

# MATTHEW CERJAK

mcerjak@umich.edu

## EDUCATION

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### University of Michigan

Ph.D., History; In Progress

M.A., History, 2026

Fields: Anglo-American Law, Colonial America and Britain in the Early Modern Atlantic, Late Medieval and Early Modern England, Race and Slavery in America

Advised by David Hancock

### University of Chicago

M.A., Social Sciences, 2023

*Navigating the Courts: The Ingenuity and Resourceful Prowess of Female Litigants in Early Modern England*

Advised by Steve Pincus

### St. John's University

B.S.Ed., Secondary Education in Social Studies, Honors and *Magna Cum Laude*, 2022

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Book Chapters & Journal Articles

“‘She Has a Right’: Unveiling Legal Knowledge and Action Through the Narratives of Formerly Enslaved Women.” *Women’s Writing* (Special Issue on Women, Enslavement, & Race), 33, no. 2 (2026): 1-21.

“‘Where Are Your Women?’: The Cultural Persistence of Cherokee Women During the Long Eighteenth Century,” in *Matriculture, Shamanism, and the Authority of Women: The Powers That Be*, eds. Linnéa Rowlett and Angela Sumegi, (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2025): 165-186.

“‘Let Your Women Hear Our Words’: Nanyehi’s Negotiations.” *Matrix: A Journal for Matricultural Studies*, 3, no. 2 (2024): 60–93.

### Public Scholarship

“Teaching About Slavery and the Law: The Freedom Suit of Elizabeth Key and Institution of *Partus Sequitur Ventrem* in Colonial Virginia.” *Social Education* (Lessons on Law), 88, no. 6 (2024): 386-390.

## FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

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2026	Lapidus Fellowship for the Study of Rare Early American Legal Texts <i>Omohundro Institute &amp; William &amp; Mary Law School</i>
2025	Fellowship in Race, Law and History <i>University of Michigan Law School</i>
2025	Summer Training Award for the ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods <i>Institute for Social Research &amp; University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School</i>
2024	Rackham Merit Fellowship <i>University of Michigan</i>
2023	Maroon Scholar Research Grant <i>University of Chicago</i>
2022	Open Study/Research Award Finalist (Alternate) <i>U.S. Department of State Fulbright Program</i>
2021-2022	Ronald E. McNair Scholar <i>St. John’s University</i>

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

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- “Pursuing Profits in the British Atlantic: Feme-Sole Merchants, Maritime Enterprises, & Commercial Law in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries,” a paper delivered at the ‘Everyday Questions’: Gender, Economic, and Cultural Practices in Maritime Early Modern and Modern Everyday Life Workshop, Naples, Italy December 2024.
- “Binture v. La Pallu: Exploring Transimperial Networks Related to Gender, Kinship, and Law in the Early Modern Caribbean,” a paper delivered at the In the Same Sea Workshop, April 2024.
- ““Where Are Your Women?": The Persistence of Cherokee Women during the Long Eighteenth Century,” a paper delivered at the Joint American Anthropological Association/Canadian Anthropological Association Conference, Toronto, November 2023.
- ““The British Will Know Who We Are": Women in the Revolutionary War,” a lecture presented at the Eighteenth Annual Fort Ticonderoga Seminar on the American Revolution, September 2022.
- ““Wives, like Good Subjects, Bow to Husbands": The Conflict of Female Literature” a paper delivered at the Mid-Atlantic Conference on British Studies at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, April 2022.
- ““The Bride of War": The Service of Jemima Warner,” a paper delivered at the James A. Barnes Graduate Student History Conference at Temple University, Philadelphia, March 2022.
- ““A History of Repeated Injuries and Usurpations on the Part of Man Toward Woman": The Journey of Colonial Englishwomen Towards Citizenry,” a paper delivered at the “Many Faces of War VI” conference at South Dakota State University, October 2021.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **University of Michigan, Graduate Student Instructor**

History 260 - The History of the United States to 1865

History 281 - How to Become a Billionaire: Business Tycoons and the Development of Western Capitalism

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

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American Society for Legal History

American Historical Association

American Bar Association

Royal Historical Society

Selden Society