

MICHAEL F. MCGOVERN

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Yale Law School

2023– Resident Fellow, Information Society Project

EDUCATION

Princeton University

2023 Ph.D. in History of Science, Certificate in African American Studies
Dissertation: *Justice in Numbers: Statistics and the Transformation of Civil Rights*
Committee: Erika L. Milam and Keith A. Wailoo (*co-advisors*), Hendrik Hartog, Ruha Benjamin (African American Studies), Alondra Nelson (Institute for Advanced Study)

2018 M.A. in History of Science
Examination Fields: Modern Science (Erika L. Milam), Modern Technology (Emily Thompson), Modern United States (Margot Canaday)

University of Cambridge

2014 M.Phil. in History and Philosophy of Science, First Class with Distinction

University of Chicago

2013 A.B. in History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science and Medicine & Biological Sciences, dual departmental honors

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- In progress* “Aptitude Testing and the Origins of Disparate Impact,” winner of the 2021 Cheiron Young Scholar Award, in preparation for *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*
- “The Great Deterrence Controversy: Capital Punishment and the Methodological Politics of Law and Order,” in preparation for *History of Social Science*
- 2023 “Epidemic Inequities: Social and Racial Inequality in the History of Pandemics,” with Keith A. Wailoo. *Isis* 114, no. S1. doi:10.1086/726986
- 2021 “Genes Go Digital: *Mendelian Inheritance in Man* and the Genealogy of Electronic Publishing in Biomedicine.” *British Journal for the History of Science* 54, no. 2: 213-231. doi:10.1017/S0007087421000224

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Under review* “Regulating Bias: Civil Rights and the Politics of Validation in 1970s America,” in *Testing Knowledge: Validation and Regulation in the Human and Health Sciences*, eds. Angela Creager and Lara Keuck, proposed edited volume to MIT Press
- 2019 “Stacks, ‘Pacs,’ and User Hacks: A Handheld History of Personal Computing,” in *The Whipple Museum of the History of Science: Objects and Investigations*, 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)

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2022 *Blood Relations: Transfusion and the Making of Human Genetics*, by Jenny Bangham. *Social History of Medicine* 35, no. 4 (2022): 1407-1408. [doi:10.1093/shm/hkab060](https://doi.org/10.1093/shm/hkab060)
- 2021 *Black Software: The Internet & Racial Justice, from the AfroNet to Black Lives Matter*, by Charlton D. McIlwain. *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* 43, no. 4 (2021): 101-102. [doi:10.1109/MAHC.2021.3106747](https://doi.org/10.1109/MAHC.2021.3106747)
- Calculating Race: Racial Discrimination in Risk Assessment*, by Benjamin Wiggins. *Technology & Culture* 62, no. 3 (2021): 894–896. [doi:10.1353/tech.2021.0112](https://doi.org/10.1353/tech.2021.0112)
- 2018 *The Economization of Life*, by Michelle Murphy. *Journal for the History of Biology* 51, no. 3 (2018): 613-615. [doi:10.1007/s10739-018-9536-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10739-018-9536-9)
- “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 (2018), 380-389. [doi:10.1525/hsns.2018.48.3.380](https://doi.org/10.1525/hsns.2018.48.3.380)
- Life on Ice: A History of New Uses for Cold Blood*, by Joanna Radin. *British Journal for the History of Science* 51, no. 1 (2018): 176-177. [doi:10.1017/S0007087418000225](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007087418000225)

POLICY BRIEFS

- 2023 “Technology Governance and Equity in the United States from the Cold War to COVID-19,” with Keith A. Wailoo, in *Toward Equitable Innovation in Health and Medicine: A Framework* (Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press): 163-193. [[online](#)]

SELECTED HONORS, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 Mary Frances Berry Fellow, J. Willard Hurst Summer Institute in Legal History, American Society for Legal History and the Institute for Legal Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 2020–22 Prize Fellowship in the Social Sciences, Princeton University
- 2021 Cheiron Young Scholar Award
- Moody Research Grant, Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library, Austin, TX

