

Kathleen Franz

Associate Professor and Director of Public History
Department of History, American University
4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20016
franz@american.edu, o. 202-885-2386

Education

Brown University, Providence, RI

M.A. May 1991 in American Civilization and Museum Studies

Ph.D. May 1999 in American Civilization

Fields of specialization: American cultural and social history, 1877-1945, popular culture, the history of technology, material and visual culture, and public history.

The University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX

B.A. May 1990 in American Studies, Magna Cum Laude

Employment

Assistant Professor and Director of Public History

American University, Washington, DC

August 2005 – Present

Courses taught: HIST 729 Public History Seminar, HIST 730 Public History Practicum, HIST 370/670 Visual and Material Culture, HIST 380/680 American Popular Culture, HIST 500 Memory and History

Assistant Professor of History and Coordinator of the Historic Preservation and Museum Studies Program

University of North Carolina-Greensboro, Greensboro, NC

August 2000 – May 2005

Visiting Assistant Professor, Program in American Studies

Miami University, Oxford, OH

August 1999 - May 2000

Visiting Lecturer in American Studies, Civic Education Project

Chernivtsi State University, Chernivtsi Ukraine

August 1994 - May 1995

Fellowships and Awards

Faculty Research Award, American University

Spring 2006-2007. Competitive award to support research for a second monograph.

Brooke Hindle Prize, Society for the History of Technology.

Fall 2002. Competitive fellowship awarded for work on the history of invention.

Merit Award for Outstanding Service to the University, UNCG, Greensboro, NC.

Spring 2001. Competitive award.

Summer Excellence Research Award, UNCG, Greensboro, NC.

June-August 2001. Competitive award.

Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.

June-August, 1999, June-August 2000. Senior Fellowship.

Brown University, Providence, RI
August 1990-May 1991. President's Fellowship.
August 1991-May 1999. University Teaching Fellowship.
January-May 1998. Dissertation Fellowship.
National Science Foundation
June 1996-June 1997. Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant. Program in Science and Technology Studies.
Deutsches Museum, Munich, Germany
June-July 1995. Awarded a three-month fellowship by the Forschungsinstitut für Technik und Wissenschaftsgeschichte to research a comparative project on automobility in the 1920s.

Publications

Books

Kathleen Franz and Susan Smulyan, eds., *Major Problems in American Popular Culture*. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin (forthcoming, March 2010).

Tinkering: Consumers Reinvent the Early Automobile. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005.

Chapters in Books

"The Open Road: Automobility and Racial Uplift in the Inter-War Years," in Bruce Sinclair, ed., *Technology and the African-American Experience: Needs and Opportunities for Study*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2004.

Book and Exhibit Reviews

"Producing Consumers," review essay in *American Quarterly* 58 (December 2006), 1229-1239.
Eat My Dust: Early Women Motorists, by Georgine Clarsen, *Australian Feminist Studies* (forthcoming, Spring 2010).
Auto Mechanics: Technology and Expertise in Twentieth-Century America, by Kevin L. Borg, *Journal of Social History* (forthcoming, Fall 2009).
Motoring: The Highway Experience in America, by John A. Jakle and Keith A. Sculle, *Technology and Culture* 50:1 (January 2009): 234-235.
Trust and Power: Consumers, the Modern Corporation, and the Making of the United States Automobile Market, by Sally H. Clarke, *American Historical Review* 113:4 (October 2008): 1186-1187.
Mobility without Mayhem: Safety, Cars, and Citizenship, by Jeremy Packer, *Journal of American History* (March 2008): 132.
"The Museo Alameda," *Journal of American History* 95 (June, 2008), 149-155.
Driving Women: Fiction and Automobile Culture in Twentieth-Century America, by Deborah Clarke, *Technology and Culture* 49 (January 2008), 277-279.
Flying Down to Rio: Hollywood, Tourists and Yankee Clippers, by Rosalie Schwartz, *Technology and Culture* 47 (April 2006), 438-440.
"On Time," National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, *Technology and Culture* 44 (January 2003), 142-146.
"Mississippi Valley Textile Museum," Almonte Historic Site, Ottawa, Canada. *The Public Historian* 24 (Winter 2002), 74-76.

Encyclopedia Articles

"Automobiles and Automobility," *Material Culture in America: Understanding Everyday Life*, ed. Helen Sheumaker and Shirley Teresa Wajda (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2007).

“Automobility,” in *Greenwood Encyclopedia of the Great Black Migration*, Steven Green, ed. (Greenwood Publishing Group, 2006), 37-40.

“Technology,” in Mary Cayton and Peter Williams, eds., *Encyclopedia of American Intellectual and Cultural History*. (New York: Scribners, 2001), 11-20.

Scholarship in Other Than in Article Form/Creative Work

National Building Museum, Washington, DC

Guest Curator. January 2005-May 2008.

“Macaulay: The Art of Drawing Architecture,” a 3,000 square foot exhibition that explored David Macaulay’s architectural drawings as a form of visual archeology. The exhibition ran from June 2007 to May 2008.

National Building Museum, Washington, DC

Co-Curator. September 2000-October 2002.

“On Track: Transportation and the American City” a 7,000 square foot exhibit examining the social and spatial history of urban transportation.

Papers Presented at Professional Meetings

Commentator, “Contested Narratives in the History of U.S. Aerospace Technology,” Society for the History of Technology, Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, October 2009.

“David Macaulay’s Sketchbooks: Drawing as Reverse Engineering,” Artefacts Conference, Smithsonian Institution, October 2008.

“Internships: Best Practices for Public History Programs,” National Council on Public History, Annual Meeting, April 2008.

“On Saving the Navarro House: Tejano Memory in San Antonio, 1960-1978,” American Studies Association, Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, October 2007.

“The Peculiar Career of Ella Daggett: Preservation and Tejano Rights in San Antonio, Texas,” National Council Public History, Annual Meeting, Santa Fe, NM, April 2007.

“From Savagery to Civilization: Otis Tufton Mason and Invention at the U.S. National Museum,” Society for the History of Technology, Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV, October 2006.

“A Blend of Spain, Mexico, and Texas’: Historic Preservation and Tejano Culture in San Antonio,” Organization of American Historians/National Council Public History, Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, April 2006.

“Macaulay: The Art of Drawing Architecture,” Poster Session, OAH/NCPH Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, April 2006.

“Emulation and Invention in the Great Depression: Advice Literature and Earl S. Tupper,” Society for the History of Technology, Annual Meeting, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, October 2004.

“Public Transit and The Growth of Urban America, 1880-1930,” American Planning Association, Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, April 2003.

“Automobile and the Wilderness,” Commentator, Environmental History Conference, Denver, CO, March 2002.

“The Open Road: Automobility and Racial Uplift in the Inter-War Years,” the Hagley Research Seminar Series, Center for the History of Business, Technology and Society, Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, DE, October 2001.

“Tinkering in the Twentieth Century: The Cultural Work of Technological Knowledge,” (Panel Coordinator) Society for the History of Technology, Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, October 1998.

"Navigating the Landscape of American Popular Culture: Teaching American Studies in Post-Soviet Ukraine," American Studies Association, Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, October 1997.

"'For the People': Progressives, Civic Officials, Immigrant Workers and the Politics of Industrial Pageants," The New England American Studies Association, Annual Meeting, University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA, April 1992.

Invited Lectures and Roundtables

"Balancing Civic Engagement and Graduate Education," Roundtable, American Studies Association, Annual Conference, November 5-8, 2009, Washington, DC.

"So, You're Teaching in a Public History Program" Working group on teaching public history, National Council on Public History, Annual Meeting, Providence, RI, April 2009.

"Turning Architecture on It's Head: The Innovative Work of David Macaulay," invited lecture, Portland Museum of Art, Portland, OR, March 2009.

"Tenure and Promotion for Public Historians" Report from the AHA-OAH-NCPH taskforce on Public History Scholarship, Organization of American Historians, Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, March 2009.

"Digitizing the Power of Place: New Media in Teaching Public History," American Historical Association, Annual Meeting, January 2009

"Internships: Best Practices for Public History Programs," National Council on Public History, Annual Meeting, April 2008.

"Macaulay: The Art of Drawing Architecture," exhibit discussion, Professional Workshop Series, Public Humanities Program, Brown University, October 2006.

"Prototypes and Invention: An Inquiry into How Inventors Think and Communicate," Discussant, Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, 8 September 2006.

"Tinkering, Or Design from the Bottom Up," North Carolina A&T Science and Technology Symposium, Greensboro, NC, 17 March 2006.

"Orphan Works Legislation," Discussant, Washington College of Law, 24 February 2006.

"Copyright, the Constitutions, and the Crisis in Historical Documentary Film," Discussant. Sponsored by The Charles Guggenheim Center for the Documentary Film at the National Archives, the Center for Social Media at American University, and the National Archives, held at the National Archives, Washington, DC, 23 September 2005.

"Museum 101: How will HBCU's train the next generation of museum professionals?" Association of African American Museums, Raleigh, NC, August 2004.

"Professional Promise: Graduate Projects in the Museums of the Piedmont Triad," Panel Coordinator, North Carolina Museum Council, Durham, NC, March 2004.

"On Track: Transit and American City," keynote address, Oregon Public Transit Association, Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, October 2002.

"Cities in Black and White: Thomas Edison's Early Transit Films," invited presentation, National Building Museum, Washington, DC, July 2002.

"Museums as Forums for Life-Long Learning," Panel Coordinator, North Carolina Museum Council, New Bern, NC, November 2001.

"Tinkering with Automobility," invited presentation, North Carolina Historical Society, Raleigh, NC, October 2, 2001.

"Ingenious Conversions: Travelers Redesign the Automobile, 1915-1934," invited presentation, Science and Technology Studies Program colloquium, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, February 1998.

Public History Professional Activities

AHA-OAH-NCPH Working Group on Tenure and Promotion Standards for Public Historians

2007-2009 NCPH representative to the working group that studied and made recommendations on tenure and promotion criteria for public historians working in the academy. The work of this group is intensive and ongoing through May of 2009.

Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), "The Way We Worked" exhibition. Consultant, October–December, 2008.

Advisory board for *Impulse* Preservation and Access Project, Mills College, California, September 2008-March 2009.

Project to digitize historical publication on dance entitled *Impulse*. National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
Consultant, May 2008-Present. Revision of permanent exhibitions.

National Park Service, National Capitol Region, Washington, DC
Coordinator of reading group for park rangers on the National Mall 2008-2009. Working with former park ranger as part of National Council Public History initiative to begin conversations between academics and field historians. Reading group will focus on new scholarship in the area of memory studies and will begin formally in January 2009. We plan to report results at the 2009 NCPH meeting.

National Park Service, Heritage Education Services, Washington, DC
Consultant, May 2008. Two-day NPS-sponsored discussion on integrating National Park Service sites and resources into education methods courses.

UNCG Archives, Greensboro, NC
NEH Consultant. September 2003.
NEH consultation grant for traveling exhibit on women veterans.

Girls Zine Project, Women and Gender Studies Program, UNCG, Greensboro, NC
North Carolina Humanities Council. March 2003.
Workshop on history of photography for project for and about girls lives in the State of North Carolina supported by NCHC, UNCG, and Greensboro Public Library.

South Street Seaport Museum, New York, NY
NEH Consultant. December 2002-July 2003.
History consultant for new permanent exhibit on seaport history. Wrote essay entitled, "Dry Shod to New York": The Holland Tunnel and the Coming of the Auto Age," for exhibit catalog.

Long Island Museum of Art, History, and Carriages, Stony Brook, NY
NEH Consultant. September 2002.
Worked with museum staff as part of National Endowment for the Humanities consultation grant to reinterpret permanent collections.

National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
Consultant. April 1999 to June 2002.
Participated in planning meetings for "America On the Move," a 20,000 sq.ft. exhibit that reinterpreted the museum's transportation collections.

Discovery Channel Multimedia, Inc.
Consultant. November-December 1995.
Historical consultant for CD-ROM "Invention Studio." Researched and wrote script for CD-ROM exhibit. My contribution centered on the addition of social history -- stories of women and African Americans to the history of invention.

Department of Environmental Management, Boston, MA
Consultant. June-July 1994.
River Bend/Voss Farm Project. Collected 18th and 19th-century graphic materials and scripted initial exhibit for National Heritage Corridor exhibit on early industrialization in Massachusetts.

National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
Research Assistant. July-August 1992.

Researched the history of cyborgs for Steven Lubar, *Info Culture*, (Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1993).

Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT), Providence, RI
Curator. March 1992.
Researched, designed, and mounted exhibit highlighting RIDOT's photographic collection of historic highway bridges.

Historic Engineering Associates, Providence, RI
Research Assistant/Photographer. September-December 1991.
Research for an exhibit at National Heritage Corridor Park site at Chase Mill, RI

Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, Dearborn, MI
Senior Internship. June-August 1991.
Fellowship in Museum Studies funded by the Vera and Walter E. Simmons Fund.
Conducted research and developed interactive display for the "Made in America" exhibit.

The Valentine Museum, Richmond, VA
Coordinating Intern. June-August 1989 and June-August 1990.
Organized inventory of three-dimensional collections conducted community research for the Richmond History Project.

Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History, Washington, DC
Intern. June-August 1988.
Performed general hands-on tasks related to the collections in Domestic Life.

San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, TX
Intern. January-May 1987.

University Service

Department of History, American University, Washington, DC

Director of Public History and Chair of the Public History Committee, 2005-Present
Chair, American Studies Search Committee, Fall 2009
Graduate Studies Committee, 2005-Present
Educational Policy Committee on Interdisciplinary Studies, 2007.
U.S. Colonial Search Committee, 2006-2007

History Department, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Public History Coordinator and Co-Chair of Public History Committee, 2000-2005.
Graduate Studies Committee, 2000-Present
Departmental Head Search Committee, 2004-2005
Annual Faculty Review Committee, 2002-2003
Women's History Search Committee, 2001-2002
Women Studies Program Committee for Renaming the Program, 2001-2002
Policies Committee, 2001-2002

National Service

Organization of American Historians
Chair, Committee on Public History, 2009-2010
Member, Committee on Public History, 2007-2011
Local Arrangements Committee, 2010.

National Council on Public History
Tenure Task Force, 2007-Present
Representative to American Council of Learned Societies, 2008-Present
Co-Chair, Annual Conference Program Committee in conjunction with the OAH Meeting, March 2012

American Historical Association

Local Arrangements Committee, 2007-2008
Society for the History of the Federal Government
Executive Council, 2007-Present
Organized Annual Hewlett Lecture, co-sponsored with AU History Dept., Oct. 2008

National Humanities Advocacy Work And Humanities Reviewer

National Humanities Advocacy Day, Lobbyist. April 2005, March 2007, March 2008
National Endowment for the Humanities, Preservation Reviewer, October 2007
National Endowment for the Humanities, Public Programs Reviewer. October 2004
National Endowment for the Humanities, Preservation Reviewer, March 2004
National Endowment for the Humanities, Public Programs Reviewer. March 2003

Refereed Manuscripts and Outside Dissertations

“The Holden Motor Car Company,” Dissertation by John M. Wright, Melbourne University, Melbourne, Australia. Outside examiner for the School of Historical Studies, September 2008.
“Women’s Love of the Early Automobile,” The Johns Hopkins University Press, fall 2006.
“Home Video and the ‘TV Problem,’” *Technology and Culture*, summer 2006.
“Function and Experience,” *Technology and Culture*, spring 2006.
“Fighting Traffic,” MIT University Press, fall 2005.
“Time-Shifting: History of a Use,” *Technology and Culture*, fall 2005.
“Present Tense” and “Undoing History,” The University of North Carolina Press, spring 2003.

Memberships

American Studies Association, Technology Caucus
Organization of American Historians
National Council on Public History
Society for the History of Technology
Society for the History of the Federal Government