co-sponsored by the Grand Rapids Art Museum and the Kent Intermediate School District, Grand Rapids, August, 1999

"Women and Education in the Italian Renaissance." Women's Festival, Grand Valley State University, March, 1999

"What Do We Do with a Dead Queen? The Death of Mary, Queen of Scots, as a Media Event in

France, 1587-1588." Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Toronto, October, 1998

"Perugino in Historical Context." Seminar on Perugino Exhibition, co-sponsored by the Grand Rapids Art Museum and the Kent Intermediate School District, Grand Rapids, August, 1997

"James II and the French Connection: British History, French Political Thought and the Glorious Revolution." Southern Conference on British Studies, New Orleans, November, 1995

"From Humanist to Absolutist: Shifting Patterns of Monarchy in Sixteenth-Century France." History Department Colloquium, Calvin College, March, 1995

"The Return of Henri III: Royalist Mythmaking and Its Limitations in 1574." Western Society for French History, Orcas Island, Washington, October, 1992

"Taxation and Rebellion during the French Wars of Religion, 1559-1589." Society for French Historical Studies, Vancouver, March, 1991

"Henry III and the Failure of Renaissance Kingship." Western Society for French History, Santa Barbara, November, 1990

"Inquiring Minds: The Use of Primary Source Readers in History Survey Classes." Ohio Academy of History, Gambier, OH, April 1990

"Journalism and Propaganda in a Time of Crisis: Pamphleteering in France, 1587-1588." Society for French Historical Studies, Columbus, OH, March, 1990

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Renaissance Society of America
Society for Early Modern Studies

SERVICE

Director, GVSU Veterans History Project (2006-present)
WGVU Engage (2013-present)
Kutsche Center Advisory Committee (2010-present)
History Department Personnel Committee (Fall 2015-present, chair Fall 2016-present)
Faculty Advisor, Stars and Stripes Club, GVSU (2009-2011)
University Curriculum Task Force (2002-2003)
Chair, History Department (2001-2007)
Assistant Chair, History Department (1999-2001)
Acting Chair, History Department (Summer 1999, Spring/Summer 2000)
Chair, History Department Assessment Committee (1998-2001)
Coordinator, "Making War and Peace" General Education theme group (1999-2002)
Academic Review Committee (1990-present)

Scholarship Committee (1991-2001)
Curriculum Committee, Arts and Humanities Division (1998-2004--Chair, 2000-2004)
University Curriculum Task Force (2002-2003)
Chair, Alexander Calder Honors Scholarship Committee (1999-2001)
Admissions, Records and Financial Aids Committee (1991-1993, 2001-2003)
Honors Program Advisory Committee (1992-1994)
Breen Prize Committee (1991-2001)
Judge, National History Day Competition (1993-present)
Director, Great Lakes History Conference (1992-1996)
Director, Miami Valley Early Modern History Seminar (1989-1990)