

# Amy Lee Kohout

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## EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Colorado College, August 2016-present.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Humanities, Environmental Studies Department, Davidson College, 2015-2016.

## EDUCATION

Ph.D., History, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, May 2015.

Dissertation: "From the Field: Nature and Work on American Frontiers, 1876-1909"

Committee: Aaron Sachs (chair), Sara Pritchard, Eric Tagliacozzo

Fields: American history, environmental and cultural (Aaron Sachs); history of technology (Sara Pritchard); modern Southeast Asian history (Eric Tagliacozzo)

M.A., History, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, August 2011.

B.A., History, with distinction, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, May 2004.

## PUBLICATIONS

"More than Birds: Loss and Reconnection at the National Museum of Natural History," *Museum History* special issue, forthcoming 2017.

"Museums" in *A Companion to the History of American Science*, Mark Largent and Georgina Montgomery, eds. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2015.

"From the Aviary: *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*," *The Appendix* 1:2 (April 2013), 64-66.

<http://theappendix.net/issues/2013/4/from-the-aviary-haliaeetus-leucocephalus>

"*There is a Witchery in Kodakery...*," *Rethinking History: The Journal of Theory and Practice*, 16:1 (March 2012), 125-129.

## SELECTED PRIZES, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Messenger Chalmers Dissertation Prize	2015
Buttrick-Crippen Fellowship	2013-2014
Cornell University American Studies Research Grant	2011, 2012, 2014
Michael and Carol Kammen Fellowship	2013
History of Science Society Conference Travel Grant	2013
Pacific Coast Branch of the AHA Conference Travel Grant	2013
Cornell University Society for the Humanities Sustainability Research Grant	2012
Newberry Consortium on American Indian Studies Graduate Student Fellowship	2012
LaFeber Research Fund Award	2011
Silbey Fellowship Fund	2010
Princeton-in-Asia Fellow (Lao PDR)	2005

## TEACHING

Colorado College, 2016-2017

American Frontiers  
Justice and Injustice: Bodies on the Margins (with Jane Murphy)  
American Environmental History  
The Civil War and Reconstruction  
U.S. History, 1860-present

Davidson College, 2015-2016

Settlement of the US West, 1800-1900 (methods course for History majors)  
Environmental Humanities (required course for Environmental Studies majors)  
Animal, Vegetable, Mineral (upper level Environmental Studies seminar)  
Writing Climate Change (first-year writing seminar)  
Environmental History (lecture course cross-listed in Environmental Studies and History)

Cornell University (first-year writing seminars in the History department)

Animal, Vegetable, Mineral: The Museum in American History, Spring 2014  
American Beauty (?): Exploring Ideas about Nature and Place, Fall 2012, Spring 2012

Teaching Assistant for Cornell courses in environmental history, environmental ethics, Civil War and Reconstruction, 20<sup>th</sup> century American history, the history of exploration, and Cornell Summer College courses in the history of medicine and environmental history.

## PUBLIC AND DIGITAL HISTORY

**Co-Founder and Editor, [Backlist](#)**

An online publication that connects general readers interested in history with book lists and short essays by historians organized around big themes and questions. See Amy Kohout, "[Histories of American National Parks](#)," published August 2016 on *Backlist*. Site launched December 2015.

**Editor, *The Appendix***

[The Appendix](#) is a journal of narrative and experimental history that published 8 issues over two years. Worked with 3-6 contributors per issue on their pieces, from pitch to final text. 2013-2015.

**Linking Sources and Specimens, History and Science: Dr. Mearns's Birds**

A [collaborative outreach-oriented project](#) with the Division of Birds at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. Co-wrote grant, conducted research, and wrote content for a website that links individual bird specimens with the narratives of their collection. Wrote an additional grant proposal and received funding from the Coypu Foundation to extend the site. Project completed spring 2015.

## CONFERENCES AND TALKS

Co-organizer and Panelist, "Environmental History: (in) the Context of Environmental Studies?"  
American Society of Environmental History conference, April 2016.

"Partly Settled Colonialism? The Place of Soldiers on American Frontiers," participant in Settler Colonialism and Territorial Expansion, a seminar at C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists conference, March 2016.

Invited participant, Duke University History Slam, December 2015.

- “‘Specimens’ at San Carlos: Linking Natural History and Military Work in Arizona Territory,” Western History Association conference, October 2015.
- “More than Birds: Collection Narratives and Cultural History at NMNH,” Lost Museums: A Symposium on the Ephemerality & Afterlife of Museums, Brown University, May 2015.
- “Pacific Crossings: Specimens Between the (Battle?) Field and the Museum,” American Society of Environmental History conference, March 2015.
- “Nuclear America,” Guest lecture in United States Since 1865, Ithaca College, October 2014.
- “Cleared, Collected, and Displayed at the World’s Fair: The Trees of Forest Park, 1904,” American Society of Environmental History conference, March 2014.
- “Working Vacations: Dr. Mearns and the Museum,” History of Science Society, November 2013.
- “Summiting Mt. Malindang: Linking Military and Scientific Work in the Philippines,” North American Labor History Conference, October 2013.
- “Life’s Work: The Specimen Collecting of Dr. Edgar Mearns,” Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association conference, August 2013.

