

MARGARET O'MARA
University of Washington, Department of History
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2007 to Present University of Washington
Howard & Frances Keller Endowed Professor of History (2018-)
Professor of History (2017-18)
Associate Professor of History (2011-2017)
Director of Graduate Studies, Department of History (2013-2014)
Assistant Professor of History (2009-2011)
Visiting Assistant Professor of History (2007-2009)
- 2002 to 2007 Stanford University
Acting Assistant Professor of History (2004-2006)
Associate Director, Bill Lane Center for the West (2004-2007)
Postdoctoral Fellow in the Study of the North American West (2002-2004)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 1998 and 1999 The Brookings Institution
Guest Scholar, Urban and Metropolitan Policy
- Research on metropolitan growth management; urban economic development; regional governance; economic equity and spatial mismatch; welfare reform and the welfare-to-work transition.
- 1996 to 1997 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Special Assistant, Administration for Children and Families
- Policy specialist handling institutional change after welfare reform; applicability of labor laws to welfare recipients; privatization; tribal welfare reform.
- 1995 to 1996 The White House
Domestic Policy Analyst
- Policy specialist handling Empowerment Zones; community and regional economic development.
- 1993 to 1995 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist
- Collaborated with state and local governments in Medicaid and AFDC reform; worked on health care and welfare reform legislation; child and family policy.
- 1992 Clinton/Gore '92
- Economic policy assistant, field outreach, correspondence aide

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania Ph.D., History, May 2002
Dissertation: “Cities of Knowledge: Cold War Politics and the Suburbanization of Science, 1945-1970” Winner, 2002 Best Dissertation in Urban History (without geographic restriction), Urban History Association

Northwestern University B.A., History and English, June 1992

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

The Code: Silicon Valley and the Remaking of America. Penguin Press, 2019.

Pivotal Tuesdays: Four Elections that Shaped the Twentieth Century. Penn Press, 2015.

Cities of Knowledge: Cold War Science and the Search for the Next Silicon Valley. Princeton, 2005.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters, Articles, and Essays:

“The High-Tech Revolution and the Disruption of American Capitalism,” in *Liberal Orders: The Political Economy of the New Deal and its Opponents*, ed. Romain Huret, Nelson Lichtenstein, and Jean-Christian Vinel (Penn Press, 2020).

“The Long Game,” *Crucible: The President’s First Year* (Miller Center Studies on the Presidency, University of Virginia Press, 2018).

“Capitalism on the Campaign Trail,” in *The Presidency and American Capitalism Since 1945*, ed. Roger Biles and Mark Rose (University Press of Florida, 2018).

“Silicon Dreams: States, Markets, and the Transnational High-Tech Suburb,” in *Making Cities Global: The Transnational Turn in Urban History*, ed. Nancy Kwak and Andrew Sandoval-Strausz (Penn Press, 2017).

“The Environmental Contradictions of High-Tech Urbanism,” in *Now Urbanism: The Future City is Here*, ed. Jeffrey Hou, Ben Spencer, Thaisa Way, and Ken Yocum (Routledge, 2015), 26-42.

“Now Urbanism: A Proposal for Interdisciplinary Spatial Inquiries,” with Thaisa Way, Jeff Hou, Ben Spencer, and Ken Yocom, *Derive: Magazine for Urban Research* 53, October-December 2013, 37-40.

“The Uses of the Foreign Student,” *Social Science History* 36:4 (December 2012), 583-615.

“Cities and Suburbs” (invited; conceptual essay), *The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Social History*, ed. Lynn Dumenil (Oxford University Press, 2012).

“The influence of foreign direct investment on land use changes and regional planning in developing-world megacities: a Bangalore case study,” with Karen C. Seto, in *Megacities: Action Models and Strategic Solutions*, ed. Frauke Kraas, Günter Dill, Günther Mertins and Ulrich Nitschke (Routledge, 2012).

