

# PERRIN SELCER

## EMPLOYMENT

### **University of Michigan**

Associate Professor, Department of History and Program in the Environment (2019 - )  
Assistant Professor, Department of History and Program in the Environment (2014 - present)  
Director of Undergraduate Studies (2021 - 2023)

### **University of Texas-Austin**

NSF Postdoctoral Fellow, 2013  
Lecturer, Jan. 2011 – Dec. 2012

## EDUCATION

### **University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Ph.D., History and Sociology of Science, May 2011  
Dissertation: “Patterns of Science: Developing Knowledge for a World Community at Unesco”  
Committee: M. Susan Lindee, Chair; Lynn Hollen Lees; Sarah Igo

M.A., History and Sociology of Science, May 2005

Field Exams: Science and Social Order; World History; Modern United States and the World

### **Mills College**, Oakland, California

Secondary Teaching Credential, June 1998

### **University of Oregon, Clark Honors College**, Eugene, Oregon

B.A. with Honors, English, September 1997  
Honors Thesis: “Traveling in Theory”

## FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

Mellon New Directions Fellowship for retraining in the paleosciences (2020-2021)

Visiting Scholar, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, (June 2017)

Norman and Jane Katz Faculty Fellow, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan  
(2016-17)

Faculty Fellow, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, University of Michigan (2015-16)

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Science, Technology, and Society Program, National Science  
Foundation (2013)

Award for Best Dissertation, Forum for the History of the Human Sciences (2012)

School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania  
(2008-2009)

Dean’s Summer Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania (summer 2008, 2009 and 2010)

John C. Burnham Early Career Award, Forum for the History of the Human Sciences (2008)

International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (2007-2008)

Visiting Scholar, Science, Technology, and Public Policy Program, Gerald R. Ford School of  
Public Policy, University of Michigan (2008-2010)

Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship, Council for European Studies at Columbia University  
(Summer 2006)

William Penn Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania (2003-2008)

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## PUBLICATIONS

### Book

*The Postwar Origins of the Global Environment: How the United Nations Built Spaceship Earth* (New York: Columbia University Press, International and Global History Series, 2018).

### Articles and Chapters

“Holocene Time Perspective,” in Alison Bashford, Emily Kern, and Adam Bobbette, eds., *New Earth Histories* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, forthcoming 2023).

Michael D. Cherney, Daniel C. Fisher, Richard J. Auchus, Adam N. Rountrey, **Perrin Selcer** et al., “Testosterone histories from tusks reveal woolly mammoth musth episodes,” *Nature* 617 (18 May 2023), 533-539.

“Anthropocene,” *Encyclopaedia for the History of Science* (March 2021): <https://doi.org/10.34758/be6m-gs41>.

“Sociology,” in Mark Bevir, ed., *Modernism and the Social Sciences: Anglo-American Exchanges, cc. 1918-1980* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2017).

“Fabricating Unity: The FAO-UNESCO Soil Map of the World,” *Historical Social Research*, 40: 2 (2015), 174-201.

“As utilizações da inutilidade: o programa de investigação para as zonas áridas da UNESCO e as funções da Ciência Fundamental na comunidade internacional do pós-guerra,” in Miguel Bandeira Jerónimo and José Pedro Monteiro, eds., *Os passados do presente: Internacionalismo, imperialismo e a construção do mundo contemporâneo* (Lisboa: Almedina, 2015).

“Beyond the Cephalic Index: Negotiating Politics to Produce Unesco’s Scientific Statements on Race,” *Current Anthropology*, 53: supplement 5: *The Biological Anthropology of Living Human Populations: World Histories, National Styles, and International Networks* (April 2012), s173-s184.

"UNESCO, Weltbürgerschaft und Kalter Krieg" in *Macht und Geist im Kalten Krieg* (Studien zum Kalten Krieg, vol. 5), ed. Bernd Greiner, Tim B. Müller, and Claudia Weber (Hamburg: Hamburger Edition, 2011), 476-496.

“The View from Everywhere: Disciplining Diversity in post-World War Two International Social Science,” *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, 45: 4 (Fall 2009), 309-329.

“Standardizing Wounds: Alexis Carrel and the Scientific Management of Life during World War I,” *British Journal for the History of Science*, 42: 1 (March 2008), 73-107.

### Reviews

Essay review, “Toshihiro Higuchi, *Political Fallout: Nuclear Weapons Testing and the Making of a Global Environmental Crisis*, *H-Environment Rountable Reviews* 11: 5 (2021).