- 2020 Albert M. Greenfield Research Fellow, Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine, Philadelphia, PA
William Nelson Cromwell Foundation Early Career Research Fellowship, American Society for Legal History
Princeton-Mellon Initiative Summer Digital Research Grant, co-sponsored by Department of Sociology, Princeton University
- 2017 Summer Language Grant, DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service)
- 2016–21 Centennial Fellowship, Princeton University
- 2014 Computer History Museum Travel Award, Special Interest Group for Computing, Information, and Society (SIGCIS), Society for the History of Technology
Rausing Prize, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge *Best dissertation performance in the M.Phil.*
Jennifer Redhead Prize, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge *Best performance on the essay component of the M.Phil.*

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

PANELS AND CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

- 2023 “Struggles over Surveillance: Policing, Law, and Information Technology,” with Dan Ewert, Society for the History of Technology (SHoT) Annual Meeting, Long Beach, CA, October 2023
Just Computation? Social and Historical Perspectives on Calculation in the Law, with William Deringer and Pariroo Rattan, Harvard University, September 2023
- 2021 “Dueling with Data: Fairness by Calculation in the Law,” with Pariroo Rattan, History of Science Society (HSS) and SHoT Joint Meeting, Online, November 2021
- 2020 “Supporting International Scholars in Pandemic Times: A Teach-In,” with Sara Ray and Tina Wei, HSS Virtual Forum, October 2020
Webinar: *Pandemic, Creating a Usable Past: Epidemic History, COVID-19, and the Future of Health*, with Keith Wailoo, Jodi Koste, Jennifer Loessy, Julia Stone, Kim Worthington, and Carla Zimowsk, American Association for the History of Medicine, May 2020 [histmed.org/epidemic-history]
- 2019 “Tacit Knowledge: Academic Internationalisms,” with Kris Palmieri, HSS, Utrecht, NL, July 2019
- 2018 “Embracing the Electronic Brain: Cold War Entanglements of Organisms, Minds, and Computers,” with Youjung Shin, HSS, Seattle, WA, November 2018
- 2017 Harvard/MIT/Princeton Workshop on the History of the Physical Sciences, with Brad Bolman, Crystal Lee, and Jenne O’Brien, Princeton University, October 2017

SELECTED WORKSHOPS, PRESENTATIONS, AND LECTURES

- 2023 “Dubious Standards of Proof”: Disciplinary and Regulatory Battles over Discrimination Statistics in the U.S., 1972-1983,” Social Science History Association, Washington, D.C., November 2023
- “The PROMIS Ring: Crime Databases and Civil Rights in the Nixon-era U.S.,” (SHoT) Annual Meeting, Long Beach, CA, October 2023
- “Quantifying Injustice,” UCLA History of Science Colloquium, October 2023
- 2022 “Race, Regression Analysis, and Retrenchment: *McCleskey v. Kemp* and the Politics of Criminal Justice Data in the Age of Reagan,” NYC History of Science Workshop, New York University, October 2022
- “Regulating Bias: Civil Rights and the Politics of Validation from Black Power to Big Data,” *Validation and Regulation in the Health and Human Sciences*, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, September 2022
- 2021 “Census Data and the Rise of the Statistical Services Industry,” *The IT of Demography*, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado Boulder, December 2021
- “The Strange Career of Jim Crow Statistics: Jury Selection in New Deal America,” HSS and SHoT Joint Meeting, Online, November 2021
- “Masters of Reality’: Aptitude Testing and the Origins of Disparate Impact,” Cheiron: The International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences Online Meeting, June 2021 **Winner: Young Scholar Award**
- 2020 “Science in the Supreme Court: Lessons from *McCleskey v. Kemp*,” Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine Workshop, December 2020
- “Statistics and Civil Rights in the Cold War United States,” American Society for Legal History Student Research Colloquium, November 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, March 2020
- 2019 “[To] kill an elephant with a fly gun’: The Data Politics of the EEOC, 1965-1978,” Social Science History Association, Chicago, IL, November 2019
- “BLACKD, WHVICRC: Race, Regression Analysis, and the Statistical Challenge to Capital Punishment,” Society for the History of Recent Social Science Annual Meeting, Freie Universität Berlin, June 2019
- “What’s Social About Numbers?” (with Alex Kindel), guest lecture for “Technology & Society” (Prof. Janet Vertesi), School of Engineering, Princeton University, April 2019
- 2018 “Amphibian *a priori*: Filters, Fields, and the Contested Vision of Neuroscience,” HSS Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, November 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, June 2018

