

Molly Taylor-Poleskey, PhD

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Public historian with extensive background in libraries, museums as well as in designing and teaching engaging, interdisciplinary curriculum. Strong interpersonal skills that support a collaborative, service-oriented approach to teaching and scholarship.

Education

PhD, MA in History with graduate certificate in Digital Humanities 2016, 2010
Stanford University Palo Alto, California
Dissertation: The Great Elector's Table: Food and the Rise of Brandenburg-Prussia, 1640-1688.

BA in History with minor in Music 2005
Mount Holyoke College S. Hadley, Massachusetts
Magna cum laude with a high honors history thesis: The Italian Journey of Hester Lynch Piozzi: The personal and cultural transformation of a Georgian lady.

Other Professional Development:

- NEH Summer Seminar, "Material Maps in the Digital Age" (Director; Jim Akerman), 2019
Newberry Library, Chicago
- Workshop, "CartoDB@Stanford," Stanford University 2016
- Workshop, Edward Tufte Visualization Workshop, San Francisco, California 2015
- DH2019 Pre-conference Workshop, "Complexity and Uncertainty in DH Projects: A
Co-design Approach Around Data Visualization," Utrecht, the Netherlands 2019
- Oxford Digital Humanities Summer School, "Data Science for the Humanities," 2019
- Franckesche Stiftung, Halle, Archive and paleography workshop 2011
- German Historical Institute Summer Seminar 2011

Skills

- Research
 - Quantitative & Qualitative Analysis
 - Collaboration
 - Adapts quickly to new software and technology
 - ArcGIS, and other digital humanities tools
 - Project Management
 - Communication
 - Lesson Planning
 - Design Thinking
- Foreign languages: Fluent in German and Italian, Intermediate French, Latin and Dutch reading ability
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Professional Positions

Associate Professor, Digital History, Middle Tennessee State University August 2022 – Present

- Design and teach History and Public History curriculum (see below)
- Coordinator of Regional History Day competition
- Active researcher in fields of early modern European history and Digital History

Assistant Professor, Digital History, Middle Tennessee State University August 2016-2022

Lecturer, History, Early Modern European History, Stanford University January 2016 – March 2016

Freelance consultant, German paleography 2018 – Present

Research Liaison, Grand Tour Explorer Project, Stanford University 2015-2016

- Communicated with Scholarly Collaborators about target research platform and conference planning

Project Coordinator, Mapping the Republic of Letters Project, Stanford University 2010-2011

- Communicated with international research partners and organized collaborative events

Alan Wofsy Fine Arts, Cataloguing, Imaging and Database Management October 2007-May 2008

- Photographed, edited, and managed antique maps and prints for online sale San Francisco

Intern, Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, April – July 2007

- Created and distributed publicity for the Publications and Public Programming Department

- Reviewed fellowship proposals and compiled data about them for the Scholarly Outreach department
Intern, Museumsdorf Cloppenburg, Germany Feb 2007 – March 2007
- Organized a three-day scholarly conference of seventy-five European historians
- Researched and planned for the renovation of a permanent exhibit about the Germany nobility in the countryside between the 16th and 18th centuries.
- Assistant Cataloger, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts,** June 2005-July 2006
- Created more than 600 rare-book level cataloging records of early nineteenth-century pamphlets for the *North American Imprints Project* with Voyager cataloging software
- Cataloged over 300 eighteenth- and nineteenth-century broadsides and ephemera items now search-able through the Society's online catalog and part of the *Early American Imprint Series II* digital collection from Readex Corp
- Mt. Holyoke College Art Museum and Skinner Museum, South Hadley, Mass.** Sept 2002 – Dec 2004
- Worked with the museum's Collections Specialist to clean and prepare early American furnishing, textiles, and tools for the annual reopening of the Joseph Skinner Museum
- Cataloged collections with Mimsy software during transition into newly renovated facilities
- Informed members of museum news and events and collection information
- Film Program Intern, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts** Summer 2003
- Collected and processed information about films for press packets for the *Boston French Film Festival*.
- Prepared financial reports using Excel and aided in administrative tasks such as editing drafts and coordinating publicity printing
- Intern, Massachusetts State Archives & Library, Boston, Massachusetts** Summer 2002
- Cataloged a Revolutionary War record, which attracted the attention of the Springfield Armory National Historic Site that consequently funded the microfilming of the log
- Researched genealogy and state legislative history for state officials and public researchers.
- Updated educational material for the museum to emphasize primary source holdings

Curriculum Design and Teaching with Maps

- HIST 6205/7205: Research Seminar in European History: Maps: Digital, Printed, and Drawn by Hand
 - Digital history class questioning how to best make digital maps of premodern or nonwestern places while studying the history of mapmaking
 - Final projects were mixed digital map project and short research papers about a particular historical map
- HIST 6994: Advanced Projects in Public History
 - Mentored students one-on-one on their own ArcGIS and other digital mapping projects
- HIST 6993/7993: Digital History Field School "Hidden Town in 3D"
 - 3-week Maymester Field School experience for Public History PhD students
 - Collaboration with Animation, CS, and Aerospace Departments, and Old Salem Museum and Gardens on a 3D animation of a slave dwelling that was not preserved
- HIST 6450/7450: Digital Tools for Historians Graduate Seminar
 - Hands-on introduction to Digital Humanities with frequent guest speakers, visits to potential collaborators around the university (such as the Makerspace), and collaborations with local organizations and other concurrent courses such as Graphic Design (ART) and Museum Management (HIST).
- HIST 3870: Digital Public History
 - Undergraduate public and urban history introduction featuring original research into local history, historical map comparisons using digital tools, writing for a popular audience, creating a public-facing tour website, branding and marketing, and leading a public walking tour.
- HIST 3075: Renaissance Food & Culture MTSU Signature Study Abroad Program to Italy
 - Interdisciplinary experience co-led with Fermentation Science and Art
- DH Graduate Workshop, University of Arkansas
 - Designed and co-led a week-long intensive introduction to Digital Humanities

