

PETER SILVER

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POSITIONS

*Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey*  
Associate Professor of History, 2008–

*Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey*  
Instructor in History, 2000; Assistant Professor of History, 2001–2008

EDUCATION

*Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut*  
M.A. in History, 1995; PH.D. in History, 2001

*Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts*  
A.B. in History and Literature, 1993

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Bancroft Prize in American History, trustees of Columbia University, 2008  
Mark Lynton History Prize, J. Anthony Lukas Prize Project of the Nieman Foundation,  
Harvard University, and Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University, 2008  
Richard Allen Lester University Preceptorship, Princeton University, 2004–2007  
W. M. Keck Foundation and Fletcher Jones Foundation Fellowship, Huntington Library,  
San Marino, California, and Center for New World Comparative Studies Fellowship,  
John Carter Brown Library, Providence, Rhode Island, 2006 (declined)  
Committee on Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences grant and Class of '59  
Junior Faculty Fund, Princeton University, 2004  
John Addison Porter Prize for best dissertation in the humanities and George Washington  
Egleston Historical Prize for best dissertation in American history, Yale University, 2001  
Norwegian Nobel Institute Non-Stipendiary Fellowship, 1999

Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Fellowship in the Humanities, 1998–1999  
 Pew Program in Religion and American History Research Fellowship, 1998  
 Andrew W. Mellon Research Fellowship, Yale University, 1997–1998  
 A. Bartlett Giamatti Fellowship in the Humanities, Yale University, 1994–1996  
 A.B. *magna cum laude*, elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Harvard College, 1993  
 Ralph Waldo Emerson Prize for most promising junior male, Committee on Degrees in  
 History and Literature, Harvard College, 1992  
 Marcien Cromwell Jenckes Scholarship, Harvard College, 1991–1992  
 John Harvard Scholarship, Harvard College, 1989–1992

#### PUBLICATIONS

*Our Savage Neighbors: How Indian War Transformed Early America*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2007 (paperback scheduled for November 2008)

“Indians Abroad.” Essay review of Alden T. Vaughan, *Transatlantic Encounters: American Indians in Britain, 1500–1776* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006); Tim Fulford, *Romantic Indians: Native Americans, British Literature, and Transatlantic Culture, 1756–1830* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006); Troy Bickham, *Savages within the Empire: Representations of American Indians in Eighteenth-Century Britain* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, Clarendon Press, 2005); and Stephanie Pratt, *American Indians in British Art, 1700–1840* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2005). Scheduled for publication in *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd ser., 65 (2008)

“Unreliable Sources: The Dangers of Historical Imagination.” Accepted and scheduled for publication in *Harvard Review*, no. 36 (spring 2009; preview at [petersilver.org](http://petersilver.org), under “News”)

“The Older South?” Essay review of Alan Gallay, *The Indian Slave Trade: The Rise of the English Empire in the American South, 1670–1717* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002). *Reviews in American History* 31 (2003): 192–203

“The New York Ministry Act of 1693.” In *Religion and American Law: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Paul Finkelman (New York: Garland Publishers, 1999)

#### CURRENT WRITINGS

*A Rotten Colossus: Spanish and British America in the War of Jenkins’s Ear*. Book manuscript in preparation (represented by Kneerim & Williams at Fish & Richardson, Boston, and under option to W. W. Norton & Co., New York)

“The Sensorium of the City in Colonial South and North America,” for *Frontier Cities*, ed. Jay Gitlin, Barbara Berglund, and Adam Arenson (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press). Chapter in preparation for edited volume

“Some Ways of Narrating a Period,” for *Rethinking History: The Journal of Theory and Practice* (James Goodman, editor). Article manuscript in preparation

“The Idea of Indian-Hating: Melville to White.” Article manuscript in preparation

#### P R E S E N T A T I O N S

“Did the Revolutionary War Produce Revolutionary Americans?” Invited lecture, Hart Institute for American History (Helena M. Wall, director), Pomona College, Claremont, California, scheduled for November 20, 2009

“Making a Borderland Orderly: Violence in the Ohio Country.” Invited lecture, Center for Borderlands and Transcultural Studies (Pekka Hämäläinen, director), University of California, Santa Barbara, scheduled for March 6, 2009

“Dreams of Liberation: Going to War with Natives in Spanish and British America, 1702–1743.” Vanderbilt History Seminar (Gary Gerstle, director), Department of History, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, scheduled for February 23, 2009

“Expressive Violence and Intercultural War in Pennsylvania.” Invited lecture before the annual conference of the Pennsylvania Council for History Education, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, scheduled for October 13, 2008

Commentator for “Writing and Rewriting Native History and Why It Matters.” Workshop conference (Arthur J. Ray, coordinator), of the Program in Canadian Studies, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, April 18, 2008

“The Discovery of Indian and European Identities in Early America.” Annual Weekend with History symposium, New-York Historical Society, New York, April 5, 2008

“Terror and the American Revolution.” Views from the Field lecture, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, D.C., January 5, 2008

