

Abigail R. Gautreau

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Education

Ph.D. Public History, Middle Tennessee State University
 M.St. History, University of Oxford
 B.A. History, Randolph-Macon Woman's College

Selected Teaching Experience

Associate Professor of History, Grand Valley State University	2023-present
Assistant Professor of History, Grand Valley State University	2017-23
Adjunct Instructor of History, Middle Tennessee State University	2015-16
Adjunct Instructor of History, Motlow State Community College	2015-16
Adjunct Instructor of History, Lord Fairfax Community College	2010

Additional Experience

Content Specialist, Tennessee Historical Society	2016-17
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University	2015-16

Publications

Gautreau, Abigail and Leigh Rupinski. "[From History Student to Historian: Integrating Archival Research in the Undergraduate Classroom](#)." *Archival Outlook*, May/June 2024.

Gautreau, Abigail. "The Real Trick is Holding Onto That Energy and Not Collapsing: Teaching Undergraduate Public History on the Verge of the Pandemic." In *Teaching Public History*, edited by Julia Brock and Evan Faulkenberry. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2023.

"What Happens Next? Institutionalizing Grassroots Success in Selma, Alabama." In [Radical Roots: Public History and a Tradition of Social Justice Activism](#), edited by Denise Meringolo. Amherst, MA: Amherst College Press, 2021.

[Teaching Public History Online Working Group](#). August 2020.

"Interview with Abigail Gautreau: PhD Candidate" for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Summer 2013. <http://www.achp.gov/inclusiveness-abigail.html>

"Finding the Segregated Past in a Civil Rights Landscape in Selma, Alabama": Featured Landscape, *The Living Landscape Observer*, June 2013. <http://livinglandscapeobserver.net/civil-rights-landscape/>

Projects

In Progress:

Eugenics in the Cultural Landscape, Multiple Property Submission to the National Register of Historic Places.

Ottawa County Soil Conservation District Exhibit

Single-panel traveling exhibit on the history of the SCD, with Sophia Bruno, Tristan DiCesare, Joseph Driesenga, Bradley Stek (students) and Matthew Daley.

Grand Rapids City Archive Mugshot Book Exhibit (Title TBD)

Digital and physical exhibit for History 415 (Museum Studies) class.

Complete:

Historic markers for Downtown Lowell, Michigan.

Student projects for History 420 (Public History).

Southern Places Digital History Initiative: Selma (2016)

Digitized materials and developed metadata related collected during fieldwork in Selma Alabama for the Center for Historic Preservation, as part of the Southern Places Initiative, a partnership with Walker Library at Middle Tennessee State University on a CONTENTdm platform.

Voices of Selma, Alabama Oral History Project (2013-5)

An oral history project dedicated to recording the narratives of youths involved in the Voting Rights Movement in Selma, especially alumni of R.B. Hudson High School.

[“The Civil Rights Movement in Selma, Alabama, 1865-1972.”](#) (2013)

National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Submission Form. (Carroll Van West, Elizabeth Moore Humphreys, Abigail Gautreau, Amber Clawson, Jessica French)

[“American Baptist Theological Seminary.”](#) (2013)

National Register of Historic Places District Nomination Form. (Carroll Van West, Elizabeth Moore Humphreys, Abigail Gautreau, Amber Clawson, Jessica French)

[“Oak Hill Farm, Tipton County, Tennessee.”](#) (2013)

National Register of Historic Places District Nomination Form. (Abigail Gautreau, Carroll Van West, Elizabeth Moore Humphreys)

African American Oral History Project (2012)

Completed a series of oral history interviews under the direction of Dr. Martha Norkunas, director of the AAOHP.

Cragfont Historic Structures Assessment (2012)

Tennessee Historical Commission, Gallatin, Tennessee. (Carroll Van West, Elizabeth Moore Humphreys, Spurgeon King, Michael Gavin, Abigail Gautreau, Angela Sirna, Claire Ackerman, Leslie Couch, Dan Allen, David Sprouse, Julie Warwick)

Glen Leven Historic House & Farm Interpretive Plan (2011)

Tennessee Land Trust Society, Nashville, Tennessee. (Caneta S. Hankins, Abigail Gautreau, Kathryn Rosta)

Monteagle Sunday School Assembly Architectural Review (2011)

(Carroll Van West, Elizabeth Moore Humphreys, Abigail Gautreau, Hallie Fieser, Sean Urrutia, Jessica Bandel, Amy Kostine, Jessica White, Leigh Ann Gardner)

Selected Conference Presentations & Professional Engagement

2025

Landmark College Summer Institute

Attended the Landmark College Summer Institute on teaching neurodivergent students. Part of an FTLC Grant.

National Council on Public History Annual Meeting

Working Group: Creating a Peer-Review Clearinghouse for Public Historians.

Member. Led by Clarissa Ceglie, Kathleen Powers Conti, Elizabeth Fraterrigo, and Michelle Hamilton.

Selma to Montgomery Trail 60th Anniversary Voting Rights Act Scholars' Roundtable

Panel Session: Foot Soldiers of the Selma Movement

Discussant with Karlyn Forner, led by Tara White.

2024

National Council on Public History Annual Meeting

"Teaching and Publishing Public History" with Evan Faulkenbury, Patricia Mooney-Melvin, Torren Gatson, Lindsey Wieck, and Adam Winters.

Virtual NCPH-OAH: Public Dialogue, Relevance, and Change: Being in Service to Communities and the Nation, National Council on Public History and Organization of American Historians.

"Teaching and Publishing Public History" with Evan Faulkenbury, Patricia Mooney-Melvin, Torren Gatson, Lindsey Wieck, and Adam Winters.

