

KRISTEN TEGTMEIER OERTEL

MARY F. BARNARD CHAIR IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICAN HISTORY
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, HELMERICH CENTER FOR AMERICAN RESEARCH
THE UNIVERSITY OF TULSA

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TEACHING POSITIONS

Mary F. Barnard Professor of Nineteenth-Century American History, University of Tulsa, 2016 to present

Mary F. Barnard Associate Professor, University of Tulsa, 2010-2016

Associate Professor, Millsaps College. 2006-2010.

Assistant Professor, Millsaps College. 2000-2006.

Lecturer, Cornell College. Spring 1999

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Seeking Freedom in Indian Country: Slavery, Sovereignty, and Resistance in Indian Territory, 1790-1861. LSU Press, 2026.

Harriet Tubman: Slavery, the Civil War, and Civil Rights in the 19th Century (New York: Routledge, 2016).

Frontier Feminist: Clarina Howard Nichols and the Politics of Motherhood
Co-authored with Marilyn Blackwell (Lawrence: The University Press of Kansas, 2010).

*Winner of the Armitage-Jameson Prize for the best book in women's and gender history, 2011

*Finalist for the Great Plains Distinguished Book Prize, 2011

Bleeding Borders: Race, Gender, and Violence in Pre-Civil War Kansas (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2009/paper 2013).

*Nominated for ten professional prizes

ARTICLES

"The 'First' Emancipation Proclamation: Black Rebellion and Removal during the Second Seminole War," *Civil War History: A Journal of the Middle Period* (December 2023).

"Bleeding Kansas: A Call to Arms," in Earl Hess and Lorien Foote, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of the Civil War* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2021).

"From Parchment to Podcast: The Collaborative Process of Building and Unlocking an Archive," co-authored with Diana Folsom and Renee Harvey, *Anglia: Journal of English Philology* (Berlin, Germany: De Gruyter 138:3, 2020).

"From Columbus to Lincoln: The Conflict over Slavery in the West," in *The Gilcrease Archives: Unlocking the History of the Americas* (Tulsa, OK: Gilcrease

Museum 2016).

“‘N-worshipping fanatics’ and ‘villain[s] of the blackest dye’: Racialized Manhood and the Sectional Debates,” in Jonathan Earle and Diane Mutti-Burke, eds., *Bleeding Kansas and Bleeding Missouri: The Long Civil War on the Border* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2013).

*Named a 2014 Notable Book by the State Library of Kansas

“How Did Northern White Women Participate in the Bleeding Kansas Conflict of the 1850s?” *Women and Social Movements in the United States* (Alexander Street Press and the Center for the Historical Study of Women and Gender at Binghamton University, 2010).

“‘A large-hearted, brave, faithful woman’: Clarina Howard Nichols,” in Virgil Dean, ed., *John Brown to Bob Dole: Movers and Shakers in Kansas History* (Lawrence: The University Press of Kansas, 2005).

“From Brown to Brown: A Century of Struggle for Equality in Kansas,” coauthored with Rusty Monhollon, invited submission for sesquicentennial issue of *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* (Spring-Summer 2004); reprinted in the *Kansas Territorial Reader*, winner of the 2006 Award of Merit by the American Association for State and Local History (Topeka: The Kansas Sesquicentennial Commission and the Kansas State Historical Society, 2005).

“‘The free sons of the North’ versus ‘the Myrmidons of border ruffianism’: What Makes a Man in Bleeding Kansas?” *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* (Autumn 2002). *Awarded the Langsdorf Award for excellence in writing by the Kansas State Historical Society in 2002

“‘The Ladies of Lawrence are Arming!’: The Gendered Nature of Sectional Violence in Early Kansas, 1854-1861,” in John R. McKivigan and Stanley Harrold, eds., *Antislavery Violence: Sectional, Racial and Cultural Conflict in Antebellum America* (Knoxville, TN: The University of Tennessee Press, 1999).

BOOK REVIEWS

“Reading Territory: Indigenous and Black Freedom, Removal, and the Nineteenth-Century State,” Society for U.S. Intellectual History (December 2023).

“An Afro-Indigenous History of the United States,” Society for U.S. Intellectual History (November 2022).

“The Life of Josiah Henson,” *The Journal of Southern History* (May 2020).

“This is not Dixie: Racial Violence in Kansas, 1865-1920,” *The Annals of Iowa*, (Fall 2016).

“John Brown Still Lives! America’s Long Reckoning with Violence, Equality, and Change,” *Kansas History* (Summer 2012).

“Border War: Fighting over Slavery before the Civil War,” *Civil War History: A Journal of the Middle Period* (March 2012).

“The Making of a Southerner: William Barclay Napton’s Private Civil War,” *Ohio Valley History* (Fall 2010).

