
15 Gaynesford Road
London
SE23 2UQ

m.powersmith@ufl.edu
+447768977671
Mark Power Smith

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

University of Florida, Assistant Professor at the Hamilton School of Classical and Civic Education, August 2025 – present.

University of Oxford, Leverhulme Postdoctoral Research Fellow at St Peter's College and the History Faculty, September 1 2024 – August 2025.

University of Oxford, Departmental Lecturer at St. Peter's College and the History Faculty. September 1 2023 – August 31 2024.

University of Oxford, Junior Research Fellow at Mansfield College and the Rothermere American Institute. September 1 2021 – August 31 2023.

Arizona State University, Postdoctoral Scholar in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies. January 7 2019 – June 1 2021.

EDUCATION

University College London, PhD History funded by the Wolfson Foundation, 2014 – 2018.
Thesis title: "The 'Young America' movement: nationalism and the natural law tradition in Jacksonian political thought 1844-61."
Awarded: 28 August 2018.

University of Oxford, MSt U.S. History, June 2014.
Distinction with highest aggregate mark among U.S. History MSt students.
Thesis title: "Séances in the City: The 'Operational Aesthetic' and 'Modern Spiritualism' in the popular culture of New York City, 1865-1870."

University College London, BA History, June 2013.
First-Class Honors & Dean's List with highest aggregate mark among History Department finalists.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

"The Crisis of Household Government and the Rise of Democratic Conservatism before the American Civil War," *Journal of the Civil War Era*. Accepted for publication in September 2025.

Young America: The Transformation of Nationalism before the Civil War, (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2022).

"The Young America movement, the Koszta Affair of 1853 and the construction of nationalism before the Civil War" *Journal of the Early Republic*, Vol. 41 (Spring 2021).

“Séances in the City: The ‘Operational Aesthetic’ and ‘Modern Spiritualism’ in the popular culture of New York City, 1865-1870” *American Nineteenth Century History*, Vol. 17 (January 2017).

TEACHING

Leverhulme Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Oxford University, October 2024 – Present

PhD Supervision: two students

Slavery, Emancipation and the Crisis of the Union, 1848 – 1865 (autumn 2024)

Departmental Lecturer, Oxford University, September 2023 – September 2024.

PhD Supervision: two students

Imperial Republic: The United States and Global Imperialism, 1867 – 1914 (summer 2024)

Slavery, Emancipation and the Crisis of the Union, 1848 – 1865 (autumn 2023)

The United States from Independence to Empire (autumn 2023 and spring 2024)

The Making of the Modern United States, 1863 – 2008 (summer 2024)

Approaches to History (spring 2023)

Disciplines of History (autumn and spring 2024)

Junior Research Fellow, Oxford University, September 2021 – August 2023

PhD Supervision: two students

American History Graduate Seminar (spring 2022)

U.S. History Masters Program (autumn 2021 and autumn 2022)

Kinder Institute, University of Missouri MA Summer School at Oxford University (July 2022)

Slavery, Emancipation and the Crisis of the Union, 1848 – 1865 (autumn 2021, autumn 2022)

The United States from Independence to Empire (summer 2022, spring 2023; summer 2023)

The Making of the Modern United States, 1863 – 2008 (summer 2023)

Disciplines: Political History (spring 2022 and spring 2023)

Disciplines: History of Race (spring 2022 and spring 2023)

Approaches: Race (spring 2023)

Postdoctoral Scholar, Arizona State University, January 2019 – August 2021

American Slavery and the Struggle for Freedom (spring 2021)

Foundations of Democracy (spring and autumn 2020; spring 2021)

U.S. Survey to 1865 (autumn 2019 and autumn 2020)

Research Seminar: Political History (autumn 2019 and autumn 2020)

Jacksonian America: Power and Popular Politics in the United States, 1828-61 (autumn 2019)

Wealth and Poverty of Nations (spring 2019)

Postgraduate Teaching Assistant at University College London, 2015 – 2018

Writing History (autumn 2018, autumn 2016 and autumn 2015)

Building the American Nation, 1776-1920 (spring 2018 and spring 2017)

Postgraduate Teaching Assistant at Queen Mary University, 2016 - 2018

Building the American Nation, 1756-1900 (spring 2018)

Building the American Nation, 1756-1900 (spring 2016)

ACADEMIC AWARDS

2023: Leverhulme Trust Research Project Grant for “Conservatism in an Age of the Revolution: The United States in an Atlantic World” (£500,000)

2018 BrANCH Travel Award for Research.

2018 Iwan Morgan Prize: a national competition run by the Institute of Historical Research, awarded to a postgraduate student for the best lecture proposal.

2014 Wolfson Postgraduate Scholarship in the Humanities for PhD.

2013 Margaret Elizabeth Dale Cast Prize, UCL: awarded for the highest first-class degree among finalists in the History Department.

2012 Joel Hurstfield Prize, UCL: awarded for the highest aggregate mark among second year students in the History Department.

PUBLIC HISTORY: PUBLICATIONS AND PODCASTS

“Was there a Culture War in nineteenth-century America?” *Last Best Hope Podcast*, May 19 2023

“Gangs of New York,” *Flashback: American Historians on Movies Podcast*, May 1 2023.

“The Young America Movement and The Crisis of Household Politics,” *The Panorama: Expansive Views from the Journal of the Early Republic*, (July 2021)

The Connell Short Guide to President Lincoln, (September 2017).

