

ROBERT ELDER  
Assistant Professor of History, Baylor University  
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## EDUCATION

Ph.D., history, Emory University, 2011

M.A., history, Clemson University, 2005

B.A., history and English, Clemson University, 2003, *summa cum laude*

## EMPLOYMENT

### **Baylor University, Waco, TX**

Assistant Professor of History, 2018-

*Courses taught:* U.S to 1877, American South, Early Republic, Civil War and Reconstruction, U.S. in Global Perspective, The Historian's Craft (graduate), Independent Study in American History (graduate)

### **Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN**

Assistant Professor of History, 2014-2018

Lilly Postdoctoral Fellow, Christ College (Honors College), 2011-2013

*Courses taught:* American Experience to 1877, Civil War and Reconstruction, Age of Jackson, American Conservatism, Slavery in Film, Historiography, The Human Experience (freshman humanities course)

### **Tabor College, Hillsboro, KS**

Assistant Professor of History, Chair of Department of History & Political Science, 2013-2014

*Courses taught:* World Civilizations I & II, U.S. History I & II, U.S. History 1920-1945, U.S. Since 1945, American Religious History, Race and Religion in American History

## SCHOLARSHIP

My research is focused primarily on the relationship between the antebellum American South and the phenomenon of modernity, especially in the areas of religion, slavery, and intellectual history.

### **Published Book**

*The Sacred Mirror: Evangelicalism, Honor, and Identity in the Deep South, 1790-1860* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016)

### **Forthcoming Book**

*Calhoun: American Heretic* (scheduled to be published by Basic Books on February 16, 2021)

### **Peer-Reviewed Academic Articles**

"A Twice Sacred Circle: Women, Evangelicalism, and Honor in the Deep South, 1784–1860," *The Journal of Southern History* 78, no. 3 (2012): 579–614.

"Sacred History: The Formation of Civil Religions in South Africa and the American South in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries." *Safundi* 6.1 (2005): 1–16.

### **Book Reviews in Academic Journals**

Review of Brett Malcolm Grainger, *Church in the Wild: Evangelicals in Antebellum America*. *American Historical Review* (forthcoming).

Review of Beth Barton Schweiger, *A Literate South: Reading before Emancipation*. *Journal of Southern History*, 86:2 (May 2020), p. 476.

Review of April E. Holm, *A Kingdom Divided: Evangelicals, Loyalty, and Sectionalism in the Civil War Era*. *Journal of the Civil War Era*, 4:8 (December 2018), 702-705.

Review of John Mayfield and Todd Hagstette, eds., *The Field of Honor: Essays on Southern Character and American Identity*. *Journal of Southern History*, 84:3 (August 2018), 745-747.

Review of Kathryn Gin Lum, *Damned Nation: Hell in America from the Revolution to Reconstruction*. *Journal of American Studies*, 51:4 (November 2017), 1276-1277.

Review of Sergio Lussana, *My Brother Slaves: Friendship, Masculinity & Resistance in the Antebellum South*. *Slavery & Abolition*, 38:3 (September 2017), 660-662.

Review of Randall Balmer, *Evangelicalism in America*. *Church History*, 86:2 (June 2017), 585-587.

Review of Jessica Madison, *In Subjection: Church Discipline in the Early American South*. *Journal of Southern History*, 82:1 (February 2016), 138.

Review of Bertram Wyatt-Brown, *A Warring Nation: Honor, Race, and Humiliation in America and Abroad*. *Journal of American History*, 101:4 (March 2015), 1234.

Review of Timothy L. Wesley, *The Politics of Faith During the Civil War*. *Journal of Southern Religion*, 15 (2013), <http://jsr.fsu.edu/issues/vol15/elder.html>.

Review of Charity Carney, *Ministers and Masters: Methodism, Manhood, and Honor in the Old South*. *Journal of Southern History*, 79:1 (February 2013), 169-170.

Review of William Scarborough, *The Allstons of Chicora Wood: Wealth, Honor, and Gentility in the South Carolina Low Country*. *Agricultural History*, 87:1 (January 2013), 121.

Review of Anya Jabour, *Scarlett's Sisters: Young Women in the Old South*. *Journal of American Studies*, 44:1 (February 2010), 222-223.

Review of William J. Harris, ed., *The Old South: New Studies of Society and Culture and The New South: New Histories*. *Journal of American Studies*, 43:1 (April 2009), 1-3.

### **Invited Lectures**

"John C. Calhoun and the Coming of the Civil War," Newberry Teachers' Consortium Seminar, Newberry Library, Chicago, October 2017

"Recasting the Cast-Iron Man: John C. Calhoun and American Democracy," Clemson University History Department, September 2017

"John C. Calhoun and the 'Spring of Nations': 1848 and the Making of 'A Disquisition on Government'," The Kinder Institute On Constitutional Democracy, University of Missouri, November 2016

"Andrew Jackson and the Transformation of American Democracy," Newberry Teachers' Consortium Seminar, Newberry Library, Chicago, October 2016

"Before the Bible Belt: Honor Culture and Evangelical Religion in Early South Carolina," The Waccamaw Center for Cultural and Historical Studies, Coastal Carolina University, March 2015

### **Conference Presentations**

"John C. Calhoun and the 'Spring of Nations'," St. George Tucker Society Annual Meeting, Jackson, MS, July 2018

"John C. Calhoun, Anna Calhoun Clemson, and the Revolutions of 1848," Southern Historical Association, Dallas, Texas, November 2017

"Early Career Issues: Transitioning from Graduate School to Faculty," professionalization roundtable, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, January 2017

Roundtable discussion of Edward J. Blum's *Reforging the White Republic*, Conference on Faith and History, Virginia Beach, Virginia, October 2016

Chair, "Do New Histories of Slavery Mean New Histories of Southern Evangelicalism?" Roundtable, American Society of Church History Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, January 2016

"'Leaving His Just Debts Unpaid': Commerce, Reputation, and Religion in the Deep South, 1800-1860," Southern Historical Association, St. Louis, Missouri, November 2013

"Honor's Audience: Evangelicalism, Community, and the Bible in the Old South," Association of British American Nineteenth Century Historians, University of Northumbria, UK, October 2012

"The Prehistory of the 'Crusading Christian Confederate': Honor, Manhood, Religion, and the Civil War," Symposium on Religion and the Civil War, Institute for Studies of Religion, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, September 2011

"Dual Membership: Men and Violence in the Moral Communities of Honor and Evangelicalism in the South, 1800-1860," American Society of Church History Conference, San Diego, California, January 2010

"The Local Church as an Alternative Court of Opinion," Religion Graduate Symposium, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, February 2009

"The Very Southern Saints: Reconsidering the Distance Between Honor and Evangelicalism in the Deep South, 1800-1860," Masculinity and the American South Symposium, University of Warwick, UK, June 2008

### **Selected Essays, Reviews, etc.**

Review of Caitlin Rosenthal, *Accounting for Slavery: Masters and Management*, in *Englewood Review of Books* (Advent 2018)

Introduction, "Forum: Do New Histories of Slavery Mean New Histories of Southern Evangelicalism?" *Journal of Southern Religion* (September 1, 2016), <http://jsreligion.org/vol18/elder/>

Review of Erskine Clarke, *By the Rivers of Water: A Nineteenth Century Atlantic Odyssey in Book & Culture* (July 2014), <https://www.booksandculture.com/articles/webexclusives/2014/july/by-rivers-of-water.html>

"Remembering Lincoln," *The Cresset: A Review of Literature, Arts, and Public Affairs* (Lent

2013), [http://thecresset.org/2013/Lent/Elder\\_L2013.html](http://thecresset.org/2013/Lent/Elder_L2013.html)

"Are Two Heads Better Than One? A Contrarian Look at Group Work," *Lilly Fellows Program Network Communique* (vol. 27, 2012)

Review of Edward J. Blum and Paul Harvey, *The Color of Christ: The Son of God and the Saga of Race in America* in *Books & Culture* (September/October 2012), <https://www.booksandculture.com/articles/2012/sep/oct/color-blindness.html>

"Errand out of the Wilderness," a review of Matthew Bowman, *The Mormon People: The Making of an American Faith* in *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* (Summer 2012)

"Religion and Violence in the American South," in *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, vol. 19, Amy Wood (volume) and Charles Reagan Wilson (series), eds., (UNC Press, 2011)

Review of Peter Slade, *Open Friendship in a Closed Society: Mission Mississippi and a Theology of Friendship* in *Books & Culture* (October 2010), <https://www.booksandculture.com/articles/webexclusives/2010/october/openfriendship.html>

### **Awards, Fellowships, etc.**

Fellow, Summer Faculty Institute, Baylor University University, 2020

Research Professorship, Valparaiso University, 2016-2107

Creative Work and Research Committee Summer Fellowship, Valparaiso University, 2015

Dissertation nominated by Emory University history department for the 2012 Allan Nevins Prize

Dean's Teaching Fellowship, Laney Graduate School, Emory University, 2010-2011

Lewis P. Jones Research Fellow, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, 2009

Competitive Research Award, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Emory University, 2008, 2009

Visiting Research Fellowship, Institute for Southern Studies, University of South Carolina, 2007, 2008

### **SERVICE**

#### **Department and University Service at Baylor**

Speakers Committee, Baylor University History Department, 2018-2021

Graduate Studies Committee, Baylor University History Department, 2019-2021

African American History Search Committee, 2019-2020

Organized lecture by University of Illinois- Chicago Sociologist Amy Bailey, "Say Their Names: Victims of Threatened and Completed Lynchings in the American South," April 1, 2019, cosponsored with Department of Sociology

Organized lecture by historian Beth Barton Schweiger, "The Rest Are All Singing: Literacy, Print, and Sacred Song in the American South," October 17, 2019, with Institute for the Studies of Religion

### **Selected Professional Service**

Research and Prizes Committee, American Society of Church History, 2017-2021

Membership Committee, Southern Historical Association, 2018-2021

William F. Holmes Award Committee, Southern Historical Association, 2017

Meeting Program Committee, American Society of Church History Annual Meeting, 2016

Recent referee for *Journal of Southern History*, *Church History*, *American Nineteenth Century History*, *Journal of Southern Religion*, University of Virginia Press, University of Kansas Press, Eerdman's Publishing