“The Nebraska-Kansas Act of 1854,” *Western Historical Quarterly* (Winter 2009).

“Abolitionists Remember: Antislavery Autobiographies and the Unfinished Work of Emancipation,” *Civil War Book Review* (Fall 2008).

“The Border between Them: Violence and Reconciliation on the Kansas-Missouri Line,”

- The Journal of American History* (March 2008).
- “An American Planter: Stephen Duncan from Antebellum Natchez and New York,” *Journal of Mississippi History* (Fall 2007).
- “How the Vote Was Won: Woman Suffrage in the Western United States,” *Journal of Women and Social Movements* (Fall 2007).
- “Beyond Garrison: Antislavery and Social Reform,” *Civil War History: A Journal of the Middle Period* (Winter 2007).
- “Revolutionary Heart: The Life of Clarina Howard Nichols and the Pioneering Crusade for Women’s Rights,” *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* (Autumn 2006).
- “Peacekeeping on the Plains: Army Operations in Bleeding Kansas,” *Civil War Book Review* (Spring 2005).

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

- NEH Initiatives Grant, Co-PI with Lisa Cromer (psychology), \$150,000 to establish a minor in Historical Trauma and Transformation (H2T), 2023
- Linda J. Lacey Award for Mentoring Excellence, University of Tulsa, 2023
- Outstanding Teacher Award, University of Tulsa, 2022
- Thomas Buckley Teaching Award, University of Tulsa’s Kendall College, 2017
- Medicine Wheel Award for Community Service, University of Tulsa, 2016
- Faculty Internationalization Grants, University of Tulsa, 2016, 2018
- Armitage-Jameson Book Prize from the Council of Western Women’s Historians, 2011
- Finalist, Great Plains Distinguished Book Prize, 2011
- Outstanding Young Faculty Award, Millsaps College, 2004-05
- Hearin Fellowship Awards, 2003 and 2004
- Lilly Foundation Faith and Work Initiative Vocational Enhancement Grant, 2004
- Edgar Langsdorf Award for Excellence in Writing, Kansas Historical Society, 2002
- The University of Texas at Austin Dissertation Fellowship, 1999-2000
- The Mellon Foundation Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, 1995

SELECTED MEDIA EXPOSURE

- Podcast, “Justice, Visibility, and the Muscogee Creek Nation Freedmen,” Tri-City Collective,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1X2LJtwLNtA&list=PL1izmHy8PJrXQFGdAd9troTiGpWScRlr1&index=2>
- Podcast, “Prager U Fails the Truth Test,” NPR, Focus: Black Oklahoma, KWGS/KOSU,
<https://www.npr.org/podcasts/953571690/focus-black-oklahoma>
- Podcast, “The National Divorce,” Mississippi Edition, Mississippi Public Radio, February 23, 2023
- PBS Documentary, “Harriet Tubman: Visions of Freedom,” produced by Firelight Films and Maryland Public Broadcasting, released Oct. 2022
- Television interview, “The Tulsa Race Massacre,” Fox News Now, May 2021
- Television interview, “Critical Race Theory and HB 1775,” Fox23, Tulsa affiliate, May 3, 2021
- Television interview, “Historical Significance of U.S. Capitol Protest,” News On 6, Tulsa CBS affiliate, January 7, 2021

Podcast, “Found at TU,” KWGS, Public Radio Tulsa, December 2019
 Radio interview, “Harriet Tubman: Slavery, Civil War, and Civil Rights,” KWGS, Public Radio Tulsa, February 2016
Tulsa World editorial feature, “Celebrate the Stars and Stripes,” published July 4, 2015
 Television interview, “The Rebel Flag Debate,” KJRH-Tulsa, NBC affiliate, June 24, 2015
 Radio interview, “Clarina Howard Nichols and the Politics of Motherhood,” KWGS, Public Radio Tulsa, November 2, 2011; “encore” rebroadcast March 20, 2012
 Television interview, “Neshoba County Civil Rights murders and the mayoral election,” WLBT-Jackson, NBC affiliate, June 6, 2005
 Television interview, “Amnesty International in Mississippi and the Iraq War,” WAPT-Jackson, ABC affiliate, March 21, 2003
 Radio interview, “Bleeding Kansas and Masculinity,” KANU, Lawrence, Kansas Public Radio, March 8, 2002
 Television interview, “Reactions to the Flag Vote,” WAPT-Jackson, ABC affiliate, April 18, 2001

