

# JESSE GANT

HOME: 2808 INDIANA AVENUE | SAINT LOUIS, MO 63118  
OFFICE: WISCONSIN HUMANITIES COUNCIL  
222 SOUTH BEDFORD STREET | SUITE F | MADISON, WI 53703  
PHONE: XXX.XXX.XXXX | EMAIL: JESSE @ JESSEGANT.NET | WWW.JESSEGANT.NET

## EDUCATION

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### *University of Wisconsin—Madison*

Ph.D., Department of History, Anticipated August 2016

Dissertation: "At Freedom's Edge: Western Black Activist Challenges to Political Antislavery in the Civil War Era"

Advisors: Stephen Kantrowitz and William P. Jones (co-chairs), Susan Lee Johnson, William Cronon

Research and Teaching Fields: 19th Century U.S. History, African American History, Western History, the Civil War and Reconstruction, Memory, Environmental History, and Public History

### *New York University*

M.A. in the John W. Draper Program in Humanities and Social Thought, September 2007

Thesis: "'Freemen to the Rescue': Wisconsin Commemorates the Underground Railroad"  
Advisor: Jennifer Morgan, American Studies Department

### *Carroll University*

B.A. in History and Political Science, May 2003

## PUBLICATIONS

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### *Book*

*Wheel Fever: How Wisconsin Became a Great Bicycling State* Madison: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2013. (Co-authored with Nicholas J. Hoffman)

### *Awards*

Jon Gjerde Prize, *Midwestern History Association*, Finalist, 2014

Winner, Award of Merit, *American Association for State and Local History*, 2014

Norbert Blei/August Derleth Nonfiction Book Award, *Council for Wisconsin Writers*, Honorable Mention, 2013

IndieFab Award, *Foreword Reviews*, Regional Category, Bronze, 2013

Midwest Book Award, *Midwest Independent Publishers Association*, History and Recreation/Sports Categories, Finalist, 2013

### ***Exhibits Based on Book***

"Catch Wheel Fever" Old World Wisconsin, Opened June 2014

"Shifting Gears: A Cyclical History of Badger Bicycling" Wisconsin Historical Society Museum, Madison, February 2015.

"Shifting Gears: A Cyclical History of Badger Bicycling" The History Museum at the Castle, Appleton, Wisconsin, November 2015.

### ***Articles***

"'Younger and More Irreconcilable': James Albert Woodburn's Undergraduate Orations at Indiana University, 1875-1876" *Indiana Magazine of History* 108, no. 2. June 2012. Peer reviewed.

"'Patriotism is Above Political Consideration': A Look Back at the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Civil War in Wisconsin" *Wisconsin Magazine of History* 94, no. 3. Spring 2011.

### ***Book Reviews***

A review of R. Gregory Nokes, *Breaking Chains: Slavery on Trial in the Oregon Territory* (Oregon State University Press, 2013) in *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 104, no. 4. Fall 2013.

A review of Bob Luke and John David Smith, *Soldiering for Freedom: How the Union Army Recruited, Trained, and Deployed the U.S. Colored Troops* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 2013) in the *Journal of African American History*. In press.

A review of Lorenz J. Finison, *Boston's Cycling Craze, 1880-1900: A Story of Race, Sport, and Society* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2014) in the *Journal of Sport History*. Forthcoming.

### ***Encyclopedia and Biography Entries***

"Bicycling." *The Encyclopedia of Milwaukee*. DeKalb, Illinois: Northern Illinois University Press, 2017. In press.

"James Albert Woodburn." In Linda C. Gugin and James E. St. Clair, ed. *Indiana's 200: The People Who Shaped the Hoosier State* Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society Press, 2015.