Selected Publications (for others, see taylor-poleskey.net)

- "Digital Sources." *Bloomsbury History: Theory and Method* (solicited article under contract)
- "Digital Humanities Preservation: A Conversation for Developing Sustainable Digital Projects," with Alissa Miller. In Mary Balkun and Marta Deyrup, eds., *Transformative Digital Humanities: Challenges and Opportunities*. Abingdon: Routledge, 2020.
- "A Simple Process for Charting Urban Change with Digital Tools," in Christopher Young, ed., *Quick Hits: Teaching with the Digital Humanities*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2020. doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv16rdcq.27
- Review of *Networked Nation: Mapping German Cities in Sebastian Münster's Cosmographia*, by Jasper van Putten. *Renaissance Quarterly*, Summer 2019, vol. 72/2.
- "British Architects in Italy: Visualizing transformation on the Grand Tour," *American Historical Review*. Co-authored with G. Ceserani, N. Coleman, and S. Murray, 122: 2 (April 2017), 425-450. [doi/10.1093/ahr/122.2.425](https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/122.2.425)
- "Journey Down the Rhine: The Story Map of the 1613 Wedding Journey of Elizabeth Stuart and Friedrich V of the Palatinate," <http://web.stanford.edu/group/spatialhistory/cgi-bin/site/pub.php?id=129>, *Stanford Spatial History Project*, 2018.
- "Mapping the Journey up the Rhine: Digital Representations of the Marriage Journey," in Sara Smart and Mara R. Wade, eds., *The Palatine Wedding of 1613. Context, Celebration, and Consequence of an Anglo-German Alliance*. Wolfenbüttel: Wolfenbütteler Arbeiten zur Renaissanceforschung, 2013, 171-190.
- "Burney's Journey: Visualizing social and research networks of one 18th-century 'Grand Tourist'" in *The CESTA Anthology 2013*, edited by Jake Coolidge with an introduction by Zephyr Frank. Stanford: The Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA), 2013, 51-58.
- Contributor to the Stanford Humanities News Service, Vivarium (the Stanford Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies blog), the [Recipes Project](#), and the [New Books in History](#) podcast

Related Talks

- Frühe Neuzeit Interdisziplinär, University of Arizona (March 2023)
Panel Organizer, "Digital Maps and Premodern Places"
Paper, "The Right Tools for the Job: Considering Historical Understanding of the Holy Roman Empire in Digital Mapping Tools"
- Interdisziplinärer Arbeitskreis Historische Geographische Informationssysteme & Digital Humanities Guest lecture, Universität Heidelberg (July, 16, 2019)
"Mapping 1613 in 2019: What Digital Mapping Tools Can and Should do for Historians."
- Frühe Neuzeit Interdisziplinär, Washington University, St. Louis (March 8-10, 2018)
"The Holy Roman Empire in the Digital Age"
- Universität Greifswald (May 29, 2017)
"Digital Projections of Early Modern Space: A Modern Story Map of the Palatine Wedding of 1613."
- Stanford University Libraries' Series on Paleography and Manuscript Studies (April 2013)
"How to Ignite a Palace with a Cat Bomb and other Early Modern German Secrets: A History of *Kurrentschrift* and Some Practical Tools for Reading It."
- Concert Producer and Lecturer, Stanford University (May 13, 2011)
"Mapping the Present State of Music in Italy, 1770: Music from the Grand Tour of Charles Burney."
Available online at <http://vimeo.com/28069755>
- Republic of Letters Conference, Fondazione Cini, Venice (March 17-19, 2011)
"All Roads Lead to Rome?" Travelers' Routes in Eighteenth-century Italy"
- Una Roma Visuale: Giuseppe Vasi's Rome Symposium, University of Oregon (Nov. 12, 2010) "Travelers to Vasi's Rome: Mapping Eighteenth-century Mobility"

Related Digital Projects

- Digital Holy Roman Empire Mapping Project (In planning)
- Hidden Town in 3D (Collaboration between Old Salem Museum and MTSU's DH Field School) <https://www.hiddentown3d.org/> or <http://www.mtsu.edu/hiddentown3D/>
- Bygone Nashville (Class project for HIST 3870: Digital Public History)
 - <https://bygone-nashville.mtsu.edu/>
- Momentous Murfreesboro (Class project for HIST 3870: Digital Public History Fall 2021)
 - <https://momentous-murfreesboro.mtsu.edu/>
- MTSU's COVID-19 Archive Submissions page
 - (with the university archivist and students in HIST 6450, Summer 2020)
 - <https://mtsu.edu/covidarchive/>
- Königsberg Foodstuff Database
 - <https://www.taylor-poleskey.net/koenigsbergfood.html>
- Journey up the Rhine Digital Map of the 1613 Marriage Journey
 - <http://www.taylor-poleskey.net/jutr.html>
- Mapping the Republic of Letters Grand Tour Project (2008-2012)
 - <http://republicofletters.stanford.edu/casestudies/grandtour.html>

Professional Associations

- German Studies Association
- American Historical Association
- International Council of Museums
- Association of State and Local History
- Renaissance Society of America