# Kennon Howell Keiser, Jr.

Assistant Professor, Hamilton School

University of Florida

kkeiser@ufl.edu

# Education

Louisiana State University, PhD, American History and Political Economy – 2024

* Dissertation: “The Dismal Science of Union: An Environmental History of Pro-Slavery Political Economy and the Coming Civil War”

Appalachian State University, M.A., American History – 2019

* MA Thesis: “An Environmental History of the Battle of Okinawa and its Aftermath”

University of Alabama, BA, American History & Political Science – 2017

# Professional Service

Assistant Professor of Humanities at the University of Florida, Hamilton School – 2025 to present

Post-doctoral Fellow and Research Associate at the University of Virginia – 2024 to 2025

Teaching Fellow at the Blue Ridge Center – 2024 to 2025

Fellow at the Jack Miller Center – 2024 to present

Script and Video Editor, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and Organization of American Historians’ Education Project for the US semi quincentennial – 2024 to present

Instructor of Record, Louisiana State University – 2023 to 2024

Editor-in-chief, *Civil War Book Review* – 2023 to present

Graduate Affiliate and Researcher at the University of Pennsylvania Identity and Conflict Lab – 2023

Research Assistant: Reiko Hillyer (Lewis & Clark College), 2022-2023; Jenifer Klein (Yale University), 2021-2022; Fort Jesup Historic Site (Many, Louisiana), 2021; Kim Vaz-Deville (Xavier University), 2020

Assistant Editor, *Civil War Book Review* – 2019 to 2023

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Louisiana State University – 2019 to present

* Teaching Assistant, History 2055: US History to 1865
* Teaching Assistant, History 2057: US History from 1865
* Teaching Assistant, History 2056: American Popular Culture

Instructor & Tutor, Appalachian State University Writing Center – 2018-2019

Historical interpreter & battlefield guide, Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park – 2018

Graduate Assistant, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at Appalachian State – 2017-2018

Humanities Council Assistant and Event Organizer, Appalachian State University – 2017-2018

# Teaching Experience

Professor, The American Political Tradition (PLAP 2250)

Professor, American Political Economy (PLAP 3400)

Professor, Civil War in Appalachia (Blue Ridge Center)

Professor, Southern Agrarians (Blue Ridge Center)

Instructor of Record at Louisiana State University (History 2055: U.S. History to 1865)

Guest Lecturer at Louisiana State University on the Global Civil War (History 4055: The American Civil War)

 Guest Lecturer at Louisiana State University on the Secession Crisis and American Civil War (History 2055: U.S. History to 1865)

Guest Lecturer at Louisiana State University on the long Civil Rights Movement (History 2057: US History from 1865)

# Fellowships & Awards

Andrew W. Mellon Research Fellowship (Virginia Museum of History & Culture) – 2023

William Gilmore Simms Visiting Research Fellowship (University of South Carolina) – 2023

T. Harry Williams Dissertation Fellowship (Louisiana State University) – 2022-2023

John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History Library Fellowship (University of Virginia) – 2021

Most Outstanding M.A. Thesis at Appalachian State University – March 2020

Ed Bearss Internship Award (Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park) – 2018

# Books (in progress)

 *The Dismal Science of Union: Proslavery Malthusianism and the Coming Civil War* (in progress – submitted to the University of North Carolina Press)

# Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Demographic Theory and the Movement to Reopen the African Slave Trade,” *American* *Nineteenth-Century History* (Fall 2025 - forthcoming)

“Black Geographies, White Anxieties: Maroons, Population Control, and Resource Competition in the Antebellum South,” *Civil War History,* vol. 71, no. 1 (March 2025): 73-99

“An Aristocratic Hero: William Gilmore Simms & Proslavery Political Economy,” *The* *Simms Review,* vol. 31, no. 1-2 (Fall 2024): 5-22

# Other Publications

“Debates Between the Branches of Government Are as Old as America,” *RealClear History* (April 25, 2025), <https://www.realclearhistory.com/articles/2025/04/25/debates_between_government_branches_go_way_back_1106016.html>

“Francis Lieber, ‘A Proslavery Man’?” *Emerging Civil War* (August 23, 2024)

“Past Informs the Present,” *RealClear History* (June 3, 2024), <https://www.realclearhistory.com/articles/2024/06/03/past_informs_the_present_1035798.html>

“The Dismal Science of Union: An Environmental History of Pro-Slavery Political Economy” (2024). *LSU Doctoral Dissertations*. 6342. <https://repository.lsu.edu/gradschool_dissertations/6342>

“Civil War Lagniappe,” *Civil War Book Review*, 26, no. 3 (May 15, 2024).