### **CONFERENCES AND TALKS AT CORNELL**

- “Looking for Geronimo,” Cornell University History Slam, May 2015.
- Panelist, Becoming More Productive: Workflow Workshop for Graduate Students, March 2015.
- Panelist, Roundtable on Publishing, Cornell University History Department, January 2015.
- “Preparation.” Cornell University History Slam at the Finger Lakes Literary Festival. May 2014.
- “Binoculars and Birdsong: Environmental History Outside the Archive,” Cornell Society for the Humanities, April 2014.
- “On-the-Job Specimen Collecting: Dr. Mearns and the Nature of Work,” Science Studies Research Group, Cornell Science and Technology Studies Department, November 2013.
- “*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*.” Cornell University History Slam, May 2013.
- Panelist, A-Exam Workshop, Cornell University History Department, November 2012.
- “Butterflies and Birds.” Cornell University History Slam, May 2012.
- “‘A Splendid Country’?” Cornell University Americas Colloquium, April 2012.
- “Dr. Mearns’s Birds: Sources, Specimens, and the Politics of Collecting.” Cornell University ARG/VRG Nineteenth-Century Day Colloquium, March 2012.
- “‘That’s Just How He Was.’” Cornell University History Slam, May 2011.
- Panelist, “The Arrogance of Humanism?: What Is the Role of the Humanities in the Environmental Crisis?” Cornell Roundtable on Environmental Studies, February 2011.
- “‘I walked across the bridge of Spain’: Frontier Rhetoric and Forestry at the Fair.” Cornell University Americas Colloquium, October 2010.
- “‘*There is a Witchery in Kodakery...*’” Cornell University History Slam, May 2010.
- “‘The Giraffe is Now Ready’: Nature at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition.” Cornell University ARG/VRG Nineteenth-Century Day Colloquium, April 2010.
- “‘The Whole Story of Forest Life’: Nature at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition.” Cornell University Americas Colloquium, March 2010.
- “Conservation and Preservation, 1916-1956,” Guest lecture in HIST3150, October 2009.

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

#### **Manuscript Reviewer, Journal of American Studies**

Review journal submissions as requested by JAS editors. 2016-present.

#### **Manuscript Reviewer, Journal of Gilded Age and Progressive Era History**

Review journal submissions as requested by JGAPE editors. 2015-present.

**Coordinator, Historians Are Writers! (HAW!) Reading Group**

An interdisciplinary reading group at Cornell focused on the writing of history. HAW! reads widely (experimental history, fiction, memoir, you-name-it), and hosts writing workshops and an annual History Slam. Coordinator, 2012-2014. Co-coordinator 2011. Member 2008-2015.

**Chapter Editor and Contributor, *The American Yawp***

[\*The American Yawp\*](#) is a free, online American history textbook. Wrote content on the Philippine-American War and Progressive Era environmentalism, and worked with a co-editor to combine author contributions into a chapter on American empire. 2013-2015.

**Founding Member and Co-Coordinator, CREST Reading Group**

The Cornell Roundtable on Environmental Studies (CREST) Reading Group is a group of faculty and graduate students from the natural and social sciences and the humanities that organizes panels, invites speakers, and meets monthly to discuss environmental issues and texts. 2010-2015.

**Organizer, Constructing Place with Nontraditional Materials (Dissertation Writing Group)**

An interdisciplinary writing group funded by the Cornell Society for the Humanities. Met monthly to workshop drafts of members' dissertation chapters. 2012-2013.

**Secretary, Cornell Graduate History Association**

Worked with the officers of the GHA to liaise with the History department on new student orientation, job searches, and issues raised by the graduate student community. 2008-2010

**OUTSIDE SERVICE****Founding Board Member, Friends of the Yale Women's Rugby Football Club**

Worked to build a community of Yale women's rugby alumnae. Formed a partnership with men's program to fundraise for a joint, gender-blind rugby endowment at Yale. 2010-2015.

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

American Historical Association  
 American Society of Environmental History  
 Western History Association  
 History of Science Society  
 C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists

**PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT****Assistant Director, Cottonwood Gulch Foundation (Albuquerque and Thoreau, NM)**

Worked closely with the Executive Director to manage all aspects of an educational nonprofit that runs a wilderness summer program with an eighty-year history. 2006-2008.

**Assistant Programme Officer, IUCN-The World Conservation Union (Lao PDR)**

Princeton-in-Asia Fellow at IUCN-Lao. Worked with a dynamic team to build the capacity of the Government of Lao to improve natural resource management. 2005-2006.

**Organizer, Green Corps (Environmental Leadership Training Program)**

Worked as a field organizer on short-term environmental campaigns. August 2004-January 2005.