

NATHAN PERL-ROSENTHAL

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University of Southern California
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Positions

Assistant Professor of History and Spatial Sciences, University of Southern California, 2015-

Assistant Professor of History, University of Southern California, 2012-2015

Provost's Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities, University of Southern California, 2011-2012

Education

Columbia University (PhD in History with distinction, 2011; MPhil 2008; MA 2006)

Dissertation: "Corresponding Republics: Letter Writing and Patriot Organizing in the Atlantic Revolutions, circa 1760-1792" (Directors: Eric Foner and Isser Woloch)

Sorbonne-Université de Paris IV (*Maîtrise* in modern history, *mention très bien*, 2005)

Harvard University (A.B. in History, *magna cum laude*, 2004)

Publications

Book

Citizen Sailors: Becoming American in the Age of Revolution (Belknap Press/Harvard University Press, October 2015)

- Reviews (as of 3.28.2017): *Wall Street Journal*; *William and Mary Quarterly*; *American Historical Review*; *Journal of Social History*; *International Journal of Maritime History*; *New England Quarterly*; *CHOICE*; *The Junto*; *Journal of American History*; *The Nautilus*; *Canadian Journal of History*; *Reviews in American History*; *Journal of World History*
- Winner of the 2015 Gilbert Chinard Prize (Society for French Historical Studies / Institut Français d'Amérique).
- Short-listed for the 2016 Oscar Kenshur Prize (Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies,

University of Indiana)

Research articles

Perl-Rosenthal, Nathan. "Atlantic cultures and the age of revolution" (forthcoming in *The William and Mary Quarterly*, special issue on "Writing To/From the Revolution," publication expected Fall 2017) [~10,000 words plus notes]

Perl-Rosenthal, Nathan. "The *Osterley* (1779-1780): Mobile Legal Spaces in the French Indian Ocean Empire" (forthcoming in *Itinerario: International Journal on the History of European Expansion and Global Interaction*, 2017) [~6,000 words plus notes]

Perl-Rosenthal, Nathan. "Generational Turns." *American Historical Review* vol. 117, no. 3 (Jun., 2012): 804-813.

- Invited comment on *AHR Forum*, "Historiographical Turns in Critical Perspective"

Perl-Rosenthal, Nathan and Evan Haefeli. "Trans-National Connections." *Early American Studies* vol. 10, no. 2 (Spring, 2012): 227-238.

Perl-Rosenthal, Nathan. "Private letters and public diplomacy: the Adams family network and the Quasi-War, 1797-1798." *Journal of the Early Republic* vol. 31, no. 2 (Summer, 2011): 283-311.

Perl-Rosenthal, Nathan. "Notes Towards a Franco-American Mediterranean 'From Below.'" *Research in Maritime History 44 / Rough Waters: American Involvement with the Mediterranean in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries*, ed. Silvia Marzagalli et al. (2010), 63-75.

Perl-Rosenthal, Nathan. "'The divine right of republics': Hebraic Republicanism and the Debate over Kingless Government in Revolutionary America." *William and Mary Quarterly* no. 66, vol. 3 (Jul, 2009): 535-564.

- Winner of the Richard L. Morton Prize, Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture.
- Reprinted in J.M. Opal, ed., *Common Sense* (Norton, 2011)

Editorial project

Co-editor with Evan Haefeli, "Anglo-Dutch Revolutions," special issue of *Early American Studies* vol. 10, no. 2 (Spring, 2012)

- Six research articles plus an introduction

Book reviews and occasional writing

"Dangerously Amiable," review of Auricchio, *The Marquis* (2014), *London Review of Books*, 16 Feb 2017.

