

MATTHEW CERJAK

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EDUCATION

University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI)

Ph.D., History; Anticipated June 2030

Major Fields: Early Modern British Atlantic World & Anglo-American Legal History

Advised by Dr. David Hancock

University of Chicago (Chicago, IL)

M.A., Social Sciences; August 2023

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

Advised by Dr. Steven Pincus

<https://doi.org/10.6082/uchicago.7232>

St. John’s University (New York City, NY)

B.S.Ed., Secondary Education in Social Studies; Graduated with Honors and Magna Cum Laude, May 2022

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

“‘Where Are Your Women?’: The Persistence of Cherokee Women during the Long Eighteenth Century.” In *The Powers That Be: Matriculture, Shamanism, and the Authority of Women*, eds. Linnéa Rowlatt and Angela Sumegi. Under contract with Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Journal Articles

“‘She Has a Right’: Unveiling Legal Knowledge and Action Through the Narratives of Enslaved Women.” *Women’s Writing* (Special Issue on Women, Enslavement, and Race). Forthcoming.

“Teaching About Enslaved Women 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 (November/December 2024): 386-390.

<https://www.socialstudies.org/social-education/88/6/teaching-about-slavery-law>

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

<https://doi.org/10.60676/k9d4sg81>

Other Academic Works

“‘This Had to be Done by Mothers Alone’: Research Notes on the Expansion of Female Agency During the Croatian Homeland War.” *Matrix: A Journal for Matricultural Studies* 3, no. 2 (2024): 113–135.

<https://doi.org/10.60676/5kggpk60>

Featured as Home Front Studies Article of the Week (September 9, 2024)

PRESENTATIONS

“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.

“Forgotten Voices: The Survivance of Indigenous Girls in Boarding Schools,” a paper delivered at the Girlhood Studies Collective’s Symposium, March 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.

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

The University of Michigan Rackham Merit Fellowship, 2024

The University of Chicago’s Maroon Scholar Research Scholarship, 2022

Fulbright Open Study/Research Award Finalist (Alternate), 2022

The St. John’s University Honors Program Arthur F. Gianelli Award, 2022

Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program, 2021-2022

The St. John’s University Honors Program, 2018-2022

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

BartonCerjak S.C., Milwaukee, WI

Research Director • September 2023 – Present

- Conducted in-depth legal research on complex cases, providing concise and well-organized summaries of relevant case law, statutes, and regulations.

The Remedial Herstory Project

Journal Editor • September 2022 – Present

- Edited textbook on U.S. women's history by integrating sections dedicated to Indigenous women across multiple chapters.
- Crafted inquiry-based lesson plans on topics related Women’s History during the American Revolution and early Republic that featured a variety of perspectives including Indigenous and enslaved women.
- Edited YouTube Series scripts to ensure the voices of women were centered and accurate.

The University of Chicago History Department, Chicago, IL

Research Assistant for Dr. Paul Cheney • October 2022 – May 2023

- Translated manuscripts of the personal correspondence of the Caribbean scholar Gabriel Debien to ascertain qualitative data such as date, origin and destination, and general meaning.
- Assisted with organizing and hosting departmental events such as conferences, lectures, and symposia.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Msgr. McClancy High School, East Elmhurst, NY

Teacher, Humanities Department • January 2022 – August 2022

- Instructed four sections, a total of 110 students, in American History during the Spring semester as well as two sections of Global History and one section of English Literature during the Summer semester.
- Conceived, planned, and implemented a series of author workshops to develop the writing abilities of students.
- Facilitated the publication of student work in *The Journal for Girlhood Studies*.