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Keynote roundtable, “Precarious Archives,” German American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Universitat de Siegen, 2025
 Organizer and Presenter, Roundtable, “Is Indian Territory in the South or the West?” Featured Crossover Session (with the WHA), Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, 2024
 Chair, “Rupture and Repair in the Nineteenth Century,” Western History Association Annual Conference, 2023
 Commentator, “Reconstruction in Indian Country: Connecting a Southern Narrative to a Western Space,” Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, 2021
 Chair and Commentator, “Destruction and Reconstruction: Remapping and Rebuilding the Physical Environment in the Post-Civil War United States,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, 2021
 Presenter, “Black Indians, Red Dirt: A Brief History of African Americans in Indian and Oklahoma Territories, 1840-1907,” Tulsa Race Massacre Symposium, University of Tulsa College of Law, 2021
 Chair, “The Many Meanings of Migration,” Society for the History of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) Annual Meeting, 2021
 Chair and Commentator, “Bridging the West through Region and Migration,” The Western History Association Annual Conference, October 2019
 Presenter, “The Historical Roots of Health Disparity in the U.S. South,” Oxley College of Health Sciences, University of Tulsa, September 2018
 Chair and Organizer, “The Archaeology and Public History of Enslaved Africans in the Americas,” Dislocation and Migration Symposium, Helmerich Center for American Research, March 2018
 Chair and Organizer, “Enriching Mental Health Practice through a Multidisciplinary Lens of Justice,” Mental Health Association Annual Meeting, October 2017
 Presenter, “Flawed Freedom Fighters: John Brown, Clarina Nichols, and Napoleon Simpson in Bleeding Kansas,” Landmarks of American History Workshop,

National Endowment for the Humanities, July 2017

Presenter, “Harriet Tubman and the Battle of Combahee River,” Civil War Roundtable of the Ozarks, June 2017

Presenter, “Is Harriet Tubman Funny? The Underground Railroad in Pop Culture,” National Underground Railroad Conference, National Park Service, June 2017

Presenter, “Black Indians, Red Dirt: African Americans in Indian and Oklahoma Territories during the 19th Century,” Society of Early Americanists 10th biennial Conference, March 2017

Keynote, “Harriet Tubman: Untangling the Myth from the History,” Mid-Continent Libraries Black History Month Speaker Series, February 2017

Presenter, “General Tubman: Harriet Tubman and the Combahee River Raid,” National Underground Railroad Conference, National Park Service, June 2016

Presenter, “Harriet Tubman’s Civil Wars,” Oklahoma Center for the Humanities, University of Tulsa, February 2016

Presenter, “The Historical Roots of Health Disparity in the U.S. South,” Inaugural Panel, Oxley College of Health Sciences, University of Tulsa, September 2015

Presenter, “From Columbus to Lincoln: The Conflict over Slavery in the West,” The Gilcrease Archives: Unlocking the History of the Americas, Helmerich Center for American Research, March 2015

Presenter, “Flawed Freedom Fighters: John Brown, Clarina Nichols, and Napoleon Simpson,” Landmarks of American History Workshop, National Endowment for the Humanities, July 2014

Presenter, “Bringing Women Out of the Shadows: Harriet Tubman and Civil War Memory,” Society of Civil War Historians, June 2014

Chair, “The Real History of the American West,” Fulbright Visiting Scholar Enrichment Seminar, October 2013 and 2015

Chair and Commentator, “American Crossroads: The Ohio Valley on the Eve of the Civil War,” Southern Historical Association, October 2013

Keynote, “‘They Fought Like Tigers’: Unsung Heroes of the Civil War Era,” National Park Service Teacher Workshop, September 2013

Keynote, “Good Wives and Nasty Wenches: Women in Colonial America,” Society for the Colonial Dames Annual Meeting, May 2013

Organizer and Presenter, “Harriet Tubman: Crossings and Commemoration,” The Organization of American Historians, April 2013

Keynote, “‘Worth a Dozen Men’: Women in the Civil War,” Tulsa Community College Sesquicentennial Commemoration, November 2012

Chair, “Gendered Borders: The Modification and Commodification of ‘Proper’ Gender Roles in the West,” Western History Association, October 2012

Presenter, “John Brown and Clarina Nichols: Untangling the Myth from the History of Bleeding Kansas,” Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshop, National Endowment for the Humanities, July 2012

Commentator, “The ‘Irrepressible Conflict’ Revisited: Ideology, Gender, and Politics In the Decade before the Great Cataclysm,” The Society of Civil War Historians, June 2012

Presenter, “‘The Creeks say if the negroes are free they shall not remain in the Creek nation’: The Slavery Debate in Indian Territory, 1840-1860,” Material Memory

Symposium, The Gilcrease Museum, May 2012

Presenter, “‘Nigger-worshipping fanatics’ and ‘villain[s] of the blackest dye’: Racialized Manhood and the Sectional Debates,” Border War Conference, University of Missouri, Kansas City and the Kansas City Public Library, November 2011

Chair, “Indians, Religion, and Reform,” Mid-America Conference on History, October 2011

Presenter, “The suicide of slavery?”: Bleeding Kansas and the Coming of the Civil War,” Porter Fortune, Jr. History Symposium, The University of Mississippi, October 2010.