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Author's response, "The Postwar Origins of Spaceship Earth: How the United Nations Built Spaceship Earth," *H-Environment Roundtable Reviews* 10: no. 11 (2020).

Review of Nicholas B. Breyfogle, ed., "Eurasian Environments: Nature and Ecology in Imperial Russian and Soviet History," *Isis* 111: 1 (2020), 181-182.

Review of Jessica Lynne Pearson, "The Colonial Politics of Global Health: France and the United Nations in Postwar Africa," *H-France* 19: 110 (2019), 5 pp.

Review of Nicolas Guilhot, ed., "The Invention of International Relations Theory: Realism, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the 1954 Conference on Theory," *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, 49: 4 (2013), 438-440.

Review of Sarah Bridger, "Scientists and the Ethics of Cold War Weapons Research," (PhD diss., Columbia University, 2011), *Dissertation Reviews* (online), Jan. 2013.

Review of Jake Lamar, ed., "Sixty Years of Science at UNESCO, 1945-2005," *Isis*, 99: 1, (March 2008), 219-220.

## **PRESENTATIONS, PANELS, AND WORKSHOPS**

"Troubling Temporalities," roundtable participant, History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, 2022.

Commentator, "Running Water: Contextualizing Current Understandings of Water," The Ways of Water: Art, Activism, and Ecologies Symposium, STAMPS Gallery, Ann Arbor, Oct. 2022.

"From World Government to Global Environmental Governance," workshop presentation for "Stockholm+50: A Half-Century of Global Environmental Governance—Taking Stock and Looking Forward, Stockholm, June 2022.

"Causality at Global Scale," workshop presentation for "'We All Live on One Planet?': Global Environmental Protection, Politics, and Justice in the Twentieth Century," Geneva, May 2022.

"A Life in Planetary History," New Earth History speaker series: Historians on Planetary Futures, Sydney, March 2022.

"Climate Change and Institutional Imagination: Sawyer Climate Seminar," Roundtable Presenter, Feb. 2022.

"Causality at the Global Scale," comment for roundtable "One Globe, Three Histories?: Thinking International, Global, and Environmental History Together," Sixth European Congress on World and Global History, Finland, June 2020. CANCELED DUE TO COVID.

"Constructing Spaceship Earth," Science, Technology and Diplomacy during the Cold War and Beyond lecture series, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, April 2020. CANCELED DUE TO COVID.

"Postwar Origins of Spaceship Earth" and "The Anthropocene," invited lecture for Study of the Planetary Human-Environment Relationship (SPHERE), KTH, Stockholm, May 2020. CANCELED DUE TO COVID.

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Co-organizer, “Behind Walls, Beyond Disciplines: Science, Technology, and the Carceral State,” Ann Arbor, April 2021.

Co-organizer of “Human Conditions: An Eisenberg Seminar,” Ann Arbor, March 2020, CANCELED DUE TO COVID.

“Postwar Origins of the Global Environment,” International Law lunchtime colloquium. Ann Arbor, Feb. 2020.

“Domesticating Diversity: The Cosmopolitan Origins of the Agricultural Revolution,” New Earth Histories Conference, Sydney, Dec. 2019.

“The Place of the Humanities in the Anthropocene,” U-M – SJTU Environmental Humanities Meeting, Shanghai, March 2019.

“Stockholm 1972: Environment, Development, and the Search for a New International Order,” Plenary presentation, MUSE conference, Ann Arbor, Feb. 2019.

“The UN’s 1968: Environment, Development, and the Search for a New International Order,” Invited talk, History Department Colloquium, Michigan State University East Lansing, Feb. 2019.

“Environments and Adaptation in Ancient China: Recent Advances and Global Context,” roundtable discussant, U-M Center for Chinese Studies, Ann Arbor, Feb. 2019.

“Confronting a Climate of Despair: Transformative Pedagogies for the Anthropocene,” Workshop co-organizer, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, Ann Arbor, Feb. 2019.

“The Postwar Origins of Global-scale Environmental Crisis,” U-M Institute for the Humanities, Ann Arbor, Nov. 2018.

“Constructing Spaceship Earth,” invited lecture, Asia and the Anthropocene Workshop, Association for Asian Studies, Ann Arbor, August 2018.

“From Soil Erosion to Global Warming: The Postwar International Origins of Global-scale Environmental Crisis,” American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference, Irvine, CA, March 2018.

“UNESCO and the Statements on Race in the Making,” Presidential Panel, American Historical Association, Washington, D.C., Jan. 2018.

Panel Commenter, “Science and the State II: Cold War Economic Orders,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Toronto, Nov. 2017.