- Review of Baker and Edelstein, eds., *Scripting Revolution: A Historical Approach to the Comparative Study of Revolutions*, forthcoming in *Journal of Modern History*
- “Plotting the Age of Revolution,” three-part blog post for the Age of Revolutions blog (www.AgeofRevolutions.com), published 9, 11, and 13 January 2017
- “Atlantic Bricolages,” review essay of Polasky, *Revolutions without Borders* and Miller et al., *Princeton Companion to Atlantic History*, *Reviews in American History* 44 (2016): 373-378.
- “Fragments of Sovereignty: Haiti in the Atlantic World,” review essay of Gaffield, *Haitian Connections* and Johnson, *Diplomacy in Black and White*, *William and Mary Quarterly* 73:2 (Apr., 2016): 333-338.
- Nathan Perl-Rosenthal and Sam Erman, “Ted Cruz: Is He or Isn’t He Eligible to be President?,” *History News Network*, 31 Jan 2016.
- “Not another Dred Scott case, please,” online at CNN.com on 10 Apr 2015: <http://www.cnn.com/2015/04/10/opinions/erman-rosenthal-american-samoans/index.html>
- Sam Erman and Nathan Perl-Rosenthal, Citizenship Scholars amicus brief, *Tuaua v. United States* (on appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit), 14 May 2014.
- Review of *The Adams Papers* (Harvard), vols. 14-16, *Journal of American History* vol. 101, no. 2 (Sept. 2014): 566-568.
- “Dossier sur le réseau des Roland” in Sophie Wahnich, *La Révolution française : un événement de la raison sensible (1787-1799)* (Hachette, 2012), 232-233.
- Review of Sophia Rosenfeld, *Common Sense: A Political History* (Harvard), *Journal of the Early Republic* vol. 32, no. 4 (Winter, 2012): 747-750.
- “The Wise Men,” review of Jack Rakove, *Revolutionaries: A New History of the Invention of America* (Knopf), *The New Republic: The Book* (www.tnr.com/book), 11 Aug 2010.
- “Modern Times,” review of Eric Nelson, *The Hebrew Republic: Jewish Sources and the Transformation of European Political Thought* (Harvard), *The Book* (www.tnr.com/book), May 5, 2010.
- “In and Out of History,” review of two books on Tintin, *The Book* (www.tnr.com/book), 2 Feb 2010.

Second book project

The Age of Atlantic Revolution: A Cultural History (in progress)

Fellowship and select prizes

- Paris Institute for Advanced Study Fellowship (Fall 2017)
- USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute Faculty Fellowship (Fall 2015)
- University of Southern California Provost’s Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities (2011-2013; accepted first year only)
- Bernard and Irene Schwartz Postdoctoral Fellowship, New-York Historical Society / New School for Social Research (2011-2012; declined)

Richard L. Morton Prize, Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture (for best article by a graduate student in the *William and Mary Quarterly* in 2009) (2010)
Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship (2010-2011)
Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Dissertation Fellowship (2010-2011; declined)
Mellon Short-Term Research Fellowship, Library Company of Pennsylvania (2010-2011; declined)
Mellon Short-Term Research Fellowship, Massachusetts Historical Society (2010-2011)
Howard and Natalie Shawn Summer Research Fellowship, Columbia University (2010)
Society of the Cincinnati Fellowship, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania (2009-2010)
George Lurcy Foundation Fellowship to France (2008-09)
Knickerbocker Chapter of the NY State Daughters of the American Revolution Prize (2009)
First Prize, Colonial Society of Pennsylvania Essay Contest (2007)
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship in Dutch (2007-08)
Reid Hall Summer Fellowship for research in Paris (2007)
Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies (2005-06)
Hofstadter Faculty Fellowship, Columbia University (2005-10)
J. William Fulbright Scholarship for a year of study in France (2004-05)
Williams-Lodge Scholarship for a year of study in Paris (2004-05)
Thomas T. Hoopes Prize for “outstanding scholarly work” in senior thesis (2004)

