

Bob H. Reinhardt
Associate Professor
Department of History and School of the Environment
Boise State University
Director, The Atlas of Drowned Towns
bobreinhardt@boisestate.edu
(208) 426-1367

Employment

Associate Professor, History and School of the Environment, Boise State University, 2024 – present
Associate Professor of History and Internship Coordinator, Boise State University, 2021 – 2024
Assistant Professor of History and Internship Coordinator, Boise State University, 2017 – 2021
Founder/Director of the Working History Center, Boise State University, 2019 – present
Executive Director, Willamette Heritage Center, 2015 – 2017
Visiting Assistant Professor, Western Oregon University, 2014 – 2015
A.W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities, Carnegie Mellon University, 2013 – 2014
Visiting Assistant Professor, Willamette University, 2008 – 2013

Education

University of California, Davis. Doctor of Philosophy in History, June 2012. Dissertation: “Remaking Bodily Environments: The Global Eradication of Smallpox.”
University of Oregon. Master of Arts in History, June 2005. Thesis: “Conduits of Power in Oregon’s North Santiam Canyon.”
Willamette University. Bachelor of Arts, *cum laude* in History, May 2000.

Scholarship

Major Works:

“The Atlas of Drowned Towns: Recovering and Interpreting the Histories of Displaced and Disappeared Communities.” <https://www.drownedtowns.com>. 2020 – present.
Struggle on the North Santiam: Power and Community on the Margins of the American West. Corvallis: Oregon State University Press, 2020.
The End of a Global Pox: America and the Eradication of Smallpox in the Cold War Era. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015.
Finding a Sense of Place: An Environmental History of Zena (co-author and editor). Salem: Polebridge Press, 2013.

Articles, Essays, and Book Chapters:

“Exploring Submerged Resilience: The Atlas of Drowned Towns,” *The American Historical Review* 129, No. 4 (December 2024): 1677–1701.
“Fighting the Cold War and *Variola*: The American Commitment to Smallpox Eradication.” In *Public Health, Politics, and the American Century*, ed. Giles Scott-Smith. Edinburgh University Press, 2023.

- “Oregon’s Environments, Oregon’s People,” essay for the *Oregon Blue Book*, published by the Oregon Secretary of State, 2021.
- “The Disappointment of Smallpox Eradication and Economic Development.” In *Global Transformations in the Life Sciences, 1945–1980*, ed. Patrick Manning and Mat Savelli, 47-60. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2018.
- “Smallpox Eradication,” *America in the World, 1776 to the Present: A Supplement to the Dictionary of American History*. Ed. Edward J. Blum. Vol. 2. (Farmington Hills, MI: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2016): 956-957.
- “Smallpox Denaturalized, Demonized, and Eradicable,” *Environmental History* (October 2015): 700-709.
- “How Smallpox Became a ‘Suitable Candidate for Global Eradication,’” *Journal of the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science* (August 2015): 171-194.
- “Finding a Sense of Place: A Surprising Experiment in Place-Based Collaborative Learning,” *American Historical Association’s Perspectives on History* (December 2013).
- “Drowned Towns in the Cold War West: Small Communities and Federal Water Projects,” *Western Historical Quarterly* 42, number 2 (Summer 2011): 149-172. Winner of the 2011 Bert M. Fireman Award, Western History Association.
- “The Global Great Society and the US Commitment to Smallpox Eradication,” *Endeavour: The History and Philosophy of Science* 34 (December 2010): 164-172.

Reviews:

- Steven Beda, *Strong Winds & Widow Makers: Workers, Nature, and Environmental Conflict in Pacific Northwest Timber Country* for *Western Historical Quarterly* (Spring 2024)
- Erika Marie Bsumek, *The Foundations of Glen Canyon Dam: Infrastructures of Dispossession on the Colorado Plateau* for *Pacific Historical Review* (Fall 2023)
- Jeffrey K. Stine, *Green Persuasion: Advertising, Voluntarism, and America’s Public Lands* for *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* (Fall 2023).
- Thomas Cox, *The Other Oregon: People, Environment, and History East of the Cascades* for *Oregon Historical Quarterly* (Winter 2020).
- Idaho State Museum for *The Public Historian* (August 2019).
- Molly Geidel, *Peace Corps Fantasies: How Development Shaped the Global Sixties* for *The Journal of American History* (September 2016).
- Lundy Braun, *Breathing Race into the Machine: The Surprising Career of the Spirometer from Plantation to Genetics* for *H-Environment, H-Net Reviews* (December 2014).
- Robert McGuire and Philip Coelho, *Parasites, Pathogens, and Progress: Diseases and Economic Development* for *Environmental History* (July 2012).
- Ellen Leopold, *Under the Radar: Cancer and the Cold War* for *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* (Winter 2010).
- James K. Agee, *Steward’s Fork: A Sustainable Future for the Klamath Mountains* for *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* (Summer 2008).

Popular Audience:

- “Having the Vaccination Conversation,” *Willamette Magazine* (Summer 2015): 56.
- “Vaccination Proponents Should Keep Smallpox Struggle in Mind,” *The Oregonian* (March 15, 2015).

“The Letters of John Muir,” essay for the University of California Digital Library’s *Calisphere* encyclopedia.

“Detroit,” “Detroit Dam,” “Idanha,” “Marion Forks,” and “Mill City” for *The Oregon Encyclopedia* by Portland State University and the Oregon Historical Society.

Land, Politics, and Expansion in the Early Republic. Middle school textbook co-authored with Letty Kraus for State of California’s Education and the Environment Initiative, 2009.

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

United States Army Corps of Engineers, Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit Cooperative Agreement, 2022-2028 (\$980,000)

National Endowment for the Humanities, Digital Projects for the Public Discovery Grant, 2021-2022 (\$30,000)

John Topham and Susan Redd Butler Off-Campus Faculty Research Award, Brigham Young University Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, 2020 (\$2,250)

A.W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities, Carnegie Mellon University, 2013-14

American Council of Learned Societies, New Faculty Fellows Fellowship, 2013 (declined)

Faculty Fellow Research Grant, Center for Sustainable Communities, Willamette University, 2012

National Science Foundation – American Society for Environmental History Conference Grant, 2012

Bert M. Fireman Award, Western History Association, 2011

Fred Wert Collaborative Research in Sustainability Grant, Willamette University, 2010

Dissertation Research Travel Award, Institute of Governmental Affairs, UC Davis, 2010

Reed-Smith Travel and Dissertation Fellowships, UC Davis, 2007 – 2009 and 2011 – 2012

James B. Castles Fellowship, Center for Columbia River History, 2007 – 2008

National Park Service – American Society for Environmental History Conference Grant, 2008

W. Turrentine Jackson Fellowship, UC Davis, 2006 – 2007

Leah Kirker Memorial Graduate Teaching Award, University of Oregon, 2005

Leon Culbertson Scholarship, University of Oregon, 2004 – 2005

Joseph K. Starr Scholarship, University of Oregon, 2003 – 2004

Fulbright U.S. Student Research Grant, 2000 – 2001

Dr. Ivan Lovell History Scholarship, Willamette University, 1997 – 1998

Mary Stuart Rogers Education Scholarship, Willamette University, 1997 – 2000

Invited Presentations

“The Atlas of Drowned Towns: Engaging Local Communities Historically Impacted by Construction of the Willamette Valley Project,” Oregon State University, November 2024

“The Atlas of Drowned Towns: Recovering the Histories of Places Lost to Dam Construction,” University of Trier (Germany), June 2024