“Beyond Town and Gown: University Economic Development and the Legacy of the Urban Crisis,” *The Journal of Technology Transfer* 37:2 (August 2012), 234-250.

“From Bangalore to the Bay Area: Comparing Transportation and Activity Accessibility as Drivers of Urban Growth,” with Michael K. Reilly and Karen C. Seto, *Landscape and Urban Planning* 2 (2009), 24-33.

“Landscapes of Knowledge and High Technology,” *Places* 19:1 (Spring 2007), 48-53.

“Cold War Politics and Scientific Communities: The Case of Silicon Valley,” *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews* 31:2 (May 2006), 121-134.

“Uncovering the City in the Suburb: Cold War Politics, Scientific Elites, and High-Tech Spaces,” in *The New Suburban History*, ed. Kevin Kruse and Thomas J. Sugrue (University of Chicago Press, 2006), 57-79.

“Suburbia Reconsidered: Race, Politics, and Property in the Twentieth-Century Metropolis,” *Journal of Social History* 39:1 (September 2005), 229-243.

Op-eds, essays, journalism, policy papers:

Contributing opinion writer, *The New York Times*, including: “Letting the Internet Regulate Itself was a Good Idea—in the 1990s” (July 2019); “Silicon Valley’s Family Tree” (March 2019), “The End of Privacy Began in the 1960s” (December 2018), “A Warning From Seattle to Amazon’s HQ2” (November 2018), “Silicon Valley Can’t Escape the Business of War” (October 2018)

“The Tech Talent is Rumbling in Silicon Valley,” *Los Angeles Times*, December 2018

“Winning the Amazon Sweepstakes,” *The Washington Post*, September 2017

“The Other Tech Bubble,” *The American Prospect*, January/February 2016

“The Tech Industry is Changing the Rules,” *Pacific Standard*, October 2015

“What Donald Trump Has in Common with Teddy Roosevelt,” *Time*, September 2015

“Silicon Valleys,” *Boom: A Journal of California* 1:2, June 2011

“Don’t Try this at Home,” *Foreign Policy*, September/October 2010

“Not So Fast: Some Presidents Overcome Their Midterm Slump,” *Seattle Times*, June 2010

“Welfare as We Knew It,” *BlackPast.org* (www.blackpast.org), September 2009

Contributor, *Crosscut*: “We are Not the ‘Next Silicon Valley’” (February 2008); “Seattle’s Transportation Malaise is Nothing Special” (January 2008); “Amazon Joins the Parade of Tech to the Urban Core” (December 2007)

“Schwarzenegger: The Newest Progressive,” with Jon Christensen, *High Country News*, March 2005

“Learning from History: How State and Local Policy Choices Have Shaped Philadelphia’s Growth.” *Greater Philadelphia Regional Review*, March 2002

“Terrorists May Alter the Face of Urban America,” *Public Affairs Report*, October 2001

“Fight or Flight: Metropolitan Philadelphia and its Future,” Metropolitan Philadelphia Policy Center, 2001

“Moving Beyond Sprawl: The Challenge for Metropolitan Atlanta.” Brookings Institution, 2000

“Barriers to Work: the Spatial Divide between Jobs and Welfare Recipients in Metropolitan Areas.” Brookings Institution, 1998

TEACHING

Interests: business and capitalism; politics and policy; technology; cities and suburbs; higher education; the American West

Graduate Fields: Twentieth Century U.S. History
History of Capitalism
Urban History (U.S.; Comparative World)
U.S. Political & Policy History

Regular courses: *Undergraduate Survey Courses*
U.S. Political & Economic History, 1920-Present
History of the American Presidency
The City: People, Places, Environments
Undergraduate Seminars
Elections as History
Watergate
History of Silicon Valley
Graduate Seminars
U.S. History, Late Nineteenth Century to the Present
American Urban History
History of Capitalism
American Political and Policy History

ADVISING

Graduate committee member, UW (* = Committee chair):

Steven Beda (Ph.D., 2014, “Landscapes of Solidarity: Timber Workers and the Making of Place in the Northwest, 1900-1964”)