### ***Web***

Chapter Editor, "The Sectional Crisis," *American Yawp*, 2014-

"An African American Waiter and the Bullet-Shredded Spotsylvania Stump," *O Say Can You See*, Smithsonian National Museum of American History Blog, 2014

"Whites on Bikes: Racial Exclusivity in Early Cycling," *U.S. History Scene*, 2014

"Paranormal, U.S.A: Ghost Tourism and Historical Memory at Alton, Illinois," *Humanities NOW*, University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for the Humanities, 2013

"Lincoln Slept Here," *Humanities NOW*, University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for the Humanities, 2012

"John Brown's Dream," *History News Network*, 2009

"Doing Environmental History: Manuscripts and What Are the Documents," Learning to Do Historical Research, *William Cronon's Webpage*, 2008

## ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

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### ***The Smithsonian National Museum of American History***

Committee for Institutional Cooperation Smithsonian Institution Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, 2013-2014

Competitive yearlong residential fellowship at the National Museum of American History, Library of Congress, and National Portrait Gallery

### ***University of Wisconsin-Madison***

Public Humanities Fellow, Wisconsin Humanities Council and University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for the Humanities, 2014-2015

Supported by funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities

Public Humanities Exchange Grant, University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for the Humanities, 2013 [declined]

Dissertation Research Travel Grant, University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of History, 2012

Chancellor's Borderlands Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison Chancellor's Office, 2011

Center for Culture, History, and Environment Travel Grant, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2011

B. Ruth Barton Department Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison Dept. of History, 2011

University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of History Fellowship, 2009

Futures of American Studies Travel Grant, Dartmouth College, 2009

***External Research Grants***

Everett Helm Visiting Research Fellowship, Lilly Library, Indiana University, 2010

Jacob Price Visiting Fellow, Clements Library, University of Michigan, 2009

***Undergraduate***

Carroll University Presidential Scholarship, Department of History, 1999-2003

George F. Kennan Fellow, Carroll University, 1999-2003

Best Scholarly Paper in the Humanities, Carroll University, 2003 [Senior Thesis]

Outstanding History Department Graduate, Carroll University, 2003

**TEACHING**

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***University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Continuing Studies***

Lecturer | Wisconsin and the Antislavery Movement to 1854, Spring 2016

Lecturer | Abraham Lincoln and the Upper Mississippi River Valley in the Civil War Era, Fall 2015

Lecturer | Bicycling: Past, Present, and Future, Spring 2015

***University of Wisconsin-Madison***

Instructor | Communication Arts 100, Fall 2010

Teaching Assistant | History 393: Slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction, Spring 2010

Teaching Assistant | History 393: The Civil War Era, Spring 2009

***University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee***

Teaching Assistant | History 105: U.S. History 1877-Present, Spring 2006

Teaching Assistant | Race, Science, and Medicine in the U.S. (Honors), Fall 2005

**PUBLIC HISTORY**

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***Exhibit Research, Writing, and Consultation***

"A Stone of Hope: Black Experiences in the Fox Cities." *The History Museum at the Castle*, Appleton, WI, 2014

Winner, Award of Merit. *American Association For State and Local History*, 2015

"250 in 250: 50 People, 50 Places, 50 Images, 50 Moments, 50 Objects" *Missouri History Museum*, Saint Louis, 2013

***Publishing***

Editorial Assistant, Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2008-2013

***Archives and Libraries***

Archival Assistant, *Tamiment Labor Archive*, New York University, 2007

Collections Processed: Spanish Refugee Aid, Inc.

Archival Assistant, *University of Milwaukee Golda-Meir Library*, 2004-2006

Collections Processed: Brady East STD Clinic Records, 1972-2004; Juan Alvarez Cuauhtémoc Photographs, El Movimiento in Milwaukee, 1968-1971; Midwest Archives Conference Records, 1972-Ongoing; Milwaukee Journal Stations Records, 1922-1997; Pabst Brewing Company Records, 1873-1940; Willis and Lillian Leenhouts Architects Records, 1936-1990

**SERVICE**

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***Speakers Series Administration***

Project Assistant, "Emancipations," Assistant to Professor Stephen Kantrowitz, 2012-2013

"Emancipations," a one-year speakers' series commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, sponsored in part through the University of Wisconsin's Center for the Humanities. Included Jim Downs (Connecticut College), Steven Hahn (University of Pennsylvania), Eddie Glaude, Jr. (Princeton University), Thavolia Glymph (Duke University), Tiya Miles (University of Michigan), and Heather Ann Thompson (University of Michigan).

***Public Humanities Project Administration***

Project Lead, *Working Lives*, Wisconsin Humanities Council, 2014-Present

***Graduate Student Leadership***

Elected Member, Graduate Student/Faculty Liaison Committee, 2014-2015

Treasurer, Center for Culture, History and Environment, UW-Madison, 2010

**SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND MEDIA APPEARANCES**

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***Invited Lectures***

"Wisconsin's Underground Railroad in History and Memory." Wisconsin Historical Society, August 2015

"Wheel Fever." Beloit College, March 23, 2014

"The Places of History in Janesville, Wisconsin." Keynote, *Rock County Historical Society 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Banquet*, April 23, 2014

"La Crosse and the Early Bicycling Boom." Keynote for University of La Crosse Department of History, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, March 27, 2014

"Lincoln Slept Here: The Republican Party Through Slavery, War, and Reconstruction." Smithsonian National Museum of American History Colloquium, March 11, 2014

"'We Opposed Bad Men Everywhere': Manhood, Memory, and the Abolitionists," Keynote, University of Wisconsin-Madison Program in Gender and Women's History Spring Program, March 25, 2009

### ***Conference Presentations***

"Gender and the College Literary Society in the Civil War Years," University of Wisconsin-Madison, Gendered Borders and Queer Frontiers, Graduate Student Conference, March 16-17, 2012

"My Countrymen: Race, Midwestern Manhood, and the Civil War Semi-Centennial," University of Wisconsin-Madison Graduate Student Symposium on North American Landscapes, Regions, and Peoples, May 8, 2010

"From Rails to Trails: A History of Bicycling and Bicycling Culture in Wisconsin," University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Culture, History, and Environment Graduate Student Symposium, April 10, 2010

"Milwaukee's Underground Railroad Murals and Problems of Urban Memory," Dartmouth College, Futures of American Studies Institute, June 2009

"John Brown's Body: Remembering Anti-Slavery at North Elba, New York." State University of New York, Plattsburgh, June 2009 [Paper accepted]

"Freemen to the Rescue! Wisconsin Commemorates the Underground Railroad." New York University, John W. Draper Program Spring Graduate Student Colloquium, April 2007

"Cold Mountain: Torture, Violence, and the Return of Lost Causes." New York University, New York University Cinema and Media Studies Conference, February 2007

"The Underground Railroad in History and Memory." University of Memphis, From Slavery to Freedom: The African American Experience, September 2006

"Lake Baikal: A Case Study in Environmental Ethics." Kokshetau State University, Kazakhstan, May 2001

### **Radio**

"Wheel Fever." *University of the Air*, Wisconsin Public Radio, March 1, 2015

"Edith Shuler: Wisconsin's 19<sup>th</sup> Century Bicycling Ambassador, 1869" *Wisconsin Life*, Wisconsin Public Radio, November 24, 2014

"Wheel Fever." *Newsmakers*, Wisconsin Public Radio, April 10, 2014

"Wisconsin Legend: Walter Sanger." *Central Time*, Wisconsin Public Radio, March 27, 2014

"Wheel Fever." *Central Time*, Wisconsin Public Radio. September 13, 2013

"African American Cycling in Saint Louis." *Here's History*, KDHX FM Saint Louis, September 2013

"Bicycling Past and Present." *45 North*, Wisconsin Public Radio, May 10, 2013

### **Television**

"Wheel Fever." *University Place Presents with Norman Gilliland*, Wisconsin Public Television, March 27, 2014

## MEMBERSHIPS

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American Historical Association  
Midwestern History Association  
Organization of American Historians  
The Society of Civil War Historians  
Western History Association

## PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

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### **Stephen Kantrowitz**

Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
3211 Mosse Humanities Building  
455 N. Park Street  
Madison, WI 53706  
Phone: 608.263.1844  
skantrow@wisc.edu

### **William P. Jones**

Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
3211 Mosse Humanities Building  
455 N. Park Street  
Madison, WI 53706  
Phone: 608.263.1784  
william.jones@wisc.edu

**Susan Lee Johnson**

Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison

3211 Mosse Humanities Building

455 N. Park Street

Madison, WI 53706

Phone: 608.263.1848

sljohnson5@wisc.edu