Project grants

USC Zumberge Fund Individual Grant [~\$30,000], for second book research (2015-2016)
USC Undergraduate Research Associates Program [\$4,600], for *Citizen Sailors* (2014-2015)
USC Undergraduate Research Associates Program [\$6,400], for *Citizen Sailors* (2013-2014)
Netherland-America Foundation [\$4,000], for “Cities in Revolt” conference (2009)
Roosevelt Study Centre, Middleburg, NL [\$4,000], for “Cities in Revolt” conference (2009)
New York Council for the Humanities [\$2,500], for “Cities in Revolt” conference (2009)

Conferences & workshops organized

“Paper in the Early Modern Atlantic World,” USC-Huntington EMSI Colloquium, 2 Dec 2016.
“Global Maritime History,” USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute Annual Conference, 4-5 March 2016. Workshop-style conference.

- A volume of essays from this conference is in the planning stages, as of March 2017, to be coedited by myself and Lauren Benton (Vanderbilt)

Co-organizer of “Rewriting Revolutions, 1750-1850: New Settings, Characters and Plots,” a three-session Workshop held as part of the AHA Annual Meeting, Jan 7-19, 2016.
“Cities in Revolt: The Dutch-American Atlantic, ca. 1650-1830,” Columbia University, 13 and 14 Nov 2009. Keynote address by Jonathan Israel, Institute for Advanced Study.

Invited lectures and seminars, 2011-present

- TBD, *Seminar on Enlightenment and Revolution*, Stanford University, Spring 2018
- “Toward a Cultural History of the Age of Revolution,” *Eighteenth-Century Culture Seminar*, University of Warwick, 4 May 2017
- “A Cultural History of the Age of Revolution?,” *History Seminar*, Maison française d’Oxford, 3 May 2017
- “How to Do Things with Paper,” *Modern France Seminar*, Institute of Historical Research, 6 Mar 2017
- “Toward a Cultural History of the Age of Revolution,” *Modern Cultural History Seminar*, Cambridge University, 8 Feb 2017
- “Citizen Sailors” (book talk), *Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello*, May 2016
- “‘Slow culture’ and the Atlantic age of revolution,” *Columbia University Early American History Seminar*, Columbia University, May 2016
- “Citizen Sailors” (book talk), *Lehman Center for American History*, Columbia University, Apr 27, 2016.
- “‘Slow culture’ and the Atlantic age of revolution,” *WMQ-JER* special issue workshop, Mt. Vernon, Virginia, March 18-19, 2016
- “How to Do Things with Paper: Political Correspondence in the Age of Revolution,” *Seminar in the History of the Americas and the World*, John Carter Brown Library, 16 Mar 2016
- “Citizen Sailors” (book talk), *Program in Early American Economy and Society*, Philadelphia, 18 Feb 2016
- “Citizen Sailors: An Atlanticist in the Eighteenth-Century Caribbean,” Cycle de conférences Caraïbes, Centre d’études nord-américaines, EHESS, Paris, 12 Feb 2016
- “Culture et politique à l’heure révolutionnaire 1770-1810,” Centre d’études nord-américaines, *Ecole de Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales*, Paris, 9 Feb 2016
- “Citizen Sailors” (book talk), *REDEHJA Annual Meeting*, Paris, 5 Feb 2016
- “Citizen Sailors” (book talk), *Vrij Universiteit*, Amsterdam, Dec 10, 2015
- “Arrest all the Anglophones”: Sailors and the Making of American Nationality, ca. 1790s,” UCLA Atlantic History Seminar, *UCLA*, Feb 13, 2014
- “All at Sea--or Not? Shipboard Language Diversity in the Caribbean, ca. 1750-1800,” at *The Language Encounter in the French Americas, 16th-18th Centuries*, University of Toronto, Nov 1-2, 2013
- “Letters before the Law: The Legal Meanings of Correspondence on Shipboard,” at *1757 Bordeaux-Dublin Letters Conference*, New York University, Oct 24-26, 2013
- “Ending Cosmopolitanism?: American Sailors in a French Revolutionary World, ca. 1792-1799,” *French Culture Workshop*, Stanford University, Apr 18, 2013
- “Sailors before the law and the making of republican cosmopolitanism, ca. 1776-1795,” *USC Center for Law, History and Culture*, Mar 21, 2012
- “Seamen, Privateering and the Fall of Atlantic Maritime Cosmopolitanism, ca. 1793-1808,” *McNeil Center for Early American Studies*, Feb 17, 2012
- “Powderhorns and Patriots: Watermarks in Letters as a Source for Political Organizing in the Late Eighteenth Century,” *Seminar in the History of Material Texts*, University of Pennsylvania, 7 Feb 2011.