Joseph Bernardo (Ph.D., 2014, “Becoming ‘Forgotten Asian Americans’: Race, Space, and ‘Invisibility’ in Filipino Los Angeles”)

Ross Coen (Ph.C., “The Open Ocean: Salmon, Science, and Borders in the Pacific World”)

Travis Currit (Ph.C., “Taming the small fatherland: urban space and local identity in Łódź, Poland, 1939-2009”)

Teresa Frizell (School of Education, Ph.C., “Teacher Integration in Los Angeles, 1962-1981”)

Holly George (Ph.D., 2011, “Show Town: Theatre, Urban Identity, and Cultural Change in Spokane, Washington, 1890-1920”)

*Andrew Hedden (M.A. 2015; Ph.C., “The Origins of the Urban Exception: Seattle’s Boeing Bust, 1968-1975”)

*Mary Ann Henderson (Ph.C., “Combatting the White Plague and Reforming the Emerald City”)

*Najja Kossally (M.A., 2018)

Jessica Lee (Ph.D., 2010, “Thinking Women: The Intellectual Roots of Postwar Feminist Activism”)

Marty Manor (Ph.D., 2013, “Košice 1948, 1968, 1988-89: Communism’s Showcase City in Eastern Slovakia”)

Kevin McKenna (Ph.D., 2017, “Safe Sex: Gay Rights Politics and the Making of the Neoliberal State in Seattle”)

Devon McCurdy (Ph.D., 2013, “Upstream Influence: Oregon’s Landscapes and State Power, 1860-2000”)

Kathryn Nicholas (School of Education, Ph.D., 2018, “Women’s Political Agency and Public Education in the 19th Century”)

* Michael Reagan (Ph.D., 2017, “Capital City: New York in Fiscal Crisis”)

* Kayla Schott-Bresler (M.A. 2014, “‘A System Whose Time Should Never Have Come’: Housing Activists and Indirect Finance in an Age of Retrenchment”)

William B. Piggot (Ph.D., 2009, “From Sunbelt to Pacific Rim: Irvine and the Transformation of Orange County, California”)

Kirsten Pochop (Ph.D., 2014, “Learning Liberalism: Seattle Schools and the Changing Face of American Racial Politics, 1960-1980”)

* Emily Lantz Tantayanurak (M.A. candidate)

STSS certificate advisor, UW:

Kaitlyn Casimo (Ph.D., Neuroscience); Ben Lee (Ph.D., Computer Science and Engineering)

Senior honors thesis advisor, UW: Rachel Jecker, 2019, “The Wrong Kind of Queer: Mainstream Newspapers and Oppression within the American Queer Community, 1969-1982”; Peter Welch, 2019, “President Kennedy and Crisis Acting: The Memory of Operation Northwoods in the Modern Fringe”; Claire Palay, 2012, “The Loud Liberation: Family, Feminism and the First Reality Television Show”; Carl Herman, 2011, “The Washington Water Code of 1917: Washington Progressivism and Western Politics Reexamined.” Stanford: Ellen Crisham, Augustus Winkes, Michael Zakaras.

Undergraduate honors mentor, UW: Emily Cernak. Stanford: Larissa Conte

INVITED TALKS

“‘The Computer Never Forgets’: Revisiting the Data-Privacy Wars of the 1960s,” American Political History Institute, Boston University, March 2019

“Silicon Politics,” San Jose State University *Deep Humanities* Series, October 2018

“Pivotal Tuesdays” (2016-17 Wright State Common Book, author visit), Wright State University, Dayton, OH, November 2016

“The War Room Goes to Washington: Clinton’s First Year,” Miller Center for Public Affairs, University of Virginia, October 2016

“Pivotal Tuesdays,” National Archives, Washington, D.C., November 2015

“Pivotal Tuesdays,” William J. Clinton School of Public Service, Little Rock, AR, November 2015