Keynote, “‘Emancipation without proclamation’: The Underground Railroad in Kansas from 1854-1863,” National Underground Railroad Conference, July 2010.

Presenter, “*Bleeding Borders: Was There Blood in Mississippi?*” History Lecture Series, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, February 2010.

Presenter, “Towards a More Perfect Union,” Fannie Lou Hamer Memorial Lecture Symposium, Jackson State University, October 2009.

Presenter, “‘There is no manliness in a scoundrel’: Competing Visions of Masculinity at Mid-Century,” The Organization of American Historians, March 2009.

Presenter, “Strong-Minded Women: Female Antislavery Violence and Bleeding Kansas,” The Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, June 2008.

Participant, “Slavery and Public History,” Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Summer Seminar, Columbia University, June 2006.

Presenter, “Kansas and the Search for the Common Good,” CLIO Institute, Teaching American History Grant program, June 2006.

Commentator, “Civil Rights in Postwar America,” Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference, Mississippi College, April 2002.

Keynote, “‘The free sons of the North’ versus ‘the Myrmidons of border ruffianism’: What Makes a Man in Bleeding Kansas?” Kansas State Historical Society, Lecompton, Kansas, March 2002.

Presenter, “‘Ho! For Sunny Kansas’: African Americans and the Legacy of Free State Migration to Kansas Territory,” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, October 1997.

Presenter, “‘Petticoat Trophies’: Free State Women, Proslavery Men, and the Gendered Struggle for Kansas’s Freedom,” Mid-America History Association Annual Meeting, Oklahoma State University, September 1997.

Presenter, “‘Run Away! A Likely Young Negroe Wench’: Female Slave Runaways in Late Colonial Georgia and Maryland,” Emerging Scholarship in Women’s and Gender Studies Conference, The University of Texas at Austin, January 1997.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES [Current work in blue](#)

[Chairperson, Department of History, TU, 2017-2024, 2026-](#)

[Faculty Associate Director, Helmerich Center for American Research, 2024-](#)

[Co-Director, Presbyterian for Indian Girls \(PSIG\) Research Team, 2024-](#)

[Board Member, John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation, Tulsa, OK, 2020-](#)

[Pre-Law Advisor, University of Tulsa, 2023-25](#)

[Member, Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee, TU, 2020-22 \(Chair 2022\)](#)

[Member, Strategies and Tactics for Recruiting to Improve Diversity and Excellence](#)

(STRIDE), TU, 2020-2024
 Member, Community Coordinated Response Team, TU, 2019-2022
 Member, Kendall College Curriculum Committee, TU, 2020-2022 (Chair 2022)
 Helmerich Center for American Research Faculty Advisory Committee, TU, 2019-2024
 Member, Task Force on Divisions, Kendall College, TU, 2019-2020
 Member, Tulsa Curriculum Review Committee, TU, 2018-2020
 Director, African American Studies Board, TU, 2018-2025
[Co-Director, Tulsa Institute for Trauma, Adversity and Injustice \(TITAN\), TU, 2016-](#)
 Member, Presidential Transition and Vision Committee, TU, 2016-2017
 University Fellow, Provost's Seminar, TU, 2015-2016
 Chair, Tulsa Undergraduate Research Challenge (TURC) Committee, TU, 2015-2021
 Member, Board of Editors, *Civil War History*, 2015-2022
 Member, African American Studies Board, TU, 2010-2018
 Member, Committee on Membership, Southern Historical Association, 2014-2015
 Member, Roadmap Committee for the College of Arts and Sciences, 2014-15
 Member, Helmerich Center for American Research Faculty Committee, 2011-2015
 Vice-President, Faculty Council, Millsaps College, 2009-2010
 Director, African-American Studies, Millsaps College, 2009-2010
 Director, Liberal Studies Program, Millsaps College, 2005-2008
 Chair, Public Events Committee, Millsaps College, 2002-2003
 Member, Core Curriculum Council, Millsaps College, 2002-2008
 Faculty Advisor, Amnesty International Chapter, Millsaps College, 2002-2006
 Faculty Advisor, NOW Campus Action Network, 2005-2010
 Faculty Advisor, Phi Alpha Theta History Honorary, Millsaps College, 2001-2006
 Member, Women's and Gender Studies Committee, Millsaps College, 2004-06
[Member, Organization of American Historians](#)
[Member, Society of Civil War Historians](#)
[Member, Southern Historical Association](#)
[Member, Western History Association](#)