

Erin M. Kempker

EDUCATION

Ph.D. (2008), History—Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

M.A. (2003), History—Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

B.S. (2000), Social Studies and Secondary Education—University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

University Representative, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Summer Institute, “Implementation, Assessment, and Reporting Track,” Dallas, TX, July 2023.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Scholar, “Finding Mississippi in the National Civil Rights Narrative: Struggle, Institution Building, and Power at the Local Level,” Jackson State University, Jackson, MS, June 2014.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Director, Center for Engaged Learning, Teaching, and Scholarship (CELTS) 2025-present
Augustana College—Rock Island, Illinois

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Interim Director 2023-2024
Mississippi University for Women—Columbus, Mississippi

- Co-wrote and began implementation of “Empowering Your Journey,” a required component of the university’s accreditation reaffirmation process through Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) that focused on student success, high-impact learning, and career readiness.
- Analyzed university-wide assessment data and created targeted annual and 5-year benchmarks to measure QEP success.
- Created General Education assessment report and led faculty review of General Education student learning objectives.
- Directed a campus-wide marketing plan to familiarize all constituents with the QEP.
- Coordinated university-wide efforts related to QEP implementation and reporting to faculty, staff, and administrative committees.
- Created faculty development programming related to the QEP, including presentations at faculty development conferences.
- Taught a 3-4 course load in the academic year.

Chair, Department of History, Political Science, and Geography 2016-2022
Mississippi University for Women—Columbus, Mississippi

- Organized, advised, and recruited for 6 majors, 9 minors, and 2 concentrations.
- Managed and directed teaching faculty of 5 fulltime faculty and 3-4 adjunct faculty; hired and mentored through tenure 2 faculty members.

- Administered annual budget and secured increases for department initiatives.
- Co-created, implemented, and managed the Mary Lou Peyton Scholarship Program in history to annually award over \$100,000 in history scholarships.
- Collaboratively developed and implemented with faculty colleagues innovative curriculum in public history, non-profit advocacy, and applied politics.
- Developed the Martha Swain Speaker Series in collaboration with colleagues from across disciplines to bring annual speakers to campus in March to address issues related to southern women's history.
- Partnered with Education faculty in the Master of Arts in Teaching program and oversaw the transformation of secondary teaching in Social Studies to alternative route.
- Created course offering and course schedules, oversaw course approvals, and acted as liaison between the department and financial aid, registrar, and admissions offices.
- Organized the department response to COVID and facilitated a rapid transition to online learning and safe distance teaching; pioneered outdoor teaching for the campus.
- Wrote and managed the assessment plans and reporting, in collaboration with academic program coordinators, for all majors and minors in the department; achieved successful reaccreditation of the teacher licensure program.
- Developed robust internship network and partnerships with area history museums, local and state government, and non-profit organizations; increased number of students completing internships in history to over 75 percent.
- Taught a 2-3 course load in the academic year.

Professor of History

2008-2024

Mississippi University for Women—Columbus, Mississippi

(Assistant Professor History, 2008-2014, Associate Professor of History, 2014-2018)

- Developed and taught a rotation of 20 undergraduate classes, 4-4 course load.
- Directed a team of faculty and students in writing the history of desegregation of the university in preparation for the 50th anniversary in 2016. Created undergraduate research opportunities, including oral history projects.
- Facilitated the work of the Center for Women's Research & Public Policy, including training students in conducting annual oral history interviews of alumni.
- Facilitated NEW Leadership Mississippi (a week-long summer residency program, modeled on the program at Rutgers University's Center for American Women in Politics) that seeks to educate college women about politics and encourages them to run for office. My support included curriculum development, annual review of applicants, lecturing on women's political history, and co-teaching a workshop on diverse women's politics.
- Collaborated with the Columbus Preservation Society to create public history projects to explore local history and prioritize the voices of those often silenced, especially the enslaved and women.
- Co-wrote and chaired the university's 2014-2019 Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), "Think Outside the Books: Cultivating Intellectual Curiosity," focused on enhancing active, problem-based, and inquiry-driven learning practices and created the Center for Teaching & Learning on campus.