“War, Politics, & Change,” *Civil War Book Review*, 26, no. 2 (April 4, 2024)

“Environmental History in Focus,” *Civil War Book Review*, 26, no. 1 (January 19, 2024)

“Thomas Cooper: Harbinger of Proslavery Thought and the Coming Civil War,” *Emerging Civil War* (May 30, 2023)

“Perspectives on the Civil War Era,” *Civil War Book Review,* 25, no. 3  (October 2023)

“Proslavery Malthusianism at South Carolina College,” *Caroliniana Columns* (Fall 2023)

Master’s Thesis (Appalachian State University): “An Environmental History of the Battle of Okinawa and its Aftermath” (2019). <http://libres.uncg.edu/ir/asu/listing.aspx?id=25763>

# Book Reviews

*Martin Van Buren: America's First Politician,* ed. James M. Bradley, *Journal of the Civil War Era* (forthcoming)

*An Unholy Traffic: Slave Trading in the Civil War South*, by Robert K.D. Colby, *The* *Civil War Monitor* (November 2024)

*The Civil War in the Age of Nationalism,* by Neils Eichhorn and Duncan Campbell*, The Civil War Monitor* (August 8, 2024)

*Scars on the Land: An Environmental History of Slavery in the American South*, by David Silkenat, *Southern Historian,* vol. XLV (Spring 2024)

*Captivity’s Collections: Science, Natural History, and the British Transatlantic Slave Trade,* by Kathleen Murphey, *Civil War Book Review*, 26, no. 3 (May 15, 2024)

*Bloody Flag of Anarchy: Unionism in South Carolina during the Nullification Crisis*, by Brian C. Neumann, *Journal of Mississippi History*, vol. 84, no. 3 & 4 (Fall/Winter 2023)

 *Confederate Conscription and the Struggle for Southern Soldiers*, by John M. Sacher, *The Alabama Review*, vol 72, no. 4 (October 2023)

 *The Last Fire-Eater: Roger A. Pryor and the Search for Southern Identity*, by William A. Link, *Civil War Book Review* 25, no. 1 (February 2023)

# Works In Progress

“‘The Irresistible Tide of Population’: Demographic Anxieties & the Failure of Popular Sovereignty” (in progress)

“The Enduring Relevance of John C. Calhoun’s Disquisition on Government” (in progress)

# Conference, Talks, & Professional Presentations

 “The Dismal Science of Union: The Proslavery Developmental Vision and the Coming Civil War,” Graduate Student Research Lightning Round at the *Organization of American Historians* Annual Conference (April 11-14, 2024)

 “A Vindicating Science: The Political Economy of Expansion in the Antebellum South,” *Civil War Round Table of Baton Rouge* (January 18, 2024)

“Southern Marronage: Maroons, Population Control, and Resource Competition in the Antebellum South,” *Gulf South Historical Association* Annual Conference (October 12-14, 2023)

“That ‘Noble Science’: Demographics & the Divine Sanction of Order,” *St. George Tucker Society* Annual Conference (July 27-29, 2023)

“Proslavery Malthusianism and the Coming Civil War,”

Virginia Museum of History and Culture Colloquia (June 9, 2023)

“Demographic Theory and the Political Economy of Secession, 1820-1861,” *Southern Historical Association* “Southern Exchanges” series (March 3, 2022)

Panel Chair, “Traversing Identity During America’s Civil War,” Louisiana State Graduate Student Conference (March 2022)

“Reclaimed Frontiers: Agricultural Reform, Environmental Insecurity, & the Importance of Swamp Reclamation & Coastlines in the Antebellum South, 1830-1860,” Arch Dalrymple III History Conference at Ole Miss (April 10, 2021)

“The Battle of Okinawa: Post War Occupation and the Environmental Shadow,” *Society for Military History* Conference (April 30-May 3, 2020) – Conference cancelled due to Covid-19

“The Sage of Port Royal: George Fitzhugh, Slavery for all, and the Coming Civil War,” Louisiana State Graduate Student Conference (March 5-7, 2020)

# Professional Affiliations

Jack Miller Center

Blue Ridge Center

American Historical Association

Organization of American Historians

St. George Tucker Society

Society for Military History

Southern Historical Association

Society of Civil War Historians

# Methodological Skills

Public History

QGIS Mapping

 ArcGIS Mapping