

# JESSE CAVALARI

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### CONTACT

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🌐 [history.washington.edu/people/jess-cavalari](https://history.washington.edu/people/jess-cavalari)

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

#### Instructor of Record

##### *University of Washington*

HSTLAC 321: Spring '25  
Environmental History of  
Panama

##### *Northern Arizona University*

WGS/ES 191: Fall '19  
Intro to Race, Gender Identity  
and Ethnicity

WGS/HIS 355: Fall '19  
History of Feminisms and  
Feminist Historiographies

WGS 180: Summer '19  
Feminist Media Studies

#### Teaching Assistant

##### *University of Washington*

HSTCMP 284: Fall '23  
History of Sex

HSTAA 212: Spring '22  
US Military History

HSTAA 317: Winter '22  
History of the Digital Age

HSTLAC 185: Fall '21  
Race, Gender, and Class in  
Latin America and Caribbean

##### *Northern Arizona University*

HIS 102 Spring '18  
World History Survey II

HIS 101 Spring '17  
World History Survey I

HIS 293 Fall '17  
American Indian History

HIS 280 Fall '16  
Colonial Latin America

### SUMMARY

My research and teaching interests are focused on the overlap of global environmental history and the history of disease and health in Latin America and the Caribbean. Both my research and pedagogy are informed by the methods and themes of the digital and environmental humanities. I work extensively with hand-written manuscripts, and am passionate about using digital tools to make these sources more accessible for research and educational purposes in and beyond the university. With the support of several digital humanities fellowships, I developed a unique excel database for analyzing prescription records which I applied to the records of a 19th century British colonial doctor in the Caribbean. The database provides empirical evidence of the racialized and gendered politics of colonial public health, and the global circulation of organic medicines and medical knowledge.

My dissertation is an ecological history of the early modern colonial transit industry in Panama. Panamanian transit was a lynchpin of Spanish imperial logistics from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries; a network of roads and rivers through which global assortments goods, people, and plunder were trafficked by mule trains and boats across the isthmus. My dissertation shows how the colonial transit industry—the society, economy, and ecology of Panama—depended fundamentally on the imperial management of ecological relations: the physical strength and ability of a human and non-human labor force, their movement under heavy burden through the geography and environment of the isthmus, and the seasonal weather patterns that determined the rhythms of global maritime logistics. I demonstrate how ecological concerns shaped the laws, race and gender formations, social and administrative structures, built environments, and everyday practices of the transit industry, and how marginalized groups were able to leverage the transit ecology to their advantage.

### EDUCATION

**PhC University of Washington. Seattle, WA.** Candidacy achieved Fall, 2022

Passed General Exams with Honors

Exam Fields:

*History of Latin America 1500-2000s*

Dr. Adam Warren.

*Caribbean History from Late Colonial to Modern Eras*

Dr. Ileana Rodríguez-Silva.

*Modern African History*

Dr. Lynn Thomas

*Comparative Environmental History*

Dr. Purnima Dhavan

**MA Northern Arizona University. Flagstaff, AZ.**

May, 2018

Research track. Primary emphasis colonialism and nationalism; secondary emphasis race and ethnicity

Thesis title: "Pirates Science, and Empire: English Privateers and Knowledge Creation in the Early Modern Atlantic World."

Committee Chair: Dr. Ryan Kashanipour

**BA SUNY New Paltz. New Paltz, NY.**

May, 2014

History Major with emphasis on Atlantic World  
Graduated with Honors

**AA Orange County Community College. Newburg, NY.**

May, 2012

Graduated with Honors

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## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

### History of Science Society Annual Meeting

Portland, OR. November 9-12, 2023.

Presentation title:

"Dr. Burke's Pharmacopeia: A Digital Historical approach to the Pharmaceutical Archive of Nevis, 1881-1882."

### 136th American Historical Association Conference

Philadelphia, PA. January 5-8, 2023.

Presentation title:

"Notes From the Infirmary: Colonial Public Health in Late-Nineteenth-Century British Nevis."

### 10th Northeastern Conference on World History

Boston, MA. March 24-25, 2018.

Presentation title:

"Promoting Useful Knowledge: English Adventurers and Biopiracy in the Atlantic World 1670-1730."

### 18th International Graduate Student Conference on Transatlantic History

Arlington, TX. October 19-20, 2017.

Presentation title:

"Imagining a Colonized Middle Class: Afro-Caribbean Intellectuals and the Process of Decolonization."

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## SKILL DEVELOPMENT

### Incorporating Latin America and the Caribbean into Teaching in Environmental History

Portland, OR. November 8-9, 2023.

Organized by Red de Estudios de Ciencias y Saberes en Latinoamérica y el Caribe

### Microseminar on Indigenous Borderlands in North America

University of Washington, Seattle, WA.  
April 8, 20-22, 2023.

Sponsored by the Simpson Center for the Humanities and the Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest,

### Seminar in Digital Storytelling & Indigenous Histories of the Salish Sea

University of Washington, Seattle, WA.  
Spring, 2023.

Cross-listed and co-taught by the Archeology and History Department with support from the Simpson Center for the Humanities

## PUBLICATIONS

Book review of *Nature, Culture, and Race in Colonial Cuba* by Lee Sessions. *H-Environment*, forthcoming

Book review of *Where We Call Home: Lands, Seas, and Skies of the Pacific Northwest* by Josephine Woolington. *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, vol 115, no 1 + 2. 2024

Book review of *The Torrid Zone: Caribbean Colonization and Cultural Interaction in the Long Seventeenth Century* edited by L.H. Roper. *Caribbean Quarterly*, vol 68, 3. 2022

"Genitals as Body-Parts: Deploying Transnational and Decolonial Feminist Pedagogies Within an American Classroom to Illuminate Genital Modification Practices." (co-author) *Contingencies*, vol. 1, 2. Fall, 2021.

Book review of *The First Black Slave Society: Britain's 'Barbarity Time' in Barbados, 1636-1876* by Hilary McD. Beckles. *Caribbean Quarterly*, vol 65, 1. 2019

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial Intern at *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*  
University of Washington  
September 2022 - June 2023

Ex-Officio member of History Graduate Liaison Committee  
University of Washington  
September 2022 - June 2023

History Representative at the Graduate and Professional Student Senate  
University of Washington  
September 2022 - June 2023

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

### American Society for Environmental History Fellowship

The Newberry Library, Chicago, 2024

### Digital Humanities Summer Fellowship

University of Washington, Simpson Center for the Humanities, 2024

### Costigan Endowed Fellowship

University of Washington, History Department. Spring 2024

### David and Helen Pinkney Fellowship

University of Washington, History Department. Winter 2024

### Antoinette Wills Scholarship

University of Washington, College of Arts & Sciences. Spring 2024

### William J Rorabaugh Department Service Award

University of Washington, History Department. 2023

### Outstanding Student Leader Price

University of Washington, History Department. 2023

### Latin American and Caribbean Studies Scholarship

University of Washington, Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies. 2023

### Valeen T. Avery Collegiate Award for Best Graduate Paper

Arizona History Convention, 2018

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