

Scott Gac

EDUCATION

The Graduate Center, City University of New York

Doctor of Philosophy, 2003

U.S. History

The Juilliard School, New York, NY

Master of Music, 1996

Double Bass

Columbia University, New York, NY

Bachelor of Arts, 1995

POSITIONS & COURSES

Graduate Director of American Studies, Trinity College, 2014-present.

The director is responsible for all aspects of the program: administration (from scheduling and web site to assessment), budget, student and faculty recruitment, and lectures and events. The graduate division, which offers an MA in American Studies, features 35 to 40 matriculants—roughly fifteen percent advance to doctoral programs.

Director of American Studies, Trinity College, 2013-2015, 2017-present.

A vibrant program of ten faculty, the American Studies undergraduate program is consistently among the top majors selected by the college's students. The director is responsible for all aspects of the program: administration (from scheduling and web site to assessment), budget, student and faculty recruitment, and lectures and events.

Associate Professor, Trinity College, joint appointment in the History Department and American Studies Program, 2012-present.

- American Anthems: An Exploration in Music, Protest, and Culture (upper-level American Studies lecture on music, protest, and society)
- Born in Blood: Violence and the Making of America (introductory lecture on violence in American history)
- The Civil War and Reconstruction (History research seminar)
- Conflicts & Cultures in American Society: The 1890s (introduction to methods and approaches in American Studies)
- History as Text, Text as History (upper-level History lecture on the “long” nineteenth century)
- Rewritten Violence (first-year seminar)
- Rise and Fall of American Slavery (History research seminar)
- U.S. Colonial Period through the Civil War (U.S. survey)
- Violence in the American Imagination (upper-level American Studies lecture on theories and representations of violence)

Assistant Professor, Trinity College, joint appointment in History and American Studies, 2009-2012.

- The Politics of American Slavery (History senior seminar)
- U.S. from Reconstruction to the Present (U.S. survey)
- Voices of Freedom, Voices of Desperation: American Reformers, 1760-1960 (American Studies senior seminar)

Visiting Assistant Professor, Trinity College, History and American Studies, 2008.

Visiting Lecturer, Trinity College, History Graduate Studies, fall 2007.

- The American Civil War through Literature (Graduate Seminar)

Visiting Assistant Professor, Trinity College, American Studies, fall 2006.

Lecturer, Yale University, American Studies and History, 2003, 2004.

- Reform in Antebellum America (junior seminar for History majors)
- Politics and Culture of Nineteenth-Century American Music (American Studies junior seminar cross listed with History and Humanities)

Adjunct Assistant Professor, CUNY (Queens and Baruch Colleges), History, 1999-2003.

- America Since 1865 (U.S. survey)
- History of American Civilization II (U.S. survey)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Singing For Freedom: The Hutchinson Family Singers and the Nineteenth Century Culture of Antebellum Reform (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007).

Articles in Books

“God, Garrison, and the Ground: The Hutchinson Family Singers and the Origins of a Commercial Protest Music” in *The Routledge History of Social Protest in Popular Music*, edited by Jonathan C. Friedman (New York: Routledge, 2013; Paperback, 2016), 19-30.

“Jazz Strategy: Dizzy, Foreign Policy, and Government in 1956,” *Americana: Readings in Popular Culture*, edited by Leslie Wilson (Los Angeles: Press Americana, 2006), 29-41.

Articles

“Fisk Jubilee Singers,” *Oxford Bibliographies in African American Studies*, edited by Gene Jarrett (New York: Oxford University Press, 29 June 2016). <www.oxfordbibliographies.com>.

“Slave or Free? Black or White? The Representation of George Latimer,” *New England Quarterly* 88.1 (Mar. 2015): 73-103.

“The Tradition of Violence in the United States: A Multidisciplinary Survey,” *Choice*, 52.3 (November 2014): 199-206.

“Was the Civil War a Mistake? Fifty Years of Edmund Wilson’s *Patriotic Gore*,” *Reviews in American History* 41.2 (June 2013), 361-375.

“Edmund Wilson, Violence, the Civil War, and Me. A

Conversation and Reverie,” *Rethinking History: The Journal of Theory and Practice* 17.1 (January 2013), 82-109.