Graduate Student Instructor of Record

2006-2008

Purdue University—West Lafayette, Indiana

Designed and taught introductory U.S. history courses, including overseeing three graduate teaching assistants.

Adjunct Instructor

Fall 2003

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Ivy Tech Community College—Lafayette, Indiana
Designed and taught a continuing education course on Indiana history.

PUBLICATIONS

Books and Scholarly Articles:

Erin M. Kempker, *Big Sister: Feminists, Conservatives, and Conspiracy in the Heartland*, University of Illinois Press, 2018.

Erin M. Kempker, "Coalition and Control: Hoosier Feminists and the Equal Rights Amendment," *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, vol. 34, no. 2 (2013): 52-81.

Erin M. Kempker, "Battling 'Big Sister' Government: Hoosier Women and the Politics of International Women's Year," *Journal of Women's History*, vol. 24, no. 2 (Summer 2012): 144-170.

Erin Kempker, "The Union, the War, and Elvira Scott," *Missouri Historical Review* 95, no. 3 (April 2001): 287-301. Reprint in *A Rough Business: Fighting the Civil War in Missouri*, ed. William Garrett Piston, 109-123. Columbia: State Historical Society of Missouri Press, 2012.

Select Examples of Other Scholarly Writing:

Erin Kempker, "Mississippi University for Women, Desegregation of," *Mississippi Encyclopedia*, 2023, available online at: <https://mississippiencyclopedia.org/entries/mississippi-university-for-women-desegregation-of/>

Review of *A New Southern Woman: The Correspondence of Eliza Lucy Irion Neilson, 1871-1883*, edited by Giselle Roberts, *Journal of Mississippi History*, 76, No. 1 (Spring/Summer 2014): 96-97.

Review of *Plague Among the Magnolias: The 1878 Yellow Fever Epidemic in Mississippi*, by Deanne Stephens Nuwer, *Journal of Mississippi History*, 71, No. 4 (Winter 2009): 389-390.

Women in Politics, 1784-1840. *Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History*. Vol. 2. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2010.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Proven record of teaching innovation and student engagement in high-impact learning practices, including internships and undergraduate research.

- Directed undergraduates and collaborated with museum studies and archives faculty to create public history exhibits that explored campus history, including "The Charles Cocke Affair" exhibit (2018) that told the story of a student uprising to remove a university president in 1890, President William H. Taft's visit to campus in 1909 ("Taft Day: A US President Visits Columbus, Mississippi," 2023) and the founding mothers of the university ("Trailblazing Women: Our Legacy," 2024).
- Directed undergraduates in researching the desegregation of Mississippi University for Women, 2013-2016, including oral history projects, archival research, and presentations on and off campus.

- Directed undergraduates in the creation of two listings as part of the National Trust for Historic Preservation “Where Women Made History” series, including “Founding Mothers of Mississippi University for Women” and “Civil Rights Pioneers at Mississippi University for Women” (2022).
- Coordinated, mentored, and prepared undergraduates for local presentations based on original archival research projects, including the Columbus Freedman’s Bureau school and white women’s involvement in the Lost Cause (2013), the desegregation of the university (2015, 2016), and a local court case on married women’s property rights (2022).
- Coordinated and advised for the Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) program (2016-2024) and supervised Capstone projects in IS.
- Served as honors thesis advisor and honors committee member for undergraduate research projects; prepared students for professional conference presentations in their fields.
- Redesigned the capstone in history to prioritize archival research and an archives-to-podium trajectory.
- Select courses taught: Professional Development in the Humanities, Introduction to College Life, U.S. History I and II, Social Studies Education, Oral History, Introduction to Historical Thinking and Research, Women in America, Sexuality in America, America since 1940, Religion in American History, American Social History, Movies and American Society, The Political Right in the Twentieth Century, Internship, Capstone

