

Aaron Bekemeyer
Curriculum Vitae

Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and Department of History, New York University
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2024-Present — Clinical Assistant Professor of Public Service and of History, New York University, New York, NY

2021-2024 — Lecturer in Modern U.S. History, History Department, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

March-June 2022 — Interim Assistant Co-Director of Undergraduate Studies, History Department, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

EDUCATION

Ph.D., History, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, November 2021.

Dissertation Title: “The Labor of Law and Order: How Police Unions Transformed Policing and Politics in the United States, 1939-1985”

M.A., History, Université de Paris 1, Paris, France, 2013

Co-enrolled at the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Cachan

Thesis Title: “Resisting for Empire: Georges Bidault’s New Vision of the Resistance for *Algérie française*, 1962-1965”

B.A., History and English, Minor in Philosophy, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, 2012.

Thesis: “The Acme of the Catholic Left: Catholic Activists in the U.S. Sanctuary Movement, 1982-1992”

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

American history since 1865

Labor history

History of policing and incarceration

Political economy and the history of capitalism
Politics and social movements
African-American history
History of conservatism and the right

PUBLICATIONS

Scholarly

The Labor of Law and Order: How Police Unions Transformed Policing and Politics in the United States (manuscript under contract with University of Chicago Press)

Public

“The long tie between police unions and police violence—and what to do about it,”
Washington Post, June 9, 2020,
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/06/09/limits-when-police-can-use-force-is-better-solution-than-banning-police-unions/>

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Thomas T. Hoopes Prize for advising outstanding undergraduate scholarly work, 2020, 2021, 2022

Summer Research Grant, History Department, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, 2019-2020

Distinction in Teaching Award, Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, 2016, 2018, 2019

Summer Research Grant, Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management, 2018, 2019

Research Grant, Canada Program, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, 2019

Summer Research Grant, Center for History and Economics, 2019

Term Time Research Grant, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, 2017

United States Fulbright Program, Paris and Cachan, France

Full Grant for Study and Research in France, 2012-2013

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

As Organizer

Graduate Conference on the History of Capitalism, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Conference Co-Organizer, “Before the City/Beyond the City: Capitalism in the Countryside,” October 19-20, 2017

As Presenter

North American Labor History Conference, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Presenter, “Who Commands the Police? The Fight Against Civilian Review and the Origins of Modern Police Unionism,” October 18, 2018

Labor History Seminar, Newberry Library, Chicago, IL

Presenter, “Policing the Police: Machine Politics, Civilian Review, and the Rise of Modern Police Unionism,” September 14, 2018

“Throughline” History Podcast, NPR

Contributor, “The Long Hot Summer,” July 9, 2020

POWER-Live Free Remote Police Oversight Town Hall No. 3, Philadelphia, PA

Presenter, A Historical Overview of Police Unionism and Police Reform in Philadelphia, August 12, 2020

Annual Convention, National Lawyer’s Guild, Remote

Presenter, A Historical Overview of Police Unionism in the United States, September 23, 2020

Hearing before the Pennsylvania State House Democratic Policy Committee,

Harrisburg, PA

Testimony, A Historical Overview of Police Unionism and Police Reform in Philadelphia, September 25, 2020

“Police Unions in the U.S.: Perspectives in Historical Context,” Pfau Library’s Conversations on Race and Policing, California State University – San Bernardino, San Bernardino, CA

Presenter, October 7, 2020

Online Speaker Series on Labor History, Rhode Island Labor History Society, Providence, RI

Presenter, “Federations and Fraternal Orders: The Place of Police Unions in the History of the Labor Movement,” December 15, 2020

Labor and Working-Class History Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (virtual)
Presenter, Round Table Discussion: “Policing White Supremacy: Police Unions, City Politics, and Police Brutality,” May 2021

Conference: Towards Accountability: Challenging Police Unions in the Fight for Racial Justice, Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Remote

Co-Presenter, “A History of Police Unionization in the United States,” with Prof. William Jones (University of Minnesota) and Prof. Elizabeth Ford (Seattle University School of Law), May 6, 2022

“What is Accountability?: A History of Philadelphia’s Police Advisory Board,” Pfau Library’s Conversations on Race and Policing, California State University – San Bernardino, San Bernardino, CA

Presenter, October 5, 2022

Urban History Association Biennial Conference, Pittsburgh, PA

Presenter, “The Thin Blue Line on Strike: The Role of Violence in Police Union Strategy in the Long 1960s,” October 2023

Accepted

Urban History Association Biennial Conference, Detroit, MI

Presenter, “Unionism in All but Name: Police Unionism Before the Era of Law-and-Order Politics,” October 2021

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

History of Capitalism Summer Camp, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Workshop in Quantitative Methods for Historians of Capitalism, July 11-22, 2016

TRANSLATION

Omar Gueye, “African History and Global History: Revisiting Paradigms,” translated from French, in Sven Beckert and Dominic Sachsenmeier, *Global History, Globally* (Bloomsbury, 2018)

LANGUAGES

Proficient in French (reading, speaking)