Chair, “Global Ideological Encounters in East Asia,” Global Cultural Encounters Workshop—Between the Material and Immaterial,” U-M, Aug. 2017.

“The UN and the Science of World Community,” Public Lecture, Histories of Internationalism and Regime Change—A Global Perspective, Erfurt University, Germany, June 2017.

“Social Sciences, Democracy, and the American University,” commentary for panel discussion at University of Michigan Bicentennial event, 1917, Feb. 2017.

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Conversation with Susan Parrish on *The Flood Year, 1917*, U-M Author's Forum, Feb. 2017.

"Energy History," Abrams Sustainability Seminar, U-M, May 2016.

"Climate Change and Crisis in the Middle East," Co-organizer of mini-conference, U-M, March 2016.

"Development as a Moral Equivalent of War," American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference, Seattle, March 2016.

"The Meaning of Spaceship Earth," Society for the History of American Foreign Relations Annual Conference, Washington D.C., June 2015.

"Placing the Global Environment," Making Knowledge and the Problem of Place: A Midwest Conference on Science and Technology Studies, Northwestern, May 2015.

"Developing Community: The Postwar Career of Community Development," 9<sup>th</sup> Agence Nationale de la Recherche Workshop: Cross-disciplinary Research Ventures in the Post-war American Social Sciences, Center for International Research in the Humanities, NYU, Oct. 2014.

"History in the Anthropocene: The Environment, Natural Sciences, and Planetary Narratives," Roundtable organizer, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, University of Michigan, Sep. 2014.

"To Battle with the Known Knowns," Roundtable on Blind Spots in STS, Post-normal STS: University of Michigan Science, Technology, and Society Mini-conference, May 2014.

"Men against the Desert: Arid Lands Research and the Growth of Development," American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference, San Francisco, March, 2014.

"Arms Control and Climate Change Negotiations: Shared Lessons and Possibilities," Co-organizer of workshop, Austin, TX, Jan. 2014.

"Developing Community: The Postwar Career of Community Development," National History Center Sponsored Panel, "The Knowledge of Development: Internationalism, Imperialism, and Social Change," American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., Jan. 2014

"The Cold War Origins of Spaceship Earth," Dark Matters: Contents and Discontents of Cold War Science, Barcelona, May-June 2013.

"Science for Society," Modernism and the Social Sciences: Anglo-American Exchanges, cc. 1918-1980, Berkeley, May 2013.

"Fabricating Unity: The FAO-Unesco Soil Map of the World," Climate and Beyond: Knowledge Production about Planet Earth and the Global Environment as Indicators of Social Change," Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research, Bern, Switzerland, Jan. 2013

"The Post-WWII Organization of the International Community," Governance Networks, 18<sup>th</sup> century to Present, Workshop at Institute for Historical Studies, University of Texas, Austin, Dec. 2012.

"Lessons on Lesson Planning" and "Introduction to Perspectives on Science and Math," 6<sup>th</sup> Annual UTeach Institute-NSMI Conference, Austin, May 2012.

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“Soft Science in Hard Times: Unesco, World Citizenship and the Cold War,” Intellectual History of the Cold War Conference Series, Hamburg Institute for Social Research, Sep. 2010.

“Biological Populations and Scientific Communities: Unesco’s Statements on Race,” The Biological Anthropology of Modern Human Populations: World Histories, National Styles, and International Networks, Wenner Gren Foundation, Teresópolis, Brazil, March 2010.

“Mapping Soils to Cultivate Scientists: The Soil Map of the World and the Politics of Scale in Postwar International Science,” Green College Science and Society Lecture Series, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Jan. 2010; History of Science Colloquium, University of Texas, Oct. 2010.

“The View from Everywhere and the View from Above: Using Science to Build a World Community after World War Two,” Science, Technology, Medicine and Society Colloquium Series, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Oct. 2009.

“The Cautious Optimism of Scientific Propaganda: The University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland Chair of Race Relations,” UNESCO History Conference: UNESCO and Issues of Colonization and Decolonization, Dakar, Oct. 2009.

“The View from Everywhere: Disciplining Diversity in Postwar International Social Science,” Economix: Workshop on History of Economics as History of Science, École Normale Supérieure de Cachan, Paris, June 2009.

“Do Epistemologies Have Politics? Science for a World Community after World War Two,” History and Sociology of Science Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Feb. 2009.

“Men against the Desert: Arid Lands Research and the Growth of Development, 1948-1964,” Towards a Global History of Development: Interweaving Culture, Politics, Science and the Economy of Aid, Zurich, Oct. 2008.