This is a repeat; due to the popularity of the panel at NCPH's meeting, we were invited to repeat it at the virtual joint NCPH-OAH meeting.

International Federation for Public History 7th World Conference

"The Radical Roots of Public History" with Kristen Baldwin Deathridge, Elizabeth Belanger, and Clarissa Ceglie.

2023

National Council on Public History Annual Meeting

"Opportunities and Challenges of the Undergraduate Public History Curriculum," with Natalie Coté, Jennifer Dickey, and Elysse Ford.

2021

National Council on Public History Annual Meeting

"Collaboration in the Time of COVID-19: Digital Collectives to Support Teaching, Outreach, and Research" with Jennifer Black, Katie Stringer Clary, and William Stoutamire.

"Workshop: Teaching Public History Online" with Jennifer Black, Katie Stringer Clary, and William Stoutamire.

2020

National Council on Public History Annual Meeting CANCELED—pandemic
 Working Group Facilitator: Challenging Whiteness in Public History (Kristen Baldwin Deathridge, Abigail Gautreau, Amanda Higgins, Lara Kelland, Jodi Lewis)

American Association for State and Local History
 Webinar on Emergency Remote Teaching with Katie Clary, Abigail Gautreau, and Tara White.

2019

National Council on Public History Annual Meeting
 Workshop: “Reacting to the Past” and Public History: Teaching Historical Contestation through Immersive Game Play

2018

National Council on Public History Annual Meeting
 Roundtable: Relitigating Civil Rights: Social Justice, Public History, and the Law (Erin Devlin, Andrea Blackman, Abigail Gautreau, and Kelli Gibson)

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Aquinas College
 “The Black Freedom Struggle” and “Remembering and Forgetting: Segregation in Alabama and South Africa”

2017

Invited Talk: Coastal Carolina University Cultural Heritage Series
 “What Happened in Selma: Civil Rights, White Supremacy and Historic Preservation in the 21st Century”

Tennessee Association of Museums Annual Meeting
 Digital Archives Roundtable with Kelley Sirko and Caroline Voisine

National Council on Public History Annual Meeting
 Symposium: Radical Roots: Civic Engagement, Public History, and a Tradition of Social Justice Activism, Grassroots Public History (Kristen Baldwin Deathridge, Angelica Bullock, Abigail Gautreau, Lara Kelland, Brittani Orona, Craig Stutman)

Facilitated a THATcamp session on building a Public History/Digital History glossary.

2016

Digital Archives Roundtable: Intermuseum Council of Nashville
 Organized & ran a digital archives roundtable for local museum professionals.

National Council on Public History Annual Meeting

“Change Starts Within: Challenging Cultural & Structural Barriers to Inclusive Public History”: a structured conversation with Julie Davis, Lara Kelland, and Craig Stutman.

Co-facilitator for THATcamp session on building a Public History/Digital History glossary.

2015

“Give Us the Ballot”: The Alabama Voting Rights Campaign of 1965 and the Transformation of America’s Political System. (Alabama State University)

“Voting Rights in the Alabama Black Belt: Dallas and Lowndes Counties” with Charles Mauldin, Sheyann Webb-Christburg, Catherine Flowers, and Joann Mants.

2014

National Council on Public History Annual Meeting

“Sustaining Historic Preservation Through Community Engagement”: a roundtable discussion with Kristen Baldwin Deathridge, Rachel Boyle, Ginna Foster Cannon, Kimberly Connolly Hicks, Theodore J. Karamanski, and Eileen MacMahon.

2013

Oral History Association Annual Meeting

“Re-seeing Movement History in New Relationships, New Times, Old Landscapes: Hidden Stories in the Life History Context”

Popular Culture & American Culture Association in the South

“TLC and the American Working Class”

16th Annual US/ICOMOS International Symposium

“Whose City?: Race and the Urban Landscape in Selma, Alabama”

National Council on Public History Annual Meeting

“‘Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find’: Landmarking the Civil Rights Movement in Selma, Alabama” with Amber Clawson, Jessica French, and Louretta Wimberly

2012

Southeast Conference of the Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting

“The Invention of Lying: George Psalmanazar, the Society of Jesus, and the Truth about Asia in the Seventeenth Century”

ServiceInstitutional*Departmental*

Dept. Personnel Committee, 2025-present
 Dept. Student Outreach/Awards Committee, 2018-present
 History Department Visioning Committee, 2021-2024
 Public History Badge coordinator, 2021-present
 Phi Alpha Theta/History Club sponsor, 2019-20

College

CLAS Voyages Summer Institute, 2025
 College Personnel Committee, Winter 2025 (sabbatical replacement)
 CLAS Summer Strategy and Innovation Group, 2021

University

FTLC Faculty/Staff Learning Community for Neurodivergent Faculty/Staff, co-facilitator, 2024-5
 University Writing Skills Committee, Fall 2024 (sabbatical replacement), 2025-8
 Inclusion Advocate, 2025-present

Professional

Board of Directors, National Council on Public History, May 2025-present
 Cochair, [NCPH Long-Range Planning Committee](#), May 2019-present
 Peer reviewer, Utah State University tenure file, 2025
 Peer reviewer, University of North Carolina Press book proposal, 2025
 Peer-reviewer for a tenure file at Sewanee, The University of the South, 2024
 Member, NCPH 2025 Annual Meeting Program Committee, 2024
 Member, NCPH Long-Range Planning Committee, 2017-present

Community

Great Lakes Area Show Series – Educational Dressage, Inc. (GLASS-ED) Virtual Show series secretary, 2024-present
 History Day, Regional Judge, GVSU, 2018, 2019

Society Memberships

Grand Rapids Public History Roundtable
 International Federation for Public History
 Michigan Museums Association
 National Council on Public History
 Tennessee Historical Society