

Cynthia Heider: Public historian, data humanist

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Curriculum Vitae (last updated February 2021)

Education

M.A in History with Public History concentration 2018

Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

Master's Thesis: "Sympathy and Science: Social Settlements and Museums Forging the Future through a Usable Past."

Awards: Scholarship for two years Master's study, 2016 – 2018.

B.A. in History with Honors, German minor 2014

Goucher College, Baltimore, MD

Senior Thesis: "Out with the Old, In with the *Aufarbeitung*: The East German Revolution of 1989/90 and the Fight for Access to the Stasi Files."

Awards: Second Prize in the Applestein-Sweren Book Collecting Contest, 2012; Margaret Mary Allgeier Memorial merit scholarship, 2011 – 2014.

Antioch University Study Abroad Program 2013

Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen, Germany

Subjects: Geschichtswissenschaft [Historical Studies], Deutsche Sprache [German]

Awards: The Josephine Levy Kohn '36 Fund for Study Abroad scholarship, 2013.

A.A. in Liberal Arts, magna cum laude 2011

Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale, VA

Employment

Adjunct Professor in the **Temple University Department of History**, Philadelphia, PA.

January 2019 – Present

Create and maintain course syllabus for a cross-listed undergraduate/graduate level Digital History course. Plan lectures, assignments, and skill-building units for integration with course curriculum. Guide students through in-class technical tutorials to develop proficiency with digital tools. Provide project planning assistance, technical support, and supplemental teaching resources to students to ensure achievement of course goals and learning objectives.

Digital Projects Specialist at the **American Philosophical Society**, Philadelphia, PA.

July 2018 – Present

Advance digital scholarship at the strategic and project level through collaboration with fellows, interns, volunteers, and Center for Digital Scholarship colleagues, including developing initiatives, advising and working on digital scholarship projects, and responding to inquiries. Carry out project management, instruction, and supervision of fellows and interns contributing to the CDS Open Data Initiative. Plan, design, and develop digital projects related to collections of the American Philosophical Society Library & Museum. Create institutional standards and technical workflows for digitization, digital library ingest, and open data management functions including: project management, risk assessment, imaging, quality control, and documentation. Plan and lead public-facing workshops and other programming events.

Digital Projects Assistant at the **American Philosophical Society**, Philadelphia, PA.

August 2017 – July 2018

Digitized manuscript items from the collections of the American Philosophical Society Library and the Carpenters' Company of Philadelphia. Treated images, appended DACS metadata, and uploaded to the APS Islandora Digital Library repository. Transcribed handwritten notations in a CSV format for use as open collection data. Created data visualizations to encourage usage and demonstrate scholarly value of data.

Martin L. Levitt Fellow at the **American Philosophical Society**, Philadelphia, PA.

June – August 2017

Digitized manuscript Post Office Ledger Book created by Benjamin Franklin during his tenure as postmaster of colonial Philadelphia (1748-1752). Treated images and added them to the APS Islandora Digital Library repository. Transcribed handwritten notations in a CSV format for use as open collection data. Researched biographical and contextual information about colonial Philadelphia and the early post office. Created data visualizations to encourage usage and demonstrate scholarly value of data.

Membership Coordinator at **The Decorative Arts Trust**, Media, PA.

January – May 2017

Maintained member and financial database systems. Track and facilitate individual and directed charitable contributions. Assisted in the planning, promotion, and execution of member events such as symposia, behind-the-scenes tours, donor receptions, and study trips. Generated donor solicitation and acknowledgment letters. Managed quarterly direct mail campaigns to promote steady growth of organizational memberships. Designed and deployed custom web scripts to automate event registration data entry.

Digital Archive Project Archivist at the **Space Telescope Science Institute**, Baltimore, MD.

February – August 2016

Inventoried, arranged, and described 3500 historical documents related to the Hubble Space Telescope and its science operations center, the Space Telescope Science Institute. Digitized,

created metadata, and performed optical character recognition on documents to facilitate access. Built, organized, and maintained document databases and online Omeka repository. Contributed to planning and development of cross-departmental institution website archiving initiative. Created Unix shell script computer programs to automate document metadata creation and extraction.

Photograph Archive and Digitization Intern at Preservation Maryland, Baltimore, MD.

January – April 2016

Inventoried, arranged, and described a legacy collection of 3200 physical photographs. Digitized photographs, added metadata, and uploaded to organizational Flickr and CONTENTdm instances. Researched and identified photographs of unknown historic properties and locations within Maryland. Assisted in preparation and execution of annual Preservation Advocacy Day.

Special Collections and Archives Technician at Towson University Albert S. Cook Library, Towson, MD.