“The Politics of the Innovation Economy,” Hoover Institution, Stanford, March 2015

“The Entrepreneurial City,” The City: CASBS Summit, Stanford, November 2014

“Place Matters: The Alchemy of Innovation in Utah and Beyond,” Keynote Address, 62nd Annual Utah State History Conference, Salt Lake City, September 2014

“It Takes a City: Seattle and the Alchemy of Innovation,” Third Annual Denny Lecture, Museum of History and Industry, March 2014

“The Atari Democrats and the Politics of the New Economy,” Princeton Political History Seminar, November 2013

“Cities of Knowledge,” Keynote Address, International Conference of the Association of University Research Parks, September 2013

“Only in America: U.S. Higher Education and the Global Knowledge Economy,” Keynote Address, American Association of Colleges & Universities Annual Meeting, January 2013

“Pivotal Tuesdays: Four Presidential Elections That Made History,” UW History Lecture Series, October 2012 (also broadcast as an original series on UWTV)

“Transnational Suburbia,” U.S.-China Seminar, University of Washington, October 2012

“Inventing Postindustrial Politics,” Miller Center Seminar, University of Virginia, September 2012

“Landscapes of Wealth: Instant Cities and Global Suburbs in China and Beyond,” Columbia University Seminar on the City, October 2011

“Landscapes of Wealth and White-Collar Wonderlands,” Chicago Urban History Seminar, April

2011

“Poverty and Suburbs,” West Coast Poverty Center, University of Washington, May 2009

“Landscapes of Wealth,” Center for History, Society, and Culture, University of California at Davis, April 2009

“Landscapes of Wealth,” Built Environment Seminar, College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Washington, November 2008

“Sustainable Urban Policy as Environmental Policy,” Stanford University Environmental Forum, Woods Institute for the Environment, Stanford University, September 2008

“The Innovative Region,” First Annual Meeting of the International Regions Benchmarking Consortium (Barcelona, Daejeon, Dublin, Fukuoka, Helsinki, Melbourne, Munich, Seattle, Stockholm), June 2008

“The History of High-Tech Places,” Emerging Research Agendas Seminar, College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Washington, April 2008

“The Next Silicon Valley,” Tsinghua University, Shenzhen University Town, Shenzhen, Guangdong, China, December 2007

“Landscapes of Knowledge,” University of Michigan Seminar on Metropolitan History, September 2007

“From Bangalore to the Bay Area,” Knight Professional Journalism Program, Stanford University, October 2006

“The Geography of Knowledge Work,” College of Environmental Design, University of California at Berkeley, May 2005

“Cities of Knowledge,” Miller Center Forum on Public Affairs, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, March 2005

“Cities of Knowledge,” The University of Pennsylvania Urban Research Institute, Philadelphia PA, March 2005

“Cities of Knowledge,” Public Policy Institute of California, San Francisco CA, November 2004

“Silicon Valley and the Environment,” Stanford Law School Environmental Policy Seminar, May 2004

“The Suburbanization of Science” The Johns Hopkins University Seminar on the History of Technology, Baltimore MD, March 2004

“Uncovering the City in the Suburb,” Shelby Cullum Davis Center for Historical Studies, Princeton University, February 2004

“The 21st-Century City and What Silicon Valley Has To Do With It,” Speakers’ Series on Cities: Past, Present, and Future, Urban Studies Program, Stanford University, January 2004

“Is Your Plant a Target?’ Cold War Civil Defense and the Rise of the High-Tech Suburb,” Newberry Library Seminar in Technology, Politics, & Culture, Chicago IL, November 2003

“Industrial Dispersion Policy,” Commercialization of Knowledge Workshop, Stanford University, November 2002

“Cold War Politics and the Suburbanization of Science,” Social Science History Institute, Economic Policy Research Center, Stanford University, October 2002

“The City as a Target: Cold War Dispersion Policy and the Suburbanization of Science,” Center for Globalization and Information Technology, University of California at Berkeley, October 2001