“Patterns of Science: The Development of Social and Environmental Sciences in the Postwar International Community,” SSRC-ACLS International Dissertation Research Fellowship Workshop, Albuquerque, Sep. 2008.

“Coordinating the View from Everywhere: From Imperial Science to International Science,” Three Societies History of Science Conference, Oxford, June 2008.

“Cell Culture, Tissue Culture, Organ Culture, Mouse Culture: Alexis Carrel and the Manipulation of Milieu,” Joint Atlantic Seminar for History of Biology, March 2007.

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY**

Grant Panel Reviewer, Science, Technology, and Society Program, National Science Foundation.

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Science, Technology and Society Program, University of Michigan (2017-2018)

Co-Chair, Science, Technology, Medicine, and Society Speakers Series, STS Program, University of Michigan (2014-16)

Dissertation Award Prize Committee, Forum for the History of the Human Sciences (2014)

Faculty Sponsor, Environmental History Interest Group, Rackham

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Interdisciplinary Workshop, University of Michigan (2014- )  
Peer Reviewer, *Isis*, Princeton UP, Columbia UP, *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*,  
Cambridge University Press, *Centaurus*, *Serendipities*, *Journal of Linguistic  
Anthropology*, *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, Routledge, *Journal of  
Policy History*  
Coordinator, History and Sociology of Science Workshop, University of Pennsylvania (Fall 2005-  
Spring 2007)  
Member, History of Science Society  
Member, American Society for Environmental History  
Member, American Historical Association  
Member, Society for the History of American Foreign Relations

## **TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **University of Michigan (2014- )**

HIST 197: Stories from Deep Time  
HIST 285/RcSSci 275: Science, Technology, Medicine, and Society  
HIST/ENVIRON 237: Global Environmental History  
HIST/EARTH/ACABS/AAPTIS 238: Zoom: A History of Everything  
HIST 401/INTSTD 407: The Conquest of Nature  
History 491/ENVIRON 462: Env. Justice HistoryLab: Great Lakes Areas of Concern  
HIST 610: Global and World History  
HIST 617: Global Environmental History  
Hist 619: Knowledge/Power/Practice: Science, Technology, Medicine, and Society

### **University of Texas**

Lecturer, History Department (Spring 2011-Fall 2012)  
HIS 329U: Perspectives on Science and Math-UTeach  
HIS 350L: The Conquest of Nature  
HIS 350L: Science, Technology, and War  
HIS 333M: U.S. Foreign Relations, 1914-Present

### **Graduate Students**

Jacques Vest (History, Dissertation Committee, defended March 2018)  
Daniel Williford (History, Prelim Committee and Dissertation Committee)  
Esther Ladkau (History, Prelim Committee and Dissertation Committee)  
Omer Sharir (History, Dissertation Committee)  
Xiaoyue Li (History, Dissertation Committee)  
Kristen Connor (Anthropology and History, Prelim and Dissertation Committee)  
Matthew Villeneuve (History, Prelim Committee)  
Diçle Taskin (Architecture, Prelim Committee)  
Amit Sadan (History, Prelims and Dissertation Committee)  
Ren Chao (History, Prelims and Dissertation Committee)  
Ryan Glauser (History, Prelims and Dissertation Committee)  
Renny Hahamovitch (History, Prelims and Dissertation Committee)  
Swagat Pani (Anthropology & History, Prelims Committee)

## **ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Berkeley Biotechnology Education, Inc.**

Senior Coordinator of Youth Development and Training (2001-2003)  
Cultivated partnerships with biotechnology companies, hospitals, and university laboratories  
to provide 100 summer internships for high school students and 30 year-long jobs for  
community college students. Worked with high school and community college teachers and

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administrators to develop biotechnology-training curriculum for students under-represented in the sciences.

**Fremont High School, Oakland Unified School District**

English Teacher (1998-2000)

Taught in Health & Bioscience Academy. Developed curriculum for high school juniors that enhanced reading and writing skills while exploring themes in the history and philosophy of biology. Taught freshmen through juniors reading, writing, and oral communication skills through project-based learning.

Literacy Coach (1999-2000)

Organized school-wide literacy program to improve reading comprehension. Led inter-departmental teacher training workshops. Participated in developing district and state reading and writing standards.

**ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS AND AWARDS**

“Failing Our Kids: The View from the Bottom Quartile,” *East Bay Express*, 28 Apr. 2000, 7.

“Reform This!” *East Bay Express*, 7 May 1999, 7.

George Washington Carver Award for “exemplary service and personal sacrifice and innovative leadership in connecting youth to the world of science,” Berkeley Biotechnology Education, Inc., Dec. 2002.