“The Eternal Symphony Afloat: The Transcendentalists’ Quest for a National Culture,” *ATQ: 19th Century American Literature and Culture* 16.3 (September 2002): 151-164.

“Comrades, the Bugles are Sounding!,” *Music Research Forum*, 11.2 (Fall 1996): 20-43.

Reviews

Review of *Cheap Print and Popular Song in the Nineteenth Century: A Cultural History of the Songster*, edited by Paul Watt, Derek B. Scott, and Patrick Spedding, eds. *Journal of Popular Music Studies* 31.3 (September 2019): 167-168.

Review of *The Ghosts of Guerilla Memory: How Civil War Bushwhackers Became Gunslingers in the American West*, by Christopher Matthew Hulbert. *Choice* 54.10 (June 2017).

Review of *The Press and Slavery in America, 1791-1859: The Melancholy Effect of Popular Excitement*, by Brian Gabriel. *Choice* 54.7 (Mar. 2017).

Review of *The Banjo: America’s African Instrument*, by Laurent Dubois. *Civil War Book Review* (Fall 2016): <www.cwbr.com>.

Review of *Massachusetts and the Civil War: The Commonwealth and National Disunion*, eds. Matthew Mason, Ketheryn P. Viens, and Conrad Edick Wright. *Choice* 53.12 (August 2016).

Review of *Love, Liberation, and Escaping Slavery: William and Ellen Craft in Cultural Memory*, by Barbara McCaskill. *Choice* 53.3 (Nov. 2015).

Review of *When Colleges Sang: The Story of Singing in American College Life*, by J. Lloyd Winstead. *Journal of Southern History* 91.1 (Feb. 2015): 246-247.

Review of *Ring Shout, Wheel About: The Racial Politics of Music and Dance in North American Slavery*, by Katrina Dyonne Thompson. *Civil War Book Review* (Summer 2014): <www.cwbr.com>.

“The Republican Statesman: William Henry Seward.” Review of *Seward: Lincoln’s Indispensable Man*, by Walter Stahr. *Reviews in American History* 42.2 (June 2014): 285-290.

Review of *I Had Rather Die: Rape in the Civil War*, by Kim Murphy. *Choice* 51.9 (May 2014).

Review of *Across the Divide: Union Soldiers View the Northern Home Front*, by Steven J. Ramold. *Choice* 51.3 (November 2013).

Review of *Battle Hymns: The Power and Popularity of Music in the Civil War*, by Christian McWhirter. *Journal of Southern History* 79.3 (August 2013).

Review of *The Fishing Creek Confederacy: A Story of Civil War Draft Resistance*, by Richard A. Sauers and Peter Tomasak. *Choice* 50.10 (June 2013).

Review of *Listening and Longing: Music Lovers in the Age of Barnum*, by Daniel Cavicchi. *American Historical Review* 118.1 (February 2013): 186-187.

“The Difference in Musical Nationalism.” Review of *Sounds American: National Identity and the Music Cultures of the Lower Mississippi Valley, 1800-1860* by Ann Ostendorf. *Common-Place.org*, 13.2 (Winter 2013). <www.common-place.org>.

Review of *White Bread: A Social History of the Store-Bought Loaf*, by Aaron Bobrow-Strain. *Choice* 50.3 (Nov. 2012).

Review of *African or American? Black Identity and Activism in New York City, 1784-1861*, by Leslie M. Alexander. *Historian* 73.2 (June 2011): 325-326.

“The Liberties of War.” Review of *A Freedom Bought with Blood: African American War Literature from the Civil War to World War II*, Jennifer C. James. *Reviews in American History* 36.4 (December 2008): 537-542.

“Listening to the Progressives?” Review of *Sounds of Reform: Progressivism and Music in Chicago, 1873-1935*, Derek Vaillant. *Reviews in American History* 32.3 (September 2004): 407-412.

Miscellaneous

Untitled essay in *Phil Lapsansky: Appreciations* (Philadelphia: Library Company of Philadelphia, 2012), 69-70.

The Chronology of American Literature, Daniel Burt, ed. (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2004). Wrote and edited more than two hundred entries for section on the Colonial Period.

