

# Michael F. McGovern

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## Education

### 2016–present **Princeton University**

*Ph.D. Candidate, Program in the History of Science*

Dissertation: "Just in Numbers? Statistics and Civil Rights in the Postwar United States" (co-advised by Erika L. Milam and Keith A. Wailoo)

### 2018 *M.A. in History of Science*

Examination Fields: Modern Science (Erika L. Milam), Modern Technology (Emily Thompson), Modern United States (Margot Canaday)

### 2014 **University of Cambridge**

*M.Phil. in History, Philosophy and Sociology of Science, Technology and Medicine, 1st class w/distinction*

Dissertation: "'The London/Baltimore link has been severed': The economies of human gene mapping and mainframe computing at the Moore Clinic, 1955-1973"

### 2013 **University of Chicago**

*A.B. in History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science and Medicine & Biological Sciences, honors*

Theses: "'A remarkable social device': MOLGEN and the textual practices of bioinformatics," and "Notch signaling acts upstream of retinoic acid to control glial progenitor fate"

## Publications

### Chapters

"Stacks, 'Pacs,' and User Hacks: A Handheld History of Personal Computing," in *The Whipple Museum of the History of Science: Objects and Investigations, to Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of R. S. Whipple's Gift to the University of Cambridge*, eds. Joshua Nall, Liba Taub, and Frances Willmoth (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019), 291-312. [doi:10.1017/9781108633628.015](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108633628.015)

### Reviews

Review of *The Economization of Life*, by Michelle Murphy. *Journal for the History of Biology* 51, no. 3 (July 2018): 613-615.

"Toward an Epistemic History of Political Things: Cartography, Science, and States," review of books by Surekha Davies, Jason D. Hansen, William Rankin, and Jess Bier. *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences* 48, no. 3 (June 2018), 380-389.

Review of *Life on Ice: A History of New Uses for Cold Blood*, by Joanna Radin. *British Journal for the History of Science* 51, no. 1 (March 2018): 176-177.

### Public-Facing

2018 "Taking Human Genetics Digital: 'Mendelian Inheritance in Man' and the Genealogy of Electronic Publishing in Biomedicine," *History of Knowledge* (blog), May 7, 2018. <https://historyofknowledge.net/2018/05/07/taking-human-genetics-digital/>

2015 "Calculating Devices," *Explore Whipple Collections*, Whipple Museum of the History of Science, University of Cambridge. <http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/whipple/explore/calculatingdevices>

2014–20 Host of [New Books in Science, Technology, and Society](#) podcast on New Books Network, roughly 24 podcasts to date, including Caitlin C. Rosenthal, [Accounting for Slavery](#) and Joanna Radin, [Life on Ice](#).

## Awards & Fellowships

2020–21 Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars, Princeton University *Policy-focused graduate prize fellowship for students in the social sciences*

2020 Princeton-Mellon Initiative Summer Digital Research Grant, co-sponsored by Department of Sociology, Princeton University

2019 Graduate School Teaching Award, Princeton University (nominated by department)

2017 Intensivsprachkurse Stipendium, DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) *Summer German language improvement grant*

2016–21 Centennial Fellowship, Princeton University *Five-year merit-based stipend supplement*

2014 Computer History Museum Travel Award, Special Interest Group in Computers in Society (SIGCIS), Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, Dearborn, MI

2014 Rausing Prize, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge *Best dissertation performance in the M.Phil.*

2014 Jennifer Redhead Prize, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge *Best overall essay performance in the M.Phil.*

2013 Choral Award for Leadership, Department of Music, University of Chicago

## Presentations

2020 "The Fox and the Stork: Contesting Employment Discrimination Statistics in U.S. Courts." *Contested Data: What Happens When the Givens Aren't Taken*, Data & Society, New York, NY.

2020 "Computing Civil Rights: Inventing Disparate Impact in an Era of Contradiction, 1965-1975." *Modern America Workshop*, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.

2019 "[To] kill an elephant with a fly gun": The Data Politics of the EEOC, 1965-1978." *Quantification, Data, and the Politics of Social Provision* (organized by Alex Kindel), Meeting of the Social Science History Association, Chicago, IL.

2019 "BLACKD, WHVICRC: Race, Regression Analysis, and the Statistical Challenge to Capital Punishment." *Society for the History of Recent Social Science*, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany.

2018 "Amphibian a priori: Filters, Fields, and the Contested Vision of Neuroscience." *Embracing the Electronic Brain: Cold War Entanglements of Organisms, Minds, and Computers* (co-organized with Youjung Shin), Meeting of the History of Science Society, Seattle, WA.

2018 "Samples ( $N = 2$ ) from the History of Statistical Sampling." *Annual Harvard/MIT/Princeton Workshop on the History of the Physical Sciences*, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

2018 "Taking Human Genetics Digital: Mendelian Inheritance in Man and the Genealogy of Electronic Publishing in Biomedicine." *Learning by the Book: Manuals and Handbooks in the History of Knowledge*, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.