Blog Post “The Idea of Historical Progress Before the American Civil War,” (February 2017), *The Young Americanists Blog*.

Blog Post “Defining Democracy in Antebellum America,” (August 2016), *The Young Americanists Blog*.

“The Civil War’s Forgotten Anti-Imperialism,” *Jacobin Magazine*, (2016).

BOOK REVIEWS

“Review: ‘Radical Spirits: Spiritualism, Republicanism and Radicalism in the Civil War Era,’ (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2016), by Mark Lause,” *American Nineteenth Century History*. Published online: May 15, 2018.

“Review: ‘Tomorrow’s Parties: Sex and the Untimely in Nineteenth Century America,’ (New York: New York University Press, 2013), by Peter Coviello,” *American Nineteenth Century History*. Published online: July 16, 2017.

“Review: ‘The Virgin Vote: How Young Americans Made Democracy Social, Politics Personal and Voting Popular in the Nineteenth Century,’ (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016), by Jon Grinspan,” *IHR’s Reviews in History*.

“Review: ‘American Political History: A Very Short Introduction,’ (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), by Donald Critchlow,” *IHR’s Reviews in History*.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS

Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy of the United Kingdom (FHEA)

Marketing and Fundraising Officer for the Association of British American Nineteenth Century Historians.

PUBLIC HISTORY: DIVERSITY PROMOTION

Mansfield College Oxford University Interviews (September 2021 – Present)

ASU High School Leadership Academy (January 2019 – July 2021)

ASU Getting Ahead Career Fair (September 26, 2019)

UCL Summer Challenge (June 4-29, 2018)

UCL History Summer School (August 6-10, 2018)

Tutor, Fleet Tutors (January 2015 – June 2015)

Hackney Pirates September (2014 – June 2015)

I volunteered at a charity based in Hackney in London which helps young people develop their literacy skills

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

Conservatism in the Atlantic World, June 24-25, 2022.

Annual Policy History Conference, June 3-6, 2020.

“‘Let us have peace’: the Union and the American experience, 1776-1920,” The Commonwealth Fund Conference at University College London, July 13, 2018.

“US Elections in Historical Context” at the Institute of Americas, November 7, 2016.

“950th Anniversary of 1066, A Millenium(ish) of Immigration, Integration and Invasion,” The History Lab Conference run by the Institute of Historical Research, June 7, 2016.

UCL History Postgraduate Conference, May 7, 2015

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS AND GUEST LECTURES

“The Crisis of Household Government and the Rise of Democratic Conservatism before the American Civil War,” Conservatism in the Atlantic World Symposium at Oxford University, June 24–25, 2022.

“Conservatism and the Crisis of Household Politics before the Civil War,” Kinder Institute Conference in Atlantic History at the University of Missouri, April 7, 2022.

“Is there such a thing as historical progress?” Political History Dialogue Series, Arizona State University, March 15, 2021.

“Civil Disobedience in American History,” Political History Dialogue Series, Arizona State University, September 14, 2020.

“Popular Sovereignty and Natural Rights in Jacksonian Political Thought,” Society for U.S. Intellectual History Annual Conference at the New School, November 7-10, 2019.

“Impressions of American Culture Abroad,” Political History Dialogue Series, Arizona State University, March 5, 2019.

“The ‘Young America’ movement: Jacksonian nationalism in the sectional crisis, 1844-1861,” BrANCH Annual Conference, October, 5-7, 2018.

“Nathaniel Hawthorne’s ‘Life of Franklin Pierce’ and the cultural politics of the Democratic Party,” The Commonwealth Fund Conference: Union and the American Experience, 1776-1920, July, 13, 2018.

“‘Democracy National’: Jacksonian nationalism during the sectional crisis, 1854-61” 45-minute hour lecture at the Institute of Historical Research, June, 7, 2018.

“Popular sovereignty and natural rights in antebellum America, 1844-54,” 45-minute paper at “History Lab” – a seminar series run by the Institute of Historical Research, June 14, 2018.

“Popular sovereignty and natural rights in antebellum America, 1844-61,” New Directions in Modern US History Conference at Boston University, April, 20-21, 2018.

“A new role in Europe: international law and the Martin Koszta Affair of 1853,” The UCL Americas Research Network 2nd Annual Conference (Ideas and Transformations in the Americas), April, 28-29, 2016.

“A new role in Europe: international law and the Martin Koszta Affair of 1853,” BAAS and IAAS Joint Conference, April, 7-9, 2016

“‘If this is filibusterism, then make the most of it!’ Gerrit Smith, Cuban annexation and anti-slavery expansionism before the American Civil War,” Annual British American Nineteenth Century History (BrANCH) Conference, October, 9-11, 2015.

PEER REVIEW

I have refereed for *Journal of Policy History*, *American Nineteenth Century History* and *Radical Americas*.

COMMITTEES

Oxford University Academic Committee: Assesses applications for funding and honorary fellowships from the Rothermere American Institute. September 1 2022.

IHR “History Lab,” Membership Officer and Co-Conference Convener, (August 2015 – August 2017)

REFEREES:

Professor Matthew Mason
PhD Examiner
Professor, Brigham Young University
Contact: matthew_mason@byu.edu

Professor Adam Smith
Director of the Rothermere American Institute
Professor, Oxford University
Contact: adam.smith@rai.ox.ac.uk