“Fearing and Fighting Indians in Revolutionary America.” McKinney Annual Lecture on Warfare and Society, Center for the Study of War and Society (G. Kurt Piehler, director), University of Tennessee, Knoxville, October 2, 2007

Commentator for “Frontier Cities.” Conference of Howard R. Lamar Center for the Study of Frontiers and Borders, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, September 29, 2007

Commentator for “War, Empire, and Religious Revival.” Annual conference of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, Virginia, June 10, 2007

- “Unreliable Sources: The Perils and Opportunities of Counterfactual Evidence.”  
Symposium in honor of the career of John Demos, Historic Deerfield, Deerfield,  
Massachusetts, May 12, 2007
- Commentator for “War As a Forge of Identity.” Omohundro Institute Conference on  
Warfare and Society in Colonial North America and the Caribbean, University of  
Tennessee, Knoxville, October 7, 2006
- “The Strange Careers of Indian and European Racial Thought in the Eighteenth-Century  
Middle Colonies.” Annual conference of the Omohundro Institute of Early American  
History and Culture, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, June 11, 2004
- “Motives for Indian Murder in the Eighteenth-Century Middle Colonies.” Invited lecture,  
Department of History, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, November 6,  
2003
- Panelist for “The Many Franklins: A Roundtable Discussion of Benjamin Franklin” (with  
Joseph Chaves, Myra Jehlen, Carla Mulford, and Michael Zuckerman), Department of  
English and Program in American Studies, Princeton University, April 22, 2002
- Commentator for “On the Margins of Empire.” Annual meeting of the Organization of  
American Historians, Washington, D.C., April 12, 2002
- “Life in Babel: Provincial America’s Nativistic Revivals, 1740–1760.” Seminar of the  
McNeil Center for Early American History and Culture (Daniel K. Richter, director),  
University of Pennsylvania, December 14, 2001
- Commentator for “As Worlds Collide: Mediation on the Fringes of Empire and Nation.”  
Annual conference of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture,  
University of Glasgow, Scotland, July 14, 2001
- “Life in Babel: Provincial America’s Nativistic Revivals, 1740–1760.” Works in Progress  
Series of the Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies (Anthony Grafton,  
director), Princeton University, May 10, 2001
- “Indian War and the White People in Pennsylvania, 1755–1764.” University Seminar on  
Early American History and Culture, Columbia University, September 15, 2000
- “Rage in an Age of Reason.” Invited lecture, Institute for British and American Studies,  
University of Oslo, Norway, October 28, 1999
- “The Agreeable Horror of Indian-Hating.” Fellows conference of the Pew Program in  
Religion and American History (Jon Butler and Harry S. Stout, directors), Yale  
University, May 7, 1999
- “Pre-Revolutionary Pennsylvania’s Crisis of Identity.” Brown Bag Series of the McNeil  
Center for Early American Studies (Richard S. Dunn, director), University of  
Pennsylvania, December 9, 1998

“Inventing Pennsylvania: The ‘Extensive Frontiers’ of Imagination.” Yale Early American History Colloquium, Yale University, October 14, 1998

“White Rage: Indian-Hating and the Roots of American Nationalism.” Annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association, Philadelphia, November 7, 1997

“The Paxton Riots and the Political Uses of Race in Provincial Pennsylvania.” Mapping Race: Bodies of Knowledge, Boundaries of Difference conference, Yale University, May 9, 1997

#### NON-PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

“Fearing and Fighting Indians in Revolutionary America.” Invited lecture, early American history panel, Maine Literary Conference, Camden, Maine, November 3, 2007

#### DISSERTATION

*Title:* “Indian-Hating and the Rise of Whiteness in Provincial Pennsylvania”

*Advisers:* John Demos, Jon Butler, and John Mack Faragher

#### GENERAL EXAMINATION FIELDS

*Passed with distinction:*

1. Early America, 1607–1787. *Examiner:* John Demos
2. The United States, 1787–1896. *Examiner:* Jon Butler
3. Stuart and Hanoverian Britain. *Examiner:* David Underdown

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*Rutgers University*

History 512–300: *Colonial North America*

Fall 2008 (lecturer and discussion leader)

*Princeton University*

History 587: *Readings in Early American History, 1740–1820*

Fall 2001, 2003, 2007 (graduate seminar leader)

History 571: *Colonists, Indians, and Africans in North America to 1750*

(retitled *Colonies and Empires in North America, 1492–1748*, in 2005)

Spring 2005, 2007 (graduate seminar leader); fall 2000 (co-leader with John M. Murrin)

History 372: *Revolutionary America*

Spring and fall 2001, spring 2004, 2008 (lecturer)

History 371: *The English Colonies in America* (retitled *Colonial North America* in 2004)

Spring 2000, 2002, fall 2004, 2006 (lecturer); fall 2000 (preceptor for John M. Murrin)

History 400: *Piracy and Privateering in the Making of the British Atlantic, 1600–1800*

Fall 2004, 2006 (junior seminar leader)