AWARDS

Campus Service Award, Town & Tower Club, Columbus, MS (2023)

Kossen Faculty Excellence Award, Mississippi University for Women (2019)

Faculty Member of the Year, Mississippi University for Women (2017)

Award for Excellence in Use of Historical Records in Higher Education, Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, co-awarded with colleague Dr. Amber Handy (2015)

Humanities Teacher of the Year, Mississippi Humanities Council, Mississippi University for Women (2012)

New Faculty Member of the Year, Mississippi’s First Alumnae Association, Mississippi University for Women (2010)

SELECTED GRANTS

Listed below are awards I secured to support campus programming, student research work, and innovative pedagogy.

- “Shirley Chisholm: Champion of Black Feminist Power Politics, a Conversation with the Author Anastasia Curwood,” Mississippi Humanities Council Grant, 2023.
- “Authors Talk Series,” APIL Teaching Innovation Grant, Mississippi University for Women, 2017.

- “Borderland Confusion: Cultures and Conflict in the Making of Alabama and Mississippi,” Bicentennial Fund, Mississippi Humanities Council Grant, 2017.
- “Political Women at “The W” Public History Exhibit,” APIL Teaching Innovation Grant, Mississippi University for Women, 2017.
- “Publication for Undergraduate Research and Creative Work to Commemorate Desegregation,” APIL Teaching Innovation Grant, Mississippi University for Women, 2016.
- “Campus Mural to Commemorate Desegregation,” APIL Teaching Innovation Grant, Mississippi University for Women, 2016.
- “Oral History and the African American Experience,” Faculty Senate Fund B (Teaching-related) Grant, Mississippi University for Women, 2013.
- Faculty Research Grant, Mississippi University for Women, 2011, 2017, 2022.
- “Music as Primary Source,” Faculty Enhancement Grant, Mississippi’s First Alumnae Association, 2010.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & INVITED LECTURES

Presentations older than 2010 available upon request

Invited lecturer, “Women, Politics, and the Public Sphere: A Brief History of Why What You’re Doing Is So Important,” Mississippi New Leadership, Mississippi University for Women, annual summer lecture and workshop, 2013-2024.

“Empowering Your Journey: The MUW QEP,” Faculty Development Conference, Kossen Center for Teaching and Learning, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, Mississippi, January 8, 2024.

Invited speaker, “Illuminati Influencer Queens” episode, Unladylike (podcast), August 2023.

Stacie Taranto, chair, Erin Kempker, Marjorie Spruill, and Bianca Rowlett, panelists, “Conservative White Women in Politics,” Solicited by the Organization of American Historians Committee on the Status of Women in the Historical Profession, Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, virtual, April 15, 2021.

Invited speaker, “The Equal Rights Amendment,” History Happy Hour, Indiana Historical Society, virtual, August 6, 2020.

“Saving the World from Eleanor Roosevelt: Marguerite Dice, the Minute Women of the USA, and the Countersubversive Midwest,” Fifth Annual Midwestern History Association Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 2019.

Invited speaker, “Why Asking Difficult Questions about the Past is Good for the Present and the Future,” Developing U Leadership Series, Mississippi University for Women, March 2018.

Erin Kempker, Derek Webb, Tevin Arrington, and Rain Gerteis, “Partnering with Undergraduates: What Time and Numbers Can Do,” Society of Mississippi Archivists Biennial Conference, Long Beach, Mississippi, April 15-17, 2015.

“Inquiry-driven Learning and the Desegregation of MUW,” Faculty Development Conference, Kossen Center for Teaching and Learning, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, Mississippi, August 17, 2015.

Invited Speaker, "The Union, the War, and Elvira Scott," Columbus Lowndes (MS) Historical Society, September 15, 2013.

Erin Kempker, Mona Vance-Ali, Derek Webb, Whitney Russell, and Miranda Vaughn, "History Out of the Classroom: The Promise and Peril of Undergraduate Archival Research," Society of Mississippi Archivists Biennial Conference, Delta State University, Cleveland, Mississippi, April 17-19, 2013.