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“All Aboard the Runaway Train: Silicon Valley and the Spread of Fake News,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Philadelphia PA, April 2019

“Interpreting the Public Interest in Print, Radio, and Television,” Policy History Conference, Tempe AZ, June 2018 (chair and comment)

“Historians on the 2016 Election,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Denver CO, January 2017 (invited plenary speaker)

“Technology and the State,” Policy History Conference, Nashville TN, June 2016 (invited plenary speaker)

“What Counts as Neoliberal,” Policy History Conference, Nashville TN, June 2016 (panel chair and commentator)

“Startup cowboys and high-tech pioneers: the political construction of entrepreneurial leadership,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Providence RI, April 2016 (presenter and session organizer)

“Jimmy Carter’s Presidential Campaign: Forty Years Later,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, January 2016 (invited speaker to Program Committee-organized roundtable)

“The High-Tech Revolution and the New Deal Order,” Beyond the New Deal Order Conference, University of California at Santa Barbara, September 2015

“Landscapes of Wealth: States, Markets, and the Transnational High-Tech Suburb,” Transnational Cities Conference, University of New Mexico, March 2014

“Deep Maps and Spatial Narrative: Urban Environmental Histories in a Digital World,” Urban

History Association, New York NY, October 2012 (panel organizer and roundtable participant)

“The Economic Uses of the University,” Conference on Policy History, Richmond VA, June 2012 (presenter)

“The Fortification of the Urban University, 1970-2000,” panel on Anchor Institutions in the Modern Metropolis, Urban History Association, Las Vegas, NV, October 2010 (presenter)

“Beyond Urban History: Suburbs and Small Towns in Postwar America,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Seattle WA, April 2009 (commentator)

“The Global University: Public Policy and the Internationalization of American Higher Education Since 1950,” Policy History Conference, St Louis MO, May 2008 (panel organizer and presenter)

“Plenary Session: The University and the City,” Urban History Association Biennial Conference, Tempe AZ, October 2006 (plenary session organizer and commentator)

“Rethinking the American West,” Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Palo Alto CA, August 2006 (commentator)

Roundtable book session on Cities of Knowledge, Social Science History Association, Portland OR, November 2005 (author)

“Silicon Valley and Post-Industrial Political Economy,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, San Jose CA, March 2005 (panel organizer and chair)

“Research Parks, Suburbs, and the Politics of Industrial Design,” Urban History Association Biennial Conference, Milwaukee WI, October 2004 (presenter)

“The Customer Sends Its Business Elsewhere: Place-Based Contracting, From Truman to Clinton,” Policy History Conference, St Louis MO, May 2004 (panel organizer and presenter)

“Making the ‘Miracle of Palo Alto’: Western Political Culture and the Rise of the High-Tech Suburb,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Boston MA, March 2004 (panel organizer and presenter)

“The Rustbelt Responds: The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and High-Tech Economic Development Since 1950,” Society for the History of Technology Annual Meeting, Atlanta GA, October 2003 (presenter)

“Racial Politics, Civic Boosters, and High-Tech Economic Development: The Case of Metropolitan Atlanta, 1960-80,” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore MD, October 2003 (presenter)

“From Sputnik to the Research Park: The ‘City of Knowledge’ as Economic Development Strategy, 1957-1970,” Policy History Conference, St. Louis MO, May 2002 (presenter)

“The Garden City as ‘Brainsville’: The University as Community Planner, from Palo Alto to

Philadelphia,” Ninth National Conference on American Planning History, Philadelphia PA, November 2001 (presenter)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

National organizations

- Co-chair, Washington Chapter, Scholars Strategy Network, 2017 to present
- Contributor, Future of Work & Workers, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, 2014-present
- Ten-Year Review Committee, Bill Lane Center for the North American West, Stanford University, 2014-15
- Distinguished Lecturer, Organization of American Historians, 2013 to present
- Program Committee Co-Chair, Social Science History Association, 2014
- Advisory Board, Thriving Cities Project, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia, 2013-16
- External Review Committee, Miller Center for Public Affairs, University of Virginia, 2013
- Fellow, National Forum on the Future of Liberal Education, 2009-2012
- Peer Review Panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2012
- Board Member, Urban History Association, 2008-2011
- Chair, Dissertation Prize Committee, Urban History Association, 2007