- “The Atlas of Drowned Towns: Uncovering the Histories of Inundated Communities,” Willamette Heritage Center, January 2024
- “Drowned Towns: Resurfacing Histories of Inundated Communities,” University of Oregon, October 2023
- “Drowned Towns: Resurfacing Histories of Inundated Communities,” Willamette University, October 2023
- “Finding Old Detroit: Recovering and Interpreting the Histories of Communities Displaced by River Development Projects,” Willamette Valley Historical Ecology Workshop, October 2022
- “The Atlas of Drowned Towns,” Sun Valley Museum of Art, September 2022
- “The Atlas of Drowned Towns: Recovering the Histories of Inundated Communities,” Idaho Humanities Council, March 2022
- “The Atlas of Drowned Towns: Recovering the Histories of Places Displaced by Dam Construction,” Baker Heritage Museum, November 2021
- “Early American Wests,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Boise State University, October – November 2021
- “American Liberalism and Smallpox Eradication in West and Central Africa: Pursuing Humanitarian and Foreign Policy Objectives,” Roosevelt Institute for American Studies, Leiden University, October 2021
- “History and Historians in Response to COVID-19: Containing Contagion Roundtable,” American Historical Association, December 2020
- “Smallpox Eradication: Inspiration, Warnings, and Lessons for COVID-19,” Willamette Heritage Center, November 2020
- “Smallpox Eradication: Inspiration, Warnings, and Lessons for COVID-19,” Northampton Community College, April 2020
- “The Challenges, Opportunities, and Value of Local Historical Societies,” Canyon County Historical Society, January 2019
- “An Interpretive History of the American West,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Boise State University, January – February 2019
- “Variola Vanished: The Complicated History and Legacy of Smallpox Eradication,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Boise State University, September 2018
- “OAH Amplified: History in the News,” interview with Organization of American Historians regarding public history engagement project, OAH 2018 Conference, published September 2018.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZL7R3LsgdE>.
- “Conduits of Power: Histories of Local Decisions and Actions in the North Santiam Canyon,” North Santiam Historical Society, September 2018
- “Public Health and the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic in Boise and Beyond,” City of Boise Department of Arts and History, March 2018
- “The End of a Global Pox: America and the Eradication of Smallpox in the Cold War Era,” Institute for Continued Learning, Willamette University, February 2017
- “*Variola* Vanquished? The Complex History and Legacy of Smallpox Eradication” (keynote), Environmental Arts and Humanities Graduate Conference, Oregon State University, May 2016
- “The End of a Global Pox: America and the Eradication of Smallpox in the Cold War Era,” Center for Global Health, University of Oregon, February 2016
- “Remembering Detroit Dam on its 60th Anniversary,” Willamette Heritage Center, Salem, Oregon, April 2013

Papers and Presentations

- “Finding Old Detroit: Recovering and Interpreting the Histories of Communities Displaced by River Development Projects,” Society for American Archaeology, March 2023
- “The Atlas of Drowned Towns: Finding, Researching, and Interpreting the Histories of Inundated Communities,” Cascadia Environmental History Collaborative Symposium, September 2022
- “A.B. Hammond and the Hammond Lumber Company,” Cascadia Environmental History Collaborative Symposium, September 2018
- “Asserting Power and Privilege in Oregon’s North Santiam Canyon,” American Society for Environmental History, March 2017
- “Smallpox Eradication and Global Development,” History of the Life Sciences after World War II, University of Pittsburgh, May 2014
- “A Transnational Environmental History of Smallpox Eradication,” American Association for the History of Medicine, May 2014. Panel Organizer for “Debating Smallpox Eradication”
- “Smallpox Eradication in Africa: Realizing Ideas about Health and Environment,” American Society for Environmental History, March 2014
- “Cultural Heritage and Sustainability in the Willamette Valley: A Zena Case Study,” University of the Highlands and Islands, Kirkwall, Scotland, May 2012
- “How Smallpox Became a ‘Suitable Candidate Disease for Global Eradication,’” American Society for Environmental History, March 2012. Panel Organizer for “Eradicable Diseases and Their Environments”
- “Smallpox Eradication and the Global Great Society,” American Association for the History of Medicine, April 2010
- “Smallpox Eradication and its Response, 1967-2009,” American Society for Environmental History, March 2010. Panel Organizer for “Natural and Unnatural: Bodies, Health, and Space in the 20th Century”
- “Drowned Towns: The Inundation of Hover, Washington, and Detroit, Oregon,” East Benton County Historical Society, September 2008
- “Marginal Spaces, Drowned Places: The Differing Fates of Columbia River Communities in the 1950s,” American Society for Environmental History, March 2008. Panel Organizer for “Negotiating Power and Defining Place on North American Waterscapes”
- “The Promises and Disappointments of Water Management during the 1977 and 2001 Droughts in Oregon’s North Santiam Canyon,” Pacific Northwest History Conference, April 2007
- “Saw Blades for Coffee Shop Signs: Community Change in Oregon’s North Santiam Canyon,” Pacific Northwest History Conference, March 2006
- “Conduits of Power in Oregon’s North Santiam Canyon: Local Agency vs. External Forces, 1880-2001,” American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch Conference, August 2005
- “Backed into Their Own Corner: Oregon Timber Workers during the Old Growth Debates of the 1980s,” Pacific Northwest Labor History Conference, June 2005