Invited Speaker, "Twisted Sisters: Feminists and Conservatives Debate the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1970s," Ina E. Gordy Honors Forum, Mississippi University for Women, September 14, 2011.

"From Anticommunism to Antifeminism: How the Old Right became New," Delta Women Writers Conference, Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi, May 21-23, 2010.

Invited speaker, "From Anticommunism to Antifeminism: Conservative Women's Politics in the Last Half of the Twentieth Century," American Association of University Women (AAUW), Starkville Branch, February 12, 2010.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

National/Regional

Board of Directors Member, Mississippi Historical Society (2019-2020), Annual Program Planning Committee (2019-2020), McLemore History Prize Review Committee (2018-2019), Member (2008-2024)

Judge and Evaluator, National History Day, Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Mississippi University for Women, (2023 and 2024)

Evaluator for the Mississippi History Teacher of the Year Award, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, (2011 and 2012)

Reviewer for *Journal of Mississippi History*

Reviewer for *Midwestern Quarterly*

Institutional Service

Quality Enhancement Plan Committee	Member	2022-2024
QEP Assessment Subcommittee	Member	2023-2024
Assistant/Associate Professor of African American History Search Committee	Chair	2023-2024
Kossen Faculty Excellence Award Review Panel	Evaluator	2020 and 2023
Academic Navigator Search Committee	Member	2021-2022
Student Emergency Fund Committee	Co-chair	2018-2019
	Member	2018-2021
Jumpstart Coordinator/Instructor of Education	Member	2018-2019

Search Committee		
Nursing and Health Sciences Librarian Search Committee	Chair	2017-2018
Digital Studies Teaching Circle	Member	2017-2018
Assistant Professor of Political Science Search Committee	Chair	2016-2017
Teacher Education Council	Member	2016-2022
Council of Chairs	Member	2016-2022
Working Group on the Commemoration of Desegregation College of Arts and Sciences	Organizer	2015-2017
Faculty Senate	Member	2015-2016
Dean of Arts and Sciences Search Committee	Member	2013-2014
Leadership Curriculum Committee	Member	2013-2015
Quality Enhancement Plan Committee	Chair	2014-2015
	Member	2011-2015
Brown Bag Series in History	Co-founder	2012-2014
Assistant Professor of History and Social Studies Search Committee	Member	2012-2013
Academic Integrity Curriculum Committee	Chair	2012-2013
Primary Sources in the Classroom Teaching Circle	Member	2012-2013
U.S. College Readiness Task Force	Representative	2011-2012
Institution of Higher Learning, State of Mississippi		
Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Council	Member	2011-2015
Assistant Professor of History and Social Studies Search	Member	2011-2012
Women's Studies Teaching Circle	Chair	2011-2012
	Member	2011-2024
Gamma Psi Sigma Sorority (Student organization for transfer students)	Faculty Advisor	2011-2012
Vice President of Student Services Search Committee	Member	2010-2011
Assistant Professor of Ancient/Medieval/Early Modern History Search Committee	Member	2010-2011
Phi Alpha Theta (Student honorary organization for history)	Faculty Advisor	2009-2018
Academic Standards Board	Member	2009-2012
Minors Without Majors Teaching Circle	Member	2009-2012
American Studies Teaching Circle	Chair	2008-2009

Community Service

American Association of University Women, Columbus, MS Branch	President	2018-2019
	Vice-president	2014-2016
	University Representative	2011-2014
	Member	2011-2024
Women's History Month Poster Competition, Mississippi School of Math and Science, Columbus, MS	Judge	2021
Columbus (MS) Preservation Society	Collaborator	2022-2024
Genesis Dream Center, Columbus, MS	GED Instructor	2010

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPERVISION

In the following selected projects, I acted as primary research advisor and helped students find and prepare for presentations showcasing their research.