University service: University of Washington

- Founding Committee, Urban@UW
- UW Press Committee
- Director of Graduate Studies, Department of History
- STSS Graduate Certificate Interdisciplinary Faculty Committee
- Chair, Innovation Exhibit Exploratory Committee
- Provost’s Search Committee Member, Dean of the College of Built Environments
- UW History Lecturer
- Chair’s Advisory Committee, Department of History
- Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of History
- Curriculum and Teaching Resources Committee, Department of History
- Faculty Affiliate, West Coast Poverty Center
- Faculty Affiliate & Standing Committee Member, Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies
- West of 15th Steering Committee/West Campus Development Advisory Committee
- University Representative, Regional Economic Strategy Technical Advisory Group
- Chair, Sustainable Cities Faculty Working Group, Office of the Provost
- Economic Development Working Group, Office of Research
- International Regions Benchmarking Group, Office of External Affairs
- Social Sciences in the College of the Environment, Faculty Working Group

University service: Stanford University

- Postdoctoral Appointment Committee, Bill Lane Center for the West

- Fellowship Selection Committee, Bill Lane Center for the West
- Mentor, Haas Institute for Public Service
- Environmental Faculty Group
- Urban Studies Faculty Group
- Faculty Advisor, Technical Women in Silicon Valley
- Historic Values Index Group, Office of the University Architect

Conference program chair

- Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, 2014
- Direct Democracy in the West, Stanford, March 2005
- Starting West: The Region's Image and Identity in National Media and Culture, Stanford, February 2005
- On the Edge: Metropolitan Growth and Western Environments, Stanford, April 2004
- Land Use Planning Then and Now: Learning from History, Stanford, May 2003

Manuscript reviewer

- W.W. Norton; Penn Press; Oxford University Press; Stanford University Press; Georgia University Press; Island Press; University of Chicago Press; Routledge; Journal of American History; Journal of Urban History; Pacific Historical Review; Enterprise & Society; MINERVA; Information and Culture; Washington History

Digital History

- "South Lake Union Stories: A Project of HSTAA 208," University of Washington
- Electronic Classrooms on "The Cold War" and "Toward the 21st Century," Miller Center for Public Affairs and the American Political History Initiative.
- "Exploring the West" Curricular Web Site for High School Teachers (www.exploringthewest.stanford.edu)

Teacher educator

- Visiting Professor, Era 9, Standard I (Postwar economic transformation of US), Tri-State History Consortium (MT, UT, WA), 2009-2011

Public History Consulting

- Advisor, PBS (American Experience and other programming), 2012 to present
- Advisor and Facilitator, Next Generation Bellevue, Office of Economic Development, City of Bellevue, 2013-14
- Exhibition Content Development Advisor, Bezos Center for Innovation, Museum of History and Industry, Seattle, 2011-2013

Community Organizations

- Board of Trustees, HistoryLink.org, 2019 to present

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

2015-16

Visiting Scholar, Program in the History and Philosophy of Science and

	Technology, Stanford University
2014-15	Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies
2014-15	Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford
2014	Distinguished Teaching Award for Innovation with Technology, University of Washington
2011-12	Society of Scholars, Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington
2010-11	John E. Sawyer Seminar in the Study of Comparative Cultures, Mellon Foundation
2006	Environmental Venture Project Grant for Interdisciplinary Faculty Research, Woods Institute for the Environment, Stanford University
2002	Visiting Scholar, Institute of Governmental Studies, University of California, Berkeley
2002	Research Merit Award, American Society of Landscape Architects
2001-2002	Miller Center Fellowship in Public Affairs, University of Virginia

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