“The Hutchinson Family Singers,” *American National Biography Online* <www.anb.org> (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003).

“Using the SEC Plain English Initiative in the Classroom, A Faculty Development Workshop,” December 7, 1999. Pamphlet co-authored with Diana Polley and Effie McLaughlin.

Works in Progress

Born in American Blood: Armed Citizens, Mobilized Government, and the Violent Nation They Made.

“When the South Headed North: Slavery, Freedom, and Food in the Cookbook of Rufus Estes,” in progress article.

CREATIVE WORKS

“Playing By New Rules,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, May 19, 2006.

“Thank You For Your Interest,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, June 9, 2005.

“On the Market,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, September 29, 2004.

Bassist, Paragon Ragtime Orchestra, New York, NY, 1996-2000.

Bassist, New Amsterdam Symphony, New York, NY, 1997.

Bassist, Summer Garden Festival, Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, 1995-1996.

Bassist, recording, *Orpheus Singing* (Cambria CD-1087), 1995.

Works in Progress

The Education of a Triathlete. Book manuscript under revision.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

CTL Fellow, Center for Teaching and Learning, Trinity College, Hartford, CT, 2014.

Selected Participant, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Summer Seminar (Slave Narratives), Yale University, New Haven, CT, 2009.

Postdoctoral Fellow, Yale University Library, Yale University, New Haven, CT, 2005.

Mellon Special Collections Humanities Fellow, Yale University, New Haven, CT, 2003, 2004.

Society of Colonial Dames Fellowship, New York, 2002.

Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Fellow, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA, 2001.

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow, Library Company of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 2001.

Ph.D. Alumni Dissertation Support Fund Award, CUNY, 2000-2002.

Writing Fellow, CUNY, 1999, 2000.

University Tuition Scholarship, CUNY, 1996-1998.

University Fellowship, CUNY, 1996, 1998.

The Juilliard School Scholarship, New York, 1994, 1995.

PRESENTATIONS

Professional

“Two Sides of a Similar Coin: George Latimer, John Hutchinson, and the Legacy of Antislavery Activism.” Presented for “The Memory of John Brown & Radical Antislavery Culture in America, 1880-1940” at 2010 Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., April 10, 2010.

“What Church Music has to do with Stephen Foster: Selling American Music, 1800-1860.” Presented at the Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University, New Haven, CT, October 20, 2004.

“Excavating the Past Through Sheet Music: The Selling of American Culture from 1800-1860.” Lecture for the Standing Committee on Professional Awareness Lecture, Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University, New Haven, CT, September 7, 2004.

“Music, the Hutchinson Family Singers, and the Culture of Reform in Antebellum America,” Lecture for the Lunchtime Colloquium, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA, December 11, 2003.

"Concert By The Hutchinson Family Singers: Abolitionists as Entertainment?," Presented at the History of Activism, History as Activism Conference, Columbia University, New York, NY, April 6, 2002.

“Get Off the Track’: Culture, Reform, and Public Debate in Antebellum America,” Presented at the Annual Meeting, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), Buffalo, NY, July 22, 2000.

“The Eternal Symphony Afloat: The Transcendentalists’ Quest for a National Culture,” Presented at the Annual Meeting, Margaret Fuller Society, American Literature Association Conference, San Diego, CA, May 29, 1998.

Public

“The Hutchinson Family Singers and the 19th-Century Culture of Reform,” Lecture, Presented at the American Studies Summer Institute at the JFK Library, Boston, MA. Sponsored by the JFK Library and UMass Boston American Studies. July 9, 2019.

Historical Consultant for *SKIN*, an independent short film on white supremacy and violence through the life of Bryon “Pitbull” Widner, a former Neo-Nazi leader in the United States. Script by Guy Nattiv. October 2015.

“Antislavery Hutchinson Family Singers Inspire New Concert,” Interviewed by Tom Crann, Minnesota Public Radio, April 30, 2015.

Senior Advisor, “Singing for Freedom: The Hutchinson Family and Nineteenth-Century Antislavery,” a program based on my book for a Civil War commemoration in the 2015 season, The Rose Ensemble of Saint Paul, St. Paul, Minnesota, <www.RoseEnsemble.org>. February 2014 to April 2015.

“Temperance Music Marked US War Against Drinking,” interviewed for podcast production by Richard Paul, Voice of America, <<http://www.voanews.com/content/temperance-music-marked-war-against-drinking/1812166.html>>, December 17, 2013.

“Beyond Garrison: Reforming Antebellum America,” Lecture and discussion, Presented at the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA, for Change and Reform in American Life, The Education Cooperative, a Teaching American History event funded by the U.S. Department of Education, July 28, 2011.

“Music and Antislavery,” Lecture and singing performance (concert with Deborah Goss of SoloTogether), Presented at Abolitionism and the Underground Railroad in Upstate New York, A National Endowment for the Humanities Teachers Institute, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY, July 14, 2011.

“**Music and Antislavery**,” Lecture, Presented at Abolitionism and the Underground Railroad in Upstate New York, A National Endowment for the Humanities Teachers Institute, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY, July 13, 2010.

“**Singing for Freedom: The Music of the Antislavery Movement**,” Lecture and song, Presented at the Lowell National Historical Park, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Lowell, MA. February 19, 2010.

“**On Antislavery Music**,” Presented at Public Symposium—Abolitionism in Black and White: The Anti-Slavery Community of Boston and Cambridge. Sponsored by the African American Experience Fund and the National Park Foundation; Boston African American National Historic Site; Boston College; Boston National Historical Park; Friends of the Longfellow House; Harvard University; Longfellow National Historic Site; Mass Humanities; and the National Park Service, Northeast Region. C. Walsh Theater, Suffolk University, Boston, MA, October 24, 2009.

Radio Interviews, More than twenty public radio appearances to for *Singing for Freedom*. Sixty-minute feature segments on the Hutchinson Family Singers, music, race, and reform on “The Exchange” hosted by Laura Knoy (New Hampshire Public Radio), the Bruce Wadzeck Show (New Jersey Network, syndicated NPR), and “We Ourselves” hosted by the Reverend Ambrose Lane, Jr. (XM Satellite Radio). June to August, 2007.

“**Singing for Freedom: Antislavery & The Hutchinson Family Singers**,” Lecture, Presented at the Monson Free Library, Monson, MA, January 16, 2002.

SERVICE

Professional

Advisory Board, H-AmStdy, the American Studies discussion network of the Humanities and Social Sciences Online (H-Net), 2010-present.

Manuscript Reviewer, *African American Review*, *American Nineteenth Century History*, *Journal of the Early Republic*, Oxford University Press, Routledge, University of Chicago Press, University of Nebraska Press, 2010-present.

Book Review Editor, H-AmStdy, the American Studies discussion network of the Humanities and Social Sciences Online (H-Net), 2005-2009.

Departmental

Chair, American Studies Job Search in Transnational American Studies, 2019.

Chair, American Studies Assessment Committee, 2015.

Chair, American Studies Job Search in Public Humanities, 2014.

American Studies Thesis Proposal and Prize Committee, 2009-10, 2013-present.

Chair, American Studies Job Search in Global American Studies, 2013, 2018.

History Department Colonial Job Search Committee, 2011.

History Department Colonial Job Search Proposal Committee, 2010.

History Department Curricular Committee, 2010.

History Department Juniors Committee, 2010.

College

History Department Thesis Proposal and Prize Committee, 2009-2010.

Member, Educational Policy Committee, 2018-2019.

Member, Athletic Advisory Committee, 2017-2018.

Voting Member, Graduate Studies Council, 2014-2019.

Non-Voting Member, Graduate Studies Advisory Council, 2014-2015.

Director, American Studies Program, 2013-present.

Lecturer, "To Reduce them by Force: George Washington and the Origins of a Violent American State," Trinity College Faculty Research Lecture, February 20, 2014.

Convener, Humanities Divisional Planning, 2013.

Lecturer, "Say It Loud: Music, Protest, and Politics," Trinity College Academy of Lifelong Learning, Saturday Academy on The 1960s, November 16, 2013.

Commentator, *Web-Writing: Why and How for Liberal Arts Learning*, open-access book editing process. Center for Teaching and Learning, Trinity College, Hartford, CT, October 14, 2013.

Panelist, "C'mon Team, Integrate that Function!," presented on the interplay between coaching athletes and teaching students. A Trinity College Common Hour event sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Learning. Trinity College, Hartford, CT, April 3, 2012.

Organizer, "More Fun than a Seussical: The Civil War Sesquicentennial!" An interactive lunch and learn with Carol Berkin, Presidential Professor of American History at Baruch College, CUNY, and author of *Civil War Wives*. Funded by the History Department and American Studies Program. Smith House, Trinity College, Hartford, CT, September 19, 2011.

Panelist, "The Civil War at 150: Meteors, Explosions, and Shockwaves," presented on the changing notions of violence in the American Civil War. A Trinity College Common Hour event sponsored by American Studies, English, History, and Public Policy and Law. Trinity College, Hartford, CT, April 14, 2011.

Panelist, "Millennial Student Workshop 2: 'Changing Students, Changing Assignments, and the Millennial Generation,'" presented on popular culture as a meeting ground for teacher and student. Trinity College, Hartford, CT, November 10, 2010.

Organizer, "Straight From Connecticut: David Ruggles, America's First Black Radical Activist," an interactive lecture-lunch and student-speaker dinner with Graham Russell Gao Hodges, George Dorland Langdon Jr. Professor of History at Colgate College and winner of the 2010 Hortense Simmons Prize for his David Ruggles biography. Funded by the History Department and American Studies Program. Trinity College, Hartford,

CT, November 9, 2010.

Lecturer, “The Millennium for a Song: Religion, Music, and the Untold Story of Early American Race Relations,” Trinity Alumni lecture hosted by Stan Marcuss ’63, Office of Bryan Cave LLP, Washington, D.C., April 8, 2010.

Organizer and Group Leader, “An American Tradition: Stories of Interracial Escape,” Trinity College Faculty-Student Reading Group Leader, secured funding and organized a seven member group exploring interracial escape in American writing and film, 2009.

ADVISING

Undergraduate

Academic Adviser, Trinity College, counsel, steer, and write recommendations for more than thirty student advisees per year in History and American Studies. 2009-present.

Senior Thesis Adviser, Trinity College, work with senior thesis writers in History and American Studies as they define, craft, and hone their senior theses, a year-long research project of eighty to one-hundred pages. Examples include: Evan Turiano, “James W. C. Pennington and Community Improvement Activism in Hartford, 1840-1841” (2016, winner of the American Studies Prize and D.G. Brinton Thompson Prize); Elise Kei-Rahn, “Yeezy Taught Me: An Artist’s Revision of the American Dream” (2016); Adam Whitehurst, “Cool Abroad: Dave Brubeck and Cold War Cultural Diplomacy” (2012, winner of the D.G. Brinton Thompson Prize in United States History); Greg Moniz, “Irresistible Destination: Novels, Newspapers, and Reaganomics in the Greedy City, 1980s New York” (2011, winner of the D.G. Brinton Thompson Prize in United States History); Max Zevin, “American Fast Food: The Promise of Progress” (2011, 2nd place winner of the Ferguson Prize in History); Joseph Laws, “‘An Independent Course’: Connecticut in Liberia in the 1850s” (2012). 2009-present.

Graduate

Thesis Adviser, Trinity College, work with graduate students in Trinity College’s master’s program in History and American Studies as they define, craft, and hone their thesis projects. Recent examples include: Christopher Fischer, “Transitioning to Capitalism: The Connecticut Land Claims” (2017); Michael Dolan, “Francis McFarland, the Civil War, and a Catholic Call to Arms in Connecticut” (in progress); Mark Melnitsky, “Teaching American Protest Music” (2009). 2008-present.

MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association
American Studies Association
Organization of American Historians
Society for Historians of the Early American Republic

ATHLETICS

USA Triathlon All-American Status, 2006, 2008-2014, 2016-2018.
Ironman All World Athlete, 2013-2016 (Silver Status); 2017 (Gold).
Team USA Long-Course Triathlon Team, Top American Male Finisher in 30-34 age-group at the 2004, 2005, 2006 ITU World Championships.