History 400: *The Atlantic World's Long Revolution, 1690–1800*

Fall 2003 (junior seminar leader)

Freshman Seminar 112: *Native North America, 1400–1836*

Spring 2008 (seminar leader)

Freshman Seminar 162: *The Problem of Diversity in Colonial America*

(retitled *The Strange Career of American Pluralism, 1550–1800*, in 2004)

Spring 2002, 2004 (Class of 1976 Freshman Seminar in Human Values; seminar leader)

### *Yale University*

History 143: *The Origins, Significance, and Abolition of New World Slavery*

Fall 1997 (Bass writing-intensive teaching fellow for David Brion Davis)

History 122: *Sectionalism, the Civil War, and Reconstruction*

Spring 1997 (teaching fellow for Robert P. Forbes)

History 115: *The Colonial Period of American History*

Fall 1996 (teaching fellow for John Demos)

### DOCTORAL ADVISING

#### *Princeton University*

Simon Finger, “Epidemic Constitutions: Public Health and Political Culture in the Port of Philadelphia, 1735–1800,” defended April 22, 2008 (adviser, major field examiner)

William Carter, “Chains of Consumption: The Iroquois and the World of Goods, 1550–1800,” defended July 25, 2008 (reader)

Antoinette Sutto, “Ancient Constitutions: Politics and Religion in Maryland, 1630–1690,” scheduled for defense October 10, 2008 (reader, minor field examiner)

Jason Sharples, “Flames of Insurrection: Power, Fear, and Information in Early American Slave Societies,” scheduled for defense fall 2009 (co-adviser, major field examiner)

Eberhard Faber, “‘A State of Constant Danger’: Sovereignty, Authority, and Armed Force in American New Orleans, 1801–1820” (major field co-examiner, reader)

#### ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

##### *Princeton University*

Colonial and Imperial Histories Colloquium (convener)  
Department of History, 2002–2007

Graduate Admissions Committee  
Department of History, 2001–2002, 2003–2004, and 2004–2005

Planning Committee  
Department of History, 2004–2005

Undergraduate Program Committee  
Department of History, 2004–2005

Lapidus Chair in the History of the American Revolutionary Era Search Committee  
Department of History, 2003–2004

History of American Foreign Relations Search Committee  
Department of History, 2000–2001

Junior Adviser  
Department of History, 2000–2001

#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee

*Ethnohistory*

*William and Mary Quarterly*

Oxford University Press

Yale University Press

#### CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

“American Dreams: Rival Empires in a Connected Hemisphere, 1576–1825.” Invited workshop conference on inter-American history, sponsored by Rutgers University and the Center for Collaborative History, Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies, and Department of History, Princeton University, to be held October 23–24, 2009 (with edited volume)

*Co-organizers:* Jeremy Adelman, Princeton University, and Caitlin Fitz, Yale University

## UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

*Princeton University*

2007-08: Senior honors theses on “Imagining Conquest: George Rogers Clark and the Revolutionary West” (winner, Prize in American History), Cherokee slavery and removal, unsuccessful efforts at creating a printed sphere for women in the early republic, legal history of the Alien and Sedition acts; 2006-07: “‘Meekness and Firmness:’ The Growth of Quaker Publicity in Revolutionary Pennsylvania” (winner, Prize in American History), Sir William Johnson’s rhetoric of indispensability, Col. Henry Bouquet in the Seven Years’ War; 2004-05: “‘The Government on Wheels’: Fixity, Mobility, and Centrality in Early American Capital Cities” (winner, Prize in American History), Sir Walter Raleigh’s circle and the Roanoke voyages, the Revolution in the Southern backcountry; 2003-04: the Narragansetts after King Philip’s War, medical competition between missionaries and shamans in seventeenth-century North America; 2001-02: traitor-patriots of the American Revolution and the meaning of independence, colonial identity in Anglo-Indian Calcutta

## RADIO AND TELEVISION

Half-hour panel discussion moderated by Patricia Nelson Limerick on writing nonfiction (with Jeffrey Toobin, author of *The Nine*, and Michelle Goldberg, author of *The Means of Reproduction*), Nieman Foundation of Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, May 13, 2008, recorded for telecast by Book TV, C-SPAN cable network, to air fall 2008

Half-hour telecast of interview on *Our Savage Neighbors: How Indian War Transformed Early America*, Radio Times on TV (weekly digest of best interviews) with Marty Moss-Coane, WHYY TV-12 (Philadelphia), Public Broadcasting Service, November 30, 2007

Hour-long interview on *Our Savage Neighbors: How Indian War Transformed Early America*, Radio Times with Marty Moss-Coane, WHYY (Philadelphia), National Public Radio, November 21, 2007

## MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association

American Society for Ethnohistory

Associates of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture

Forum on European Expansion and Global Interaction (FEEGI)

Friends of the McNeil Center for Early American Studies

Organization of American Historians



## RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Spanish, German, and Norwegian (some Swedish and Danish)

*August 19, 2008*