

David E. Zwart

Associate Professor of History
Grand Valley State University

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Education

Ph.D. in History: April 2012, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan

M.A. in History: April 2004, California State University, Fresno, Fresno, California

B.A. in History and Education: May 1999, Dordt College (now University), Sioux Center, Iowa

Professional Experience

Associate Professor of History
Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI
August 2018-Present

Assistant Professor of History
Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI
August 2012-July 2018

Assistant Professor of History
Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa
August 2008-May 2012

Peer-Reviewed Publications

"Golden Rule Christianity: Milo Reno and the Religious Appeal of the Farm Labor and Protest Movements" on *Iowa Agricultural and Rural History, 1900-1940*, Joseph Anderson and Pamela Rihney-Kehrberg, eds. Under review by Kansas University Press.

"Submerged but Teeming: German-American Identity in the Rural Midwest in the Mid-Twentieth Century." *Middle West Review* 12, no. 1 (2025).

"Sliding into Oblivion? Michigan's History and Social Studies Teaching Preparation Programs since 2010" with Wilson Warren. *Teaching History: A Journal of Methods* 50, no. 1 (2025).

"Pedagogical Humility: Learning from Social Studies Majors' Intellectual Autobiographies." *The Great Lakes Social Studies Journal* 4, no. 2 (2024).

"It's Just Different: Identifying Features of Disciplinary Literacy Unique to World History," with Tamara Shreiner. *The History Teacher*, 53, no. 3 (May 2020).

"Telling Heartland Histories: Rural Iowa Protestant Congregations in the Mid-Twentieth Century" *The Annals of Iowa* 77, no. 4 (Fall 2018), 384-415.

"Remembering Immigration in the Rural Midwest after World War II" *Représentations dans le monde anglophone: La revue électronique du CEMRA* (September 2018). Paul Otto and Susanne Berthier-Foglar, eds.

"For the Next Generation: Commemorating the Immigration Experience in the United States and Canada" *Tijdschrift voor Sociale en Economische Geschiedenis* 7, no. 2 (2010): 126-150.

“Constructing the Homeland: Dutch Americans and the Netherlands Information Bureau during the 1940s,” *Michigan Historical Review* 33, no. 3 (Fall 2007): 81-100.

Other Publications

- “The 1918-1919 Flu Pandemic: Remembering Trauma among Dutch Americans,” in *Dutch Immigrant Stories*, Donald J. Bruggink, Dennis N. Voskuil, and William Katerberg, eds. Holland, Mich.: Van Raalte Press, 2022.
- “Promoting Unity: The 1957 Centennial Celebration of the Christian Reformed Church.” *Origins, Historical Magazine of the Heritage Hall Archives*, 39(2). Fall 2021
- “The Queen Wilhelmina Colony and Other Dutch Farming Colonies in California's Central Valley in the Late Nineteenth Century.” *Origins: Historical Magazine of the Heritage Hall Archives*, 38(1). Spring 2020
- “Teaching the Past: History Education among Dutch Americans” in *Dutch Reformed Education: Immigrant Legacies in North America*, Donald Luidens, Donald J. Bruggink, and Herman J. DeVries, Jr., eds. Holland, Mich.: Van Raalte Press, 2020.
- “Rural Identity among Dutch America” in *Dutch Muck—and Much More: Dutch Americans in Farming, Religion, Art, and Astronomy*, Earl Wm. Kennedy, Donal A. Luidens, David Zwart, eds., Holland, Mich.: Van Raalte Press, 2019.
- “Dutch-American Attitudes and the Vietnam War” in *Dutch Americans and War: United States and Abroad*, Robert P. Swierenga, Nella Kennedy, Lisa Zylstra, eds., Holland, Michigan, Van Raalte Press, 2014.
- “Commemorating the Past: Being Dutch-American in Wisconsin” in *Diverse Destinies: Dutch Colonies in Wisconsin and the East*, Nella Kennedy, Mary Risseuw, Robert P. Swierenga, eds., Holland, Michigan, Van Raalte Press, 2012.
- “Preachers, Pews, and Pupils: Commemorating the Past in Twentieth-Century Dutch America” Holland, Mich.: Van Raalte Press, 2011.
- “Staging the Past: Historical Pageantry the Dutch-American Community in West Michigan” in Robert P. Swierenga, Jacob E. Nyenhuis, Nella Kennedy, Hans Krabbendam, editors *Dutch-American Arts and Letters in Historical Perspective*. Holland, Michigan: Van Raalte Press, 2008.
- “On the Periphery: Dutch Immigration to the San Joaquin Valley” in Robert P. Swierenga, Donald Sinnema and Hans Krabbendam, eds. *The Dutch in Urban America: The Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies Fourteenth Biennial Conference Papers*. Holland, Michigan: The Joint Archives, 2004.

Recent Presentations

- “Stories Worth Telling: Dutch-American History for the 21st Century” Keynote Address
Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies
Pella, Iowa
June 2026
- “Meaning Making or Myth Making: Dutch-American History for the 21st Century”
Conference on Faith and History
St. Paul, Minnesota
October 1-3, 2026
- “Why Does Dutch Bingo Work? Being Dutch American in the Valley: Migration, Institutions, and Identity”
Communities of the Valley
University of California, Merced
July 2026

- “Golden Rule Christianity: Milo Reno and Midwest Farmers in 1920s and 1930s”
 2026 Midwestern History Association Conference
 Oxford, Ohio
 April 29-May 1, 2026
- “Under God”: History Education in the National Union of Christian Schools in the Twentieth Century”
 2025 Midwest Educational Research Association Annual Conference
 Milwaukee, WI
 November 5, 2025
- “The Religious Dimension of the Farm Protest Movement during the Great Depression”
 Iowa Agricultural and Rural History, 1900-1940 Symposium
 Des Moines, IA
 September 26-27, 2025
- “History and Social Studies Teacher Preparation Programs: Will They Survive?”
 2025 Organization of American Historians Conference on American History
 Chicago, IL
 April 5, 2025
- "Making Sense of Michigan's State Social Studies Standards" (with Annie Whitlock)
 Michigan Conference on Introductory History Courses sponsored by the American Historical Association
 Rochester, MI
 September 21-22, 2024
- “Connected by Faith: Dutch Immigrants in Iowa and California: 1890-1930”
 Western History Association
 Los Angeles, CA
 October 25-28, 2023
- "Pedagogical Humility: Learning from Social Studies Majors' Intellectual Autobiography"
 American Association for Teaching and Curriculum
 Chicago, IL
 October 7, 2022

Awards

- Pew Teaching Excellence Award
 Grand Valley State University
 February 2022
- Albert A. Smith Fellowship
 Reformed Church Center, New Brunswick Seminary, New Brunswick, New Jersey
 “An Obligation to the Past? RCA Congregations and History after WWII”
 September 2018-December 2018
- State Historical Society of Iowa Research Grant
 “Heartland Stories: Rural Iowa Ethnic Churches, 1945-1975”
 June 2015-June 2016

University and Professional Service

- Assistant Chair, Social Studies, GVSU History Department
 Fall 2016-Present
- Chair, GVSU History Department Curriculum Committee
 October 2014-Present
- Committee Member, GVSU Teacher Education Council
 Fall 2017-December 2022, 2024-Present

Voyage Faculty Fellow

2024-2025

Interim Co-Director, GVSU PCKET Program

Fall 2023

Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and Webmaster, Association for the Advancement of
Dutch-American Studies

June 2015-Present

Treasurer, Michigan Council for History Education Board Treasurer

October 2014 - Present