Courses Taught

Public History in Theory and Practice
History of the American West
Nature's Archive: Science, Environment, and History
University Foundations: History in the News
North American Environmental History
U.S. Environmental History
Place-Based Environmental History: Zena Forest
Environmental Issues in the U.S. West
Global Environmental History
Latin American Environmental History
Health and the Environment
The Politics of Environmental Ethics
Epidemic Disease and Public Health
World Views: War and its Alternatives
U.S. Labor History
African American History
Archival Science
History of the Cold War
U.S. History: Colonial and Revolutionary
U.S. History: Civil War and Reconstruction
U.S. History: Rise to World Power

Graduate Thesis and Project Committees

Committee Chair: Kate Howk (2025), Calista Houdek (2025), Rachel Klade (2023), Camille Daw (2023), Frank Eld (2022), Eli Griffin (2021), Dean Hagerman (2021), Emily Fritchman (2020), Aimee Rollins (2020), Mischa Brady (2018)

Committee Member: Chuck Rumpf (2024), Matthew Voelkel (2022), Rebecca Beesley (2022), Angela Davis (2020), Hayley Noble (2019), Jennifer Tucker (2019)

Professional Service

Board Member, Idaho Humanities Council, 2023 – present
Education Committee, Preservation Idaho, 2022 – present
State Scholar, Idaho Humanities Council – Smithsonian Museum on Main Street, 2022 – 2023
American Association for State and Local History Host Committee, 2022 – 2023

Judge, Forest History Society Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Book Award, 2022
Humanities Advisor, “Finding Our Way: Fostering a Sense of Place for Underrepresented Communities,” NEH Digital Projects for the Public, 2022 – present
Ada County Historic Preservation Council, 2021 – present
State of Idaho Historic Sites Review Board, 2019 – present
Subject Matter Expert, Idaho State Historical Society, 2021 – present
Moderator, “The Marriage Decision: Latta v. Otter,” Idaho State Historical Society, 2021
City of Boise Department of Arts and History Advisory Team, 2018 – 2020
Manuscript Reviewer, Oregon State University Press
Manuscript Reviewer, Washington State University Press
Grant Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections (SCHC) program, March 2019
American Historical Association Tuning Project, 2015

University Service

PhD in Environment and Society Design Committee, 2023 - Present
Boise City-University Strategic Partnership, Cultural/Recreational/Placemaking Committee Chair, 2023 – Present
Historic Preservation Certificate Design Lead, 2022 - Present
Environmental Humanities Design Committee, 2021 – 2024
Masters of Environmental Management Design Committee, 2021 – 2023
College of Arts and Sciences Tenure and Promotion Committee, 2021 – 2023
College of Arts and Sciences Honors and Awards Selection Committee, 2021 – 2022
University Representative, Rocky Mountain-Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, 2020 – present
Energy Policy Institute Affiliate, Center for Advanced Energy Studies, 2020 – present
School of the Environment Design Group, 2020 – 2022
Triple Discipline Degree Program Advisory Committee, 2019 – 2021
Environmental Studies Public Lands Boot Camp Working Group, 2019
Humanities Advisory Board, 2019 – 2020
Open Educational Resource Champions Working Group, 2019 - 2020
Planning and Priorities / Strategic Planning Committee, Department of History, 2018 - 2020
Program Assessment Reporting Peer Reviewer, 2018
Arts & Humanities Institute Board, 2017 - 2019
Planning and Priorities Committee, 2017 – 2018