2024, Summer Scholars, Anna Sandlin, “Emma Ody Pohl and the Empowerment of White Southern Women,” Mississippi University for Women (MUW).

2024, Frederica Hargrove, “The Overlooked Perspectives of Black Mississippian Education and Desegregation,” MUW Undergraduate Research Conference, first place in short-term research.

2022, MUW Undergraduate Research Conference:

- Bayleigh Dawkins, “Attempted Name Changes of MUW after Coeducation,” first place in oral presentation
- Faith Langford, “Writing Toward Social Consciousness: Expressions of Sexuality and Gender in Mississippi University for Women’s Undergraduate Fine Arts Publication,” first place in short term research
- Emma Potter, “Curating the Past: Telling the Story of Women at the Columbus Air Force Base”
- Max Hartleroad, “We Got The...’: Jackson, Mississippi and the Punk Rock Scene, 1976-1986,” second place in oral presentation
- Maggie Ellis, “Sole and Separate’: The Progression of Married Women’s Property Rights in the State of Mississippi,” first place in long term research

2021, Summer Scholars, Maggie Ellis and Karri Watkins, MUW, “Sole and Separate’: The Progression of Married Women’s Property Rights in the State of Mississippi,” and “The Haven, Its History, and the Story of a Free Black Family before the Civil War.” *Both these projects became programming for the Columbus Preservation Society. I worked with Ellis to create “You’ve Been Summoned for Jury Duty!,” where she acted as narrator in explaining the life of Laura Young and the Columbus city attorney and another history student acted out the parts of opposing lawyers.*

2019: MUW Undergraduate Research Conference:

- Morrigan Hollis, “We Are of More Value than the Sparrows’: Annie Coleman Peyton’s Letters to Her Children,” overall winner in undergraduate research
- Mary Norgard, “Clay County Civil Rights Movement: Black Power and Practicality,” first place in oral presentation

2017: Justin Kidd, “MUW Memorials and Memory: An Intern’s Experience,” Society of Mississippi Archivists Conference, MUW.

2015: Society of Mississippi Archivists Conference, University of Southern Mississippi:

- Tevin Arrington, “Black Space on a White Campus”
- Rain Gerteis, “The Quiet Integration of MUW: Hogarth and the Administration”
- Sarah Whitt, “The Slow Integration of MUW’s Social Clubs”

2014: Chris Friar, “Black, White, and Freedom: Runaway Slave Ads and Digital History for Undergrads,” 8th Annual Creative Arts Festival, Jackson State University.

2013: Civil War 150 Sesquicentennial Celebration, Poster exhibits and presentations at the Columbus Lowndes Public Library, Columbus, MS:

- Chris Friar, “The Sarah Cox Husband Collection: The Civil War through a Slave’s Letters”
- Charles Griffith, “Columbus, a Civil War City: Two Perspectives”

- Karen Lott, “The Making of a Myth: Columbus Women and the Lost Cause”
- Katoria Rice: “The Civil War from Women’s Perspective”
- Cyrus Green: “The Experience of a Freedman Teacher”
- Emily Wicker, “Civil War Hospitals in Columbus”

2013: Society of Mississippi Archivists Conference, Delta State University:

- Whitney Russell, “Designing a Public History Exhibition: The Difficulties in Displaying Genocide”
- Miranda Vaughn, “A Study of Civil Rights in Aberdeen, MS”

2013: Whitney Russell, “Anti-Semitism in Mississippi: From the Holocaust to the Civil Rights Movement,” Mississippi Phi Alpha Theta Conference, Mississippi College.

2013: Symposium for History Undergraduate Research, Mississippi State University:

- Lacy Jaudon, “Heroic Prostitute Tropes in Pre-Production Code and Immediate Post-Production Code Hollywood”

2012: Mississippi Historical Society Conference, MUW.

- Jaleesa Fields, “Out from the Shadow: Integration at Mississippi State College for Women”
- J. Matthew Ward, “‘Her Own Sense of Right’: Civil War Rhetoric and Southern Women”