Selected presentations and comments

- “Ideas of Revolution in the Age of Revolution,” *Eric Foner: People’s Historian, Historian’s Historian*, Columbia University, 22 Apr 2017
- “The Rebirths of Jus Soli U.S. Citizenship, a History from 1608,” *American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting*, 29 Oct 2016 (with Sam Erman, USC Gould School of Law)
- Panelist, “Author Meets Reader: Kunal Parker’s *Making Foreigners: Immigration and Citizenship Law in America, 1600-2000*,” *American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting*, 28 Oct 2016
- “How To Do Things With Letters: Epistolarity and Politics in the American Revolution,” *Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Meeting*, 22 Jul 2016.
- “The Rebirths of Jus Soli U.S. Citizenship, a History from 1608,” *Citizenship in Times of Crisis*, Center for Law, History, and Culture, University of Southern California, 1 Apr 2016 (with Sam Erman, USC Gould School of Law)
- “A Hemispheric Revolution?,” *AHA Annual Meeting*, 8 Jan, 2016
- “Identity Papers and Paper Nations: Making Nationality at Sea in the Revolutionary Era,” *AHA Annual Meeting*, 9 Jan 2016 [part of the Rewriting Revolutions Workshop]
- “The *Osterley*: Law, community and the sea in French Mauritius (ca. 1779-1780),” *Ocean of Law: Intermixed Legal Systems across the Indian Ocean World, 1550-1950*, Leiden, NL, 7-9 Dec 2015
- “Warfare and Imperial Authority in a Colonial City: Port Louis, Mauritius, ca 1780,” *Port Cities in the Early Modern World*, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Nov 5-7, 2015
- “Revolutionary Manuscripts: Reading Political Epistolarity in the Revolutionary Atlantic, ca. 1765-1800,” *After Print: Manuscripts in the Eighteenth Century*, UCSB, 24 Apr 2015
- “Arrest All the Anglophones: Views of American Sailors and Citizenship Abroad,” *SHEAR Annual Conference*, Philadelphia, Jul 17-20, 2014
- “Revolutionaries at Sea: Nationality and Citizenship in the Caribbean, ca. 1792-1797,” *WMQ-EMSI Annual Workshop*, Los Angeles, May 30-31, 2014.
- “U.S. consuls and the problem of American maritime labor in the Mediterranean, ca. 1795-1815,” *Les consuls, figures de l’intermédiation marchande en Europe et dans le monde méditerranéen (XVIIe-XIXe siècle)*, Nice, France, Apr 10-12, 2014
- “An American Sailor in King Louis’s Courts: William MacMaerst, 1777-1778,” *Omohundro Institute for Early American History Annual Meeting*, Los Angeles, CA, Jun 15-17, 2012
- “French and foreign sailors before the law, ca. 1789-1795,” *Society for French Historical Studies Annual Meeting*, Los Angeles, CA, Mar 22-24, 2012
- “Cosmopolitans Afloat: Franco-American Maritime Culture, 1778–1800,” *American Historical Association*, Chicago, IL, Jan 5-8, 2012
- “Franco-American Maritime Contacts during the French Revolutionary Wars,” *Western Society for French History*, Portland, OR, Nov 10-12, 2011
- “Risky business: Mariners’ commercial ventures in the Anglo-American Atlantic, ca. 1700-1830,” *Comptes et profits marchands d’Europe et d’Amérique, 1650-1850*, Paris, France, Jun 8-10, 2011
- ““What I was after was my liberty”: Mutiny and Politics in the American Continental Navy, 1775-1783,” *Mutiny and Maritime Radicalism*, Amsterdam, 17-18 Jun, 2011
- “Private epistolarity and the making of a Jacobin network, ca. 1790-1791,” *Society for French Historical Studies Annual Meeting*, Charleston, S.C., Feb 10-11, 2011