November 2014 – August 2015

Researched Baltimore Hebrew Institute Rare Books and Judaica Collection. Promoted the collection to the public using Instagram and interactive “White Gloves Sessions.” Composed collections guide. Inventoried and maintained catalog records for approximately 900 rare book, manuscript, and serial titles. Researched and answered faculty and researcher inquiries. Inventoried, accessioned, arranged, and described BHI institutional records held in Towson SC&A.

Professional Projects

Digital Projects

Data Manager, **Franklin Shop Ledgers Project**

The Center for Digital Scholarship at the American Philosophical Society Library & Museum (With funding in part from the National Endowment for Humanities.)

2019 – 2021

Data Manager, **Early American Weather Records**

The Center for Digital Scholarship at the American Philosophical Society Library & Museum in collaboration with The Papers of Thomas Jefferson at Princeton University and the Center for Digital Editing at the University of Virginia

2019 – 2021

Data Manager and Web Development, **Investigating Indentured Servitude: Visualizing Experiences of Colonial America**

The Center for Digital Scholarship at the American Philosophical Society Library & Museum

2017 – 2021

Project & Data Manager and Web Development, **Franklin's Philadelphia Post Office Ledgers: A Glimpse into Colonial Correspondence Networks**
The Center for Digital Scholarship at the American Philosophical Society Library & Museum
2017 – 2019

Research & Consultancy

Historical Consultant, **The Alley Cast Podcast** episode 6: “Urban ‘Decay’ and the City of Homes”
Elfreth’s Alley Museum, Philadelphia, PA
2020

Researcher (exhibition), **The Forgotten Flu: Philadelphia & the Spanish Flu Epidemic of 1918**
Temple University Center for Public History and the City of Philadelphia Division of Disease Control, Department of Public Health, Philadelphia, PA
2016 – 2018

Researcher (collections), **The LESLEY Documentation Project**
Temple University Center for Public History and the Independence Seaport Museum, Philadelphia, PA
2017

Researcher (exhibition), **World War I: USS Olympia**
Temple University Center for Public History and the Independence Seaport Museum, Philadelphia, PA
2016 – 2017

Professional Development

Certificates and Intensive Programs

Certificate in Infographics and Data Visualization
The New School, New York, NY
Expected 2022

Ethical Data Visualization: Taming Treacherous Data (Upcoming)
Digital Humanities Summer Institute, University of Victoria (Canada)
June 2021 [postponed from 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic]

Minimal Computing (Upcoming)

Dream Lab: A Digital Humanities Training Institute, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

June 14-17, 2021

Python for the Digital Humanities (In Progress)

Programming4Humanists, Texas A&M University

January – April 2021

College of Liberal Arts Online Teaching Program Certification

College of Liberal Arts at Temple University

August 2020

Practicum course for teaching online within the College of Liberal Arts.

SNAC School Editor Certification

Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC) International Cooperative & National Archives and Records Administration

February 26-27, 2020

Hands-on training in creating, editing, and linking records within the SNAC Cooperative Portal (snaccooperative.org), an online resource that utilizes linked data principles to increase discovery and description of archival collections and other resources held at cultural institutions around the world.

National Archives Wiki Scholars

Wiki Education & National Archives and Records Administration

May – August 2019

Twelve-week course centered on the development of high-quality Wikipedia articles relating to the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution.

Linked Data for the Humanities

Digital Resources and Methods (DReAM Lab), University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

June 10-14, 2019

Intensive course covering applications of linked data principles within humanities scholarship and information science.

Advocacy by Design

Humanities Intensive Learning and Teaching (HILT), University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

June 4-8, 2018

Intensive course in critical digital engagement and pedagogy, emphasizing incorporation of community-centered, advocacy-focused methodology and praxis in this digital humanities work.

Victorian Society in America Chicago Summer School

Victorian Society in America, Chicago, IL

June 8-15, 2017

Summer program of lectures, tours, and seminars exploring site-specific architecture, arts, historic preservation, and social history of Chicago's Gilded Age buildings and landscapes.

Trainings and Workshops Attended

Twine Workshops with Marisa Parham

Electric Marronage

October 21-22, 2020

Teaching Online Short Course

Center for the Advancement of Teaching at Temple University

May 2020

Series of workshops to develop knowledge and experience of the pedagogy of online teaching.

Local Contexts: Collaborative Curation Training and Education for Indigenous Collections

Center for Digital Scholarship and Curation at Washington State University

December 9-11, 2019

Training in management of issues specific to Indigenous collections within cultural institutions, including copyright/intellectual property concerns, Indigenous data sovereignty, and responsible community-centered collections stewardship, presented as part of an NEH Preservation, Education and Training grant awarded to the creators of Mukurtu CMS.

Ruby on Rails Development Workshop

RailsBridge PHL, Philadelphia, PA

December 2-3, 2016

Intensive workshop focused around developing web applications and programming in Ruby and the Ruby on Rails application framework.

Mapping the Great Migration Workshop Series

Temple University Digital Scholarship Center, Philadelphia, PA

October – November 2016

A series of applied digital mapping workshops exploring different tools and approaches to spatial representation of the Great Migration (1916-1970), including Carto, ArcGIS/QGIS, Neatline, Google MyMaps and ESRI Story Maps.

Technical Skills

To create **interactive websites, microsites, and digital galleries**, my local development environment can include:

Tools - NotePad ++, Sublime 3 Text Editor, MarkdownPad, CodePen, Gulp.js, Node.js, Hugo static site generator, Sketch for Mac, Balsamiq Mockups, Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), Git/GitHub

Scripting/Coding Languages - HTML & HTML5, CSS & CSS3, Markdown, JavaScript and assorted JS libraries and frameworks, Golang

Platforms - WordPress, Drupal 7, Quire, PubPub, Omeka and Omeka S

To **create and maintain metadata** within digital repositories and OPACs, my toolkit includes but is not limited to:

Metadata standards and authority records - Dublin Core, MODS, METS, DACS; Library of Congress Authorities (LCSH, LCNAF), Thesaurus for Graphic Materials (TGM), RBMS Terms, BIBFRAME Ontology, Virtual International Authority File (VIAF)

Scripting/Coding Languages - JSON, XML, RDF/XML, Wikicode

Platforms/Frameworks - Fedora with Islandora 7 & 8, CONTENTdm, ArchivesSpace, Aeon, Koha, Mukurtu CMS, The Museum System (TMS) CMS, PastPerfect

To **gather, clean, parse, and structure data**, I prefer to use the following (but have additional experience with a number of other setups):

Tools - OpenRefine, Airtable, Microsoft Access and Excel, Google Sheets, FrictionlessData.io, Breve, Audacity

Scripting/Coding Languages & Libraries - Bash/PowerShell scripts, CLI programs, Python 3 and libraries (e.g. Beautiful Soup 4, Pandas)

Standards - POSIX Basic and Extended Regular Expression syntaxes, FAIR Data Principles and CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance

To **analyze, visualize, and present data**, I employ a growing number of methods and tools:

Methods - Mapping and spatial analysis; chronology and timelining; textual analysis; semantic publishing/annotation; infographics; social network analysis

Toolkit - Tableau Desktop, Palladio, Knight Lab Studio tools (JuxtaposeJS, StorylineJS, StoryMapJS, TimelineJS), Voyant Tools, ArcGIS and ESRI Story Maps, QGIS, Twine, Scripto, Hypothes.is, MALLETT for topic modeling, D3.js

To **generate and share other visually-engaging creative content**, I utilize:

Tools - Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Illustrator, Bridge, Spark, Acrobat Pro), Loom, Apple iMovie, Canva, Microsoft Publisher and Sway, GIPHY GIF Maker

Platforms - YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter

To **collaborate on, share, and organize information**, I turn to:

Tools - Slack, Discord, Git/GitHub, Canvas LMS, Asana, Airtable, Hypothes.is, DropBox, SharePoint, Google Docs, Trello, Workflowy, Roam Research, Evernote, Zotero, Tropy, DEVONthink 3, Scrivener

Conferences

Presenter, **Global Digital Humanities Symposium** (Upcoming), Michigan State University. East Lansing, MI: April 2021.

Organizing Committee, **Keystone DH 2021** (Upcoming), Temple University. Philadelphia, PA: July 2021.

Presenter, "**The Promises and Potential Problems of Creating Open Historic Data**," OpenCon Philly. Philadelphia, PA: November 2019.

Presenter, "**Benjamin Franklin's Postal Records as Data**," Networks: The Creation and Circulation of Knowledge from Franklin to Facebook Symposium. Philadelphia, PA: June 2019.

Panelist and Session Organizer, "**The Gilded Age and Progressive Era: Lightning Round on Emerging Scholarship in the Field**," Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting (session solicited by the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era). Philadelphia, PA: April 2019.

Panelist, "**Radical Activists, Faith Communities, Settlement Houses, and More: The Many Roots of Public History and Why They Matter for the Future of the Field**," National Council on Public History Annual Meeting. Hartford, CT: March 2019.

Panel Facilitator, "**Home Repair: Maintaining Structures and Relationships at Historic House Museums**," National Council on Public History Annual Meeting. Hartford, CT: March 2019.

Presenter, "**Analyze This: Open Historic Data in Special Collections**," Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference Semi-Annual Meeting. Wilmington, DE: October 2018.

Panelist, "**Digital History in Public and Academic Contexts**," 23rd Annual James A. Barnes Graduate Student Conference. Philadelphia, PA: March 2018.

Panelist, "**The Importance of Being Digital: How Can Graduate Students Help Build Digital Bridges?**" 22nd Annual James A. Barnes Graduate Student Conference. Philadelphia, PA: March 2017

Conference Organizer, "**This is Why We Fight': Public History for the Public Good**," Temple University Center for Public History, 7th Annual Public History Community Forum (PubComm). Philadelphia, PA, March 2017.

Selected Publications

Datasets

Nebiolo, Molly and Cynthia Heider. "**Quit Rent Rolls in Philadelphia County (Penn Family Estates), Due 1688/9.**" Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 2020.

Distributed by McNeil Center for Early American Studies, 2020.

<https://repository.upenn.edu/mead/43/>

Heider, Cynthia and Ben Weinstein. "**Record of indentures of individuals bound out as apprentices, servants, etc., and of German and other redemptioners, 1771 October 3 - 1773 October 5.**" Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 2019. Distributed by

McNeil Center for Early American Studies, 2019. <https://repository.upenn.edu/mead/33/>

Heider, Cynthia; Miller, Bayard, and Scott Ziegler. "**Outgoing Post, 1748-1752, Philadelphia Post Office Records.**" Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 2017.

Distributed by McNeil Center for Early American Studies, 2017.

<https://repository.upenn.edu/mead/30/>

Heider, Cynthia; Miller, Bayard, and Scott Ziegler. "**Incoming Post, 1748-1752, Philadelphia Post Office Records.**" Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 2017.

Distributed by McNeil Center for Early American Studies, 2017.

<https://repository.upenn.edu/mead/29/>

Print Publications

Farrell, Bethany and Cynthia Heider. "**Accounting for Benjamin Franklin: Reckoning Oppressive Structures in Historic Data,**" chapter in *Revealing Meaning: Feminist Methods in the Digital Humanities*, Wilfrid Laurier University. **(Accepted pending revisions).**

Heider, Cynthia. "*The House on Henry Street: The Enduring Life of a Lower East Side Settlement* (book review)" for *The Public Historian*, 43:2 (Spring 2021).

Web Publications

Heider, Cynthia. "**Peale's Mysterious Fortune Wheel.**" American Philosophical Society Blog. May 13, 2020. <https://www.amphilsoc.org/blog/peales-mysterious-fortune-wheel>

Heider, Cynthia. "**Uninterrupted Sleighing, and of the Very Best Kind.**" American Philosophical Society Blog. January 30, 2020.

<https://www.amphilsoc.org/blog/uninterrupted-sleighing-and-very-best-kind>

Heider, Cynthia. “**Elisha Kent Kane’s Uncanny Philadelphia.**” American Philosophical Society Blog. October 3, 2019.

<https://www.amphilsoc.org/blog/elisha-kent-kanes-uncanny-philadelphia>

Heider, Cynthia. “**Datafied Redemptioners/Redeeming the Data: What’s New at the APS Center for Digital Scholarship.**” American Philosophical Society Blog. April 26, 2019.

<https://www.amphilsoc.org/blog/datafied-redemptionersredeeming-data-whats-new-aps-center-digital-scholarship>

Heider, Cynthia. “**An American Sanitarian ‘Over There’: Dr. Victor G. Heiser’s World War I Scrapbook and Diary.**” American Philosophical Society Blog. November 8, 2018.

<https://www.amphilsoc.org/blog/american-sanitarian-over-there-dr-victor-g-heisers-world-war-i-scrapbook-and-diary/>

Heider, Cynthia. “**Indenture Mining: Making Pre-Industrial Tradeswomen Visible (Part II).**” American Philosophical Society Blog. August 9, 2018.

<https://www.amphilsoc.org/blog/indenture-mining-making-pre-industrial-tradeswomen-visible-part-ii/>

Heider, Cynthia. “**Indenture Mining: Making Pre-Industrial Tradeswomen Visible (Part I).**” American Philosophical Society Blog. July 26, 2018.

<https://www.amphilsoc.org/blog/indenture-mining-making-pre-industrial-tradeswomen-visible-part-i/>

Service

Contributing Author, Digital Media Group, National Council on Public History. 2019 – 2021.

Digital Media Chair and M.A. Student Representative, The James A. Barnes Club, Temple University History Department. 2017 – 2018.

Social Media Management Team, History Relevance Campaign. 2016 – 2017.

Volunteer Museum Ambassador and Visitor Services Desk Assistant, Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Washington, DC. 2015 – 2017.

National History Day Judge, National History Day, College Park, MD. 2016 – Present.

Maryland History Day Judge, Maryland Humanities Council, Baltimore, MD. 2015 – 2016.

Volunteer Artifact Cataloger, Herring Run Park Archaeology Project, Natural History Society of Maryland, Baltimore, MD. 2015.