2017 "Amphibian a priori: The Neurophysiology of Vision at the Limits of Cybernetics." History of Science Program Seminar, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.

2015 "'The London/Baltimore link has been severed': human linkage mapping and the early computerization of genetics." Human Gene Mapping and Oral Histories of Human Genetics: 6th International Workshop on the History of Human Genetics, Glasgow, UK.

2014 "Re-framing power relations in the historiography of computing: examples from early medical genetics and calculator user groups." SIGCIS Workshop, Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, Dearborn, MI.

2014 "'A remarkable social device': MOLGEN and the textual practices of bioinformatics." Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, Dearborn, MI.

2014 "Stacks, pacs, and system hacks: handheld calculators as an alternative history of personal computing." Social Construction of Technology Coming of Age: New Challenges and Opportunities Ahead, Trondheim, Norway."

## Teaching

### Instructor

2017 HIST 201: U.S. History to 1877, Princeton Prison Teaching Initiative, Garden State Youth Correctional Facility, accredited by Raritan Valley Community College

### Teaching Assistant

2019 EGR 277: Technology & Society, Prof. Janet Vertesi, Princeton University, Spring Semester, 2 sections, guest lecture (w/ Alex Kindel): "What's social about numbers?"

2018 HIS 391: History of Contemporary Science, Prof. Michael Gordin, Princeton University, Fall Semester, 2 sections

2013 BIOS 20150: Introduction to Biology, University of Chicago, Spring Quarter

2011 BIOS 10130: Core Biology, University of Chicago, Fall Quarter

## Research & Employment

2019–20 Research Assistant, Image Acquisition, and Design Consultant for Keith A. Wailoo (*Menthol into the Black*, forthcoming with University of Chicago Press) and Julian E. Zelizer (HIS 361: The United States Since 1974), Department of History, Princeton, NJ

2018–20 Head Fellow (19-20) and Fellow (18-19), Princeton University Writing Center, Princeton, NJ

2014–16 Software Developer, McMaster-Carr Supply Co., Elmhurst, IL

2014 Summer Collections Assistant, Whipple Museum of the History of Science, Cambridge, UK

2011–13 Developmental Biology Research Assistant, Schwartz Lab, Joseph P. Kennedy Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

2011–13 History and Informatics Assistant, "Parts and Wholes: The Biological Individual in the 19th Century," Dr. Scott Lidgard (Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL) and Prof. Lynn Nyhart (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

2011–13 Editorial Assistant, Robert L. Perlman, *Evolution and Medicine* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2013), University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

## Service & Activities

### Professional

2020 Co-Organizer (w/Keith Wailoo, Jodi Koste, Jennifer Loessy, Julia Stone, Kim Worthington, and Carla Zimowski), [Pandemic, Creating a Usable Past: Epidemic History, COVID-19, and the Future of Health](#), webinar co-sponsored by the American Association for the History of Medicine and the Princeton University Department of History, May 8-9, 2020.

2018–20 Mentorship Officer, Graduate and Early Career Caucus, History of Science Society

2017 Co-Organizer (w/ Brad Bolman, Crystal Lee, and Jenne O'Brien), Annual Harvard/MIT/Princeton Workshop on the History of the Physical Sciences, at Princeton University, October 21st, 2017

### University

2016–19 President (18-19), History of Science Representative (17-18), Lounge Czar (16-18), Graduate History Association, Princeton University

2014 Student Representative, Monitoring Committee, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge

2011–13 Founder and Co-Organizer, Psychoannals, University of Chicago *Reading group and academic society concerned with the history and politics of psychoanalysis*

### Participation

2019–present Graduate Associate, Program in Law and Public Affairs, Princeton University

2019 "Expertise, Trust and Democracy," STS Summer School at Harvard University

2018–19 "Surveilling Blackness," Department of African American Studies Faculty-Graduate Seminar, Princeton University

2017 "Cycles of Life," Ischia Summer School on the History of the Life Sciences, Ischia, Italy

### Membership

History of Science Society, American Society for Legal History, Social Science History Association

## Skills & Other

Languages: French (written and read), German (intermediate)

Software: Visual Basic, C#, .NET Framework, Microsoft SQL, dynamic web development and markup (e.g. HTML, CSS, JavaScript), Adobe and Microsoft Office products, audio and video production

Music: Tenor for Early Music Princeton (2016–), Downtown Voices of Trinity Wall Street, NYC (2019–); swap-in for Choir of St. Luke in the Fields, NYC (2019–)

Outreach: President (19–20), Free Xiyue Wang Graduate Student Organization, Princeton University; Founding teacher (12–13), Audio Production Program, South Side Free Music Program, Chicago, IL

## References

**Erika L. Milam** (Co-Advisor)

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**Keith A. Wailoo** (Co-Advisor)

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**Michael D. Gordin** (Teaching Reference)

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