- “‘Citizens of the world’: colonial development and the European political imaginary, ca. 1600-1800,” *L’impact du monde atlantique sur les « Anciens Mondes » en Europe et en Afrique du XVe au XIXe siècle*, Nantes, France, June 7-9, 2010.
- “A Democratic Navy for a Democratic Revolution?,” *Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting*, Washington, DC, Apr 7-10, 2010.
- “Decoding the False Missive: *The Federalist* and Epistolary Culture,” *Paris III/Paris VII journée d’étude on The Federalist*, Paris, France, Feb 6-7, 2010.
- “Paper and Messengers: Epistolarity and Material Culture in the American Revolution and the *Patriottentijd*,” *Cities in Revolt: the Dutch-American Atlantic, ca. 1650-1815*, New York, NY, Nov 13-14, 2009.
- “Private letters, public purposes: personal correspondence and the Jacobin club network,” *France, Then and Now: An Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Workshop*, Paris, France, April 16-17, 2009.
- “From Commercial Correspondences to Political Networks in the Atlantic Revolutions, ca. 1760s-1790s,” journée d’étude *L’Atlantique franco-américain à l’âge des Révolutions, 1763-1815*, University of Chicago Center, Paris, 20 Mar 2009.
- “Private correspondence, networks, and political organizing in the Atlantic Revolutions,” *History Research Seminar*, Newcastle University, UK, 5 Mar 2009.
- “Conversing at a distance by the Pen: Correspondence Circles and Friendship in the American Revolution, ca. 1770-1775,” *Amity, Enmity and Emotion: European Association for Early American Studies Biannual Meeting*, Venice, Italy, Dec 13-14, 2008.
- “Corresponding Republics?: Epistolary Networks, Social Practice and Eighteenth-Century Revolution,” *Atlantic History Workshop*, Leiden University, NL, 8 Dec 2008.
- “Y a-t-il une Méditerranée franco-américaine « d’en bas » ?,” “*Rough waters*”/“*L’irruption des Etats Unis en Méditerranée*,” Nice, France, Oct 17-18, 2008.
- “‘Conversing at a distance by the Pen:’ Correspondence Circles and Political Friendship in the Early French Revolution, ca. 1788-90,” *New Paradigms for Revolutionary Studies*, South Bend, IN, Oct 6-7, 2008.
- “The Power of a Minuet: Social Dance and Political Hierarchy in Revolutionary America, ca. 1760s-1790s,” *James L. and Shirley A. Draper Graduate Student Conference on Early American Studies*, Storrs, CT, Sep 18-20, 2008.
- Participant, *British Political Thought in an Age of Globalization, c. 1750-1800*, Washington, DC, Apr 10-12, 2008.
- “‘I will not disappoint those islanders if I can help it:’ US independence and John Adams’s policy towards St. Domingue, 1798-99,” *Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting*, New York, NY, Mar 28-31, 2008.
- “American independence and the idea of the ‘Hebrew Republic’: Reinterpreting Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense*,” *Political Hebraism: Jewish Sources in the History of Political Thought*, Jerusalem, Israel, Dec 26-29, 2006.
- “Inventing the International Order in the 1790s: France and the U.S.,” *Western Society for French History Annual Meeting*, Long Beach, CA, Oct 19-21, 2006.