- 2015 “‘The London/Baltimore link has been severed’: human linkage mapping and the early computerization of genetics,” 6th International Workshop on the History of Human Genetics, Glasgow, UK, June 2015
- 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*, NTNU, Trondheim, Norway, June 2014

TEACHING

DREW UNIVERSITY

- 2022 Instructor, “The Information Age,” upper-level undergraduate seminar, Department of History, Fall

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

- 2023 Assistant in Instruction, “Black Mirror: Race, Technology, and Justice” (Prof. Ruha Benjamin), undergraduate seminar, Department of African American Studies, Spring
- 2022 Assistant in Instruction, “United States Legal History” (Prof. Laura Edwards), undergraduate lecture, Department of History, Fall
- 2019 Assistant in Instruction, “Technology & Society” (Prof. Janet Vertesi), undergraduate lecture, School of Engineering, Spring
- 2018 Assistant in Instruction, “History of Contemporary Science” (Prof. Michael Gordin), undergraduate lecture, Department of History, Fall
- Nominated for Graduate Teaching Award

PRINCETON PRISON TEACHING INITIATIVE

- 2017 Co-Instructor, “United States History to 1877,” Garden State Youth Correctional Facility, accredited by Raritan Valley Community College, Fall

WRITING PEDAGOGY

- 2022-23 Senior Thesis Writing Coach (Tamilore Ajeigbe, Leashell Camille, Kennedy Collins, and Payton Croskey), Department of African American Studies, Princeton University
- 2021 Junior Paper Writing Coach (Daisy Torres and Tamilore Ajeigbe), Department of African American Studies, Princeton University
- 2018–20 Head Fellow (19-20) and Fellow (18-19), Princeton University Writing Center
- Managed group of undergraduate and graduate fellows
 - Supervised undergraduate students in need research paper assistance

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

PODCASTS

- 2021–22 Associate Producer, *AAS Podcast*, Department of African American Studies, Princeton University [aas.princeton.edu/about-aas/podcast]
- 2014–20 Host, *New Books in Medicine* and *New Books in Science, Technology, and Society*, New Books Network [newbooksnetwork.com/hosts/profile/08dba33c-0b0c-4965-b10f-170ff8d0b043]

CURATION

- 2014 “Calculating Devices,” *Explore Whipple Collections*, Whipple Museum of the History of Science, Cambridge, UK [whipplemuseum.cam.ac.uk/explore-whipple-collections/calculating-devices]

RESEARCH & OTHER EMPLOYMENT

- 2019–20 Research Assistant to Profs. Keith Wailoo and Julian Zelizer, Department of History, Princeton University
- Prepared images and edited citations for Prof. Wailoo’s *Pushing Cool*
 - Revamped slides for Prof. Zelizer’s “The United States Since 1974”
- 2014–16 Software Developer and Business Systems Analyst, McMaster-Carr Supply Co., Elmhurst, 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 Neurobiology Research Assistant, Schwartz Lab, Joseph P. Kennedy Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center, University of Chicago
- 2012 Editorial Assistant, Robert L. Perlman, University of Chicago, for *Evolution and Medicine* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013)

SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 2018–22 Co-Chair (20-22), Mentorship Officer (18-20), Graduate and Early Career Caucus, History of Science Society
- 2016–22 President (18-19), Treasurer (20-21), Professional Development Coordinator (21-22), History of Science Representative (17-18), Lounge Czar (16-18), Graduate History Association, Princeton University
- 2019 Founder and President, Free Xiyue Wang Working Group, Princeton University
- 2014 Student Representative, Monitoring Committee, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge

2011–13 Founder and Co-Organizer, Psychoannals (campus-wide reading group on the history and philosophy of psychoanalysis), University of Chicago

MEMBERSHIPS

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

LANGUAGES

Native speaker of English, beginner to intermediate research capability in French and German

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