Public history experience

Co-author with Sam Erman (USC Law) of amicus curiae brief in *Tuaua v. United States*, a

federal suit demanding recognition of birthright U.S. citizenship for American Samoans. Contributed portions on the history of nationality and birthright citizenship, pre-1850.
http://www.equalrightsnow.org/citizenship_scholars

Seminar for high school teachers on race and slavery in early Louisiana, Oct 18, 2010, to accompany John Guare's *A Free Man of Color*. Lincoln Center Theatre, New York, NY.

Lecturer for "The Minuet in America," a Living History program at the New-York Historical Society on Franco-American cultural connections. New York, NY, Feb 16 and 23, 2008. Wrote lecture portion of lecture-demonstration; audience of roughly 80 per performance.

Graduate teaching and advising

Member of dissertation committee

- John Fanestil, "Revolutionary America's Martyrological Inheritance," defended 2017.
- Nicholas Gliserman, "Landscapes of Conflict: Cartography and Empire in Northeastern America, 1685-1713," defended 2016. Visiting Assistant Professor, Haverford College, 2016-2017.
- Keith Pluymers, "Colonizing lands and landscapes in the English Atlantic, c.1580-c.1640," defended 2015. Jessen Postdoctoral Instructor in the Humanities, Caltech, 2015-2017.
- Juliette Parsons, "A New American Way of Food in Eighteenth-Century Southeastern Pennsylvania," defended 2014.

Member of qualifying exam committee:

- Skyler Reidy
- Simon Judkins
- Randall Meissen
- William Cowan
- John Fanestil
- Christina Copland
- S. Alexander Smith

Courses taught

University of Southern California

Undergraduate

- *History 100: The American Experience [1492-2000]*. F2012; F2013; F2014; S2015
- *History 312: The French Revolution*. Spring 2012.
- *History 351: The American Revolution*. Fall 2014.
- *History 454: Piracy and Privateering, ca. 1500-1800*. Fall 2013
- *History 492: Senior Thesis Seminar*. Fall 2016

Graduate

- *History 500: Introduction to Graduate Historical Studies.* Fall 2016
- *History 566: Historical Literature on North America to 1800.* F2012; S2015.
- *History 590: Directed Research.* S2015.
- *History 592: Historiography.* S2017.

Columbia University

- Instructor, *The Art of Revolution: America and France, ca. 1765-1800.* Summer 2009.
- Teaching Fellow, *Revolutionary America, ca. 1750-1815.* Fall 2006.

Service to the university and profession

University of Southern California

- Member, Modern Europe search committee (2016-2017)
- Undergraduate Studies Committee, History Department (2016-2017)
- Convener, Early Modern Cultural and Intellectual History Seminar, USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute (2016 to present)
- Steering Committee, Center for Law, History and Culture (Fall 2015 to present)
- Steering Committee, Major in Law, History and Culture (Spring 2015 to present)
- Executive Committee, History Department (2014-2015)
- Faculty judge, Fourteenth Annual Undergraduate Symposium (2013)
- Reading committee, History Department senior appointment (2012)
- Graduate Committee, History Department (2012-2013; Fall 2013)
- Affiliated Faculty, USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute (2011 to present)

Society for French Historical Studies

- Local Arrangements Committee, 2012 Annual Meeting (Los Angeles)

Columbia University

- Graduate Education Committee Representative, History Department, Columbia University (2007-2008)
- Graduate Student Advisory Council Representative, Columbia University (2006-2007)

Manuscript reviews

- NYU Press; Columbia University Press; *William and Mary Quarterly*; *Journal of the Early Republic*; *Journal of Early American History*; *The Historical Journal*

Languages

French (fluent reading, writing, speaking)

Dutch (advanced reading; intermediate speaking)

Spanish (advanced reading)
Italian (advanced reading; intermediate speaking)
Latin, Danish (basic reading)
Hebrew (advanced reading and speaking)

Professional memberships

American Historical Association
Organization of American Historians
Society for French Historical Studies
Association of Caribbean Historians
Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture