# Jay M. Smith

# Department of History

UNC-Chapel Hill

**Education**

Ph.D., University of Michigan, 1990 (David D. Bien and William H. Sewell, Jr, advisors.)

M.A., Northern Illinois University, 1985 (William Beik, advisor)

B.A., Northern Illinois University, 1983

**Employment**

Professor, History, UNC-Chapel Hill 2004-

Associate Professor, History, UNC-Chapel Hill 1996-2004

Assistant Professor, History, UNC-Chapel Hill 1990-1996

Adjunct Professor of Romance Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill 2017-

## Publications

**Books**:

"The People's Right to Know: Political Accountability in the Eighteenth-Century North Atlantic" (book manuscript in progress).

*The French Revolution. A Quick Immersion* (New York: Tibidabo Publishing, 2020)

--Spanish translation (*La Revolución Francesa: Una Immersión Rápida*), 2021.

*Cheated: The UNC Scandal, the Education of Athletes, and the Future of Big-Time College Sports* (Lincoln, Neb.: Potomac Books, 2015). With Mary Willingham.

--Revised and expanded edition, 2019.

*Monsters of the Gévaudan: The Making of a Beast* (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2011).

--Czech translation (*Gévaudanské Nestvury, aneb Zrod Bestie*) 2014; Chinese translation forthcoming.

*Nobility Reimagined: The Patriotic Nation in Eighteenth-Century France* (Ithaca, N. Y.: Cornell University Press, 2005).

*The Culture of Merit: Nobility, Royal Service, and the Making of Absolute Monarchy in France, 1600-1789* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1996).

-- Ed., *The French Nobility in the Eighteenth Century: Reassessments and New Approaches* (University Park, Pa.: Penn State University Press, 2006).

**Articles and Book chapters**:

“Whistleblowing as Historical Artifact: Administrative Corruption Meets Truth-Telling in Prerevolutionary France,” *Journal of Modern History* 93 (2021): 533-565.

"Enlightened Reactionary: Henri de Boulainvilliers and the Eighteenth-Century French Nobility," in *Aristocratic Souls in Democratic Times*, ed. Ethan Alexander-Davey and Richard Avramenko (Lanham, Md.: Lexington Books, 2018), 53-71.

"Academic Freedom, Meet Big-Time College Sports," *Academe: The Magazine of the American Association of University Professors* 103 (2017): 31-35.

 “The Decline and Fall of the French Nobility: An Invisible History?” in *Adel und Nation in der Neuzeit: Hierarchie, Egalität and Loyalität 16.-20. Jahrhundert*, ed. Martin Wrede and Laurent Bourquin, *Francia* Special Issue 81 (2016): 229-239.

“Dreadful Enemies: The Beast, the Hyena, and Natural History in the Enlightenment,” *Modern Intellectual History* 13 (2016): 33-61.

"Academic Fraud and Commercialized College Athletics: Lessons from the North Carolina Case," *Global* *Corruption* *Report*: *Sport*, ed. Transparency International (Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2016), 286-292.

 “The Nobility,” in *Oxford Handbook of the French Revolution*, ed. David Andress (Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 2015), 40-55.

 “Substance and Subtlety in the Analysis of 1789: The Example of David D. Bien,” in David D. Bien, *Caste, Class and Profession in Old Regime France: The French Army and the Ségur Reform of 1781*, ed. Guy Rowlands (St. Andrews, U. K., 2010), 5-21.

“‘Making Connections’ at UNC: Moving Toward a Global Curriculum at a Flagship Research University,” *Journal of General Education* 58 (2009): 106-120. With Julia Kruse.

“Introduction: Nobility after Revisionism,” in *The French Nobility in the Eighteenth Century*, ed. Jay M. Smith (University Park, Pa.: Penn State University Press, 2006), 1-15.

“The Making of an Aristocratic Reactionary: The Comte d’Escherny, Noble Honor, and the Abolition of Nobility,” in *The French Nobility in the Eighteenth Century*, ed. Jay M. Smith (University Park, Pa.: Penn State University Press, 2006), 253-277.

“Un discours aristocratique sur le patriotisme: les années 1770,” in *Dictionnaire des usages socio-politiques*, ed. Jacques Guilhaumou and Raymonde Monnier 8 (2006): 65-81.

“Recovering Tocqueville’s Social Interpretation of the French Revolution: Eighteenth-Century France Rethinks Nobility,” in *Tocqueville and Beyond: Essays on the Old Regime in Honor of David D. Bien*, ed. Robert Schneider and Robert Schwartz (Newark: University of Delaware Press, 2003), 52-70.

“Montesquieu et le programme patriotique après 1750,” in *Le Temps de Montesquieu*, ed. Michel Porret and Catherine Volpilhac-Auger (Geneva: Droz, 2002), 245-51.

 “Aristocracy: Criticism,” in *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Enlightenment*, ed. Alan Kors (New York and London: Oxford University Press, 2002), vol. 1, pp. 71-75.

“Corporate and Estate Organization,” in *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Enlightenment*, ed. Alan Kors (New York and London: Oxford University Press, 2002), vol. 1, pp. 148-153.

“Between Discourse and Experience: Agency and Ideas in the French Pre-Revolution,” *History and Theory* 40 (2001): 116-142.

“Social Categories, the Language of Patriotism, and the Origins of the French Revolution: The Debate over *noblesse commerçante,*” *Journal of Modern History* 72 (2000): 339-374.

“No More Language Games: Words, Beliefs, and the Political Culture of Early Modern France,” *American Historical Review* 102 (1997): 1413-1440.

“Honour, Royal Service, and the Cultural Origins of the French Revolution: Interpreting the Language of Army Reform, 1750-1788,” *French History* 9 (1995): 294-314.

“Nobility and Normalization: Professionalizing the Army in Old Regime France,” *Consortium on Revolutionary Europe, 1750-1850. Proceedings, 1993* (Tallahassee, 1994), 387-393.

“‘Our Sovereign's Gaze’: Kings, Nobles, and State Formation in Seventeenth-Century France,” *French Historical Studies* 18 (1993): 396-415.

**Invited Lectures**

"The Amateurism Myth and the Impossibility of College Sports Reform," University of Buffalo, April 2022.

"A horror story in 18th-century France," Belmont Abbey College, March 2020.

"Making Sense of the Monstrous in Eighteenth-Century France: The Case of the Beast of the Gévaudan," Montana State University at Billings (Billings, Montana), October 2018.

“Academics and Athletics: Compatible or Not?” University of Colorado (Boulder, Colorado), April 2018.

"'The institution of nobility seemed to us a political scandal': Scandal and Revolution in 1790," University of Toronto (Toronto, Canada), April 2016.

*Keynote address*, "Henri de Boulainvilliers and the Eighteenth-Century French Nobility," for the international conference: *Nobility Reconsidered: New Perspectives on the European Aristocracy*, University of Jyvaskyla (Jyvaskyla, Finland), June 2015.

"The Hyena in Eighteenth-Century Natural History," The Enlightenment Seminar, University of Tennessee (Knoxville, Tennessee), March 2015.

"The Making of Monsters," Institute for the Humanities, Mississippi State University (Starkville, Mississippi), November 2013.

"Nobility before the Abolition (1790)." Deutsches Historisches Institut/Institut Historique Allemand (Paris, France), May 2013.

“Anatomy of the Athletic Scandal at UNC,” Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, Texas A&M University (College Station, Texas), April 2013.

"The Beast of the Gévaudan in Modern Memory," Meredith College (Raleigh, North Carolina), October 2011.

"Nobility in a Nation of Citizens." Department of History, University of Georgia (Athens, Georgia), April 2001.

"Patriotism in Eighteenth-Century France," Modern European History Colloquium, Cornell University (Ithaca, N. Y.), September 2000.

"Montesquieu et le patriotisme des années 1750,” for the international conference: *Le Temps de Montesquieu*, (Geneva, Switzerland), October 1998.

**Public Outreach** (last five years):

"UNC Faculty Oppose legislative, Board of Governors, and Board of Trustees Overreach," *Daily Tar Heel* (April 26, 2023). With Maxine Eichner.

Guest appearance on the *History Channel* program "The Unxplained," for the episode "Serial Killer Creatures," May 2022.

"There's Something Very Troubling in the UNC System," *WRAL.com*, May 2, 2022. With Michael Behrent.

"The Big Threat to Academic Freedom No One's Talking About," *Inside Higher Ed* (January 20, 2022). With Nathan Kalman-Lamb and Stephen Casper.

"Student-Athlete Has Always been a Lie: The NCAA coined the term in the 1950s to deny basic rights to students," *Chronicle of Higher Education* (December 6, 2021). With Nathan Kalman-Lamb and Stephen Casper.

"A Time for Answers in the Nikole Hannah-Jones Case," *Academe Blog* (July 14, 2021)

Contributor to "Brief of Historians in *NCAA vs. Alston,*" Amicus Brief for Supreme Court case *NCAA vs. Alston* *et al*., June 2021

"Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose: amateurism and college sports," presentation at Carol Woods retirement community (Chapel Hill), May 2021.

"The Beast of Gévaudan," interview on the podcast *Squaring the Strange*, May 2021.

Organizer, AAUP state conference, Chapel Hill NC, October 2019

"Faculty: The problem with a conservative new UNC program," *Charlotte Observer* (September 8, 2019). With Karen M. Booth

"How Sports ate Academic Freedom," *The Wall Street Journal*, April 30, 2018.

**Book Reviews:**

Philippe-Auguste de Sainte-Foy d'Arcq and Gabriel-François Coyer, *Noblesse commerçante contre noblesse militaire: une querelle des Lumières (1756–1759)*. Édition de Cheminade Christian, reviewed in French Studies 20 (2023); knad008, [https://doiorg.libproxy.lib.unc.edu/10.1093/fs/knad008](https://doi-org.libproxy.lib.unc.edu/10.1093/fs/knad008)

James Livesey, *Provincializing Global History: Money, Ideas, and Things in the Languedoc, 1680-1830* (New Haven, Conn., 2020), reviewed in *Journal of Modern History* 94 (2022): 457-458.

Chad Denton, *Decadence, Radicalism, and the Early Modern French Nobility: The Enlightened and Depraved* (Lanham, Md., 2017), *The Historian* 83 (2021): 215-216.

Fanny Cosandey, *Le Rang: préséances et hiérarchies dans la France d'Ancien Régime* (Paris, 2016), four-part discussion in *H-France Forum* 13 (2018).

Steven L. Kaplan, *The Stakes of Regulation: Perspectives on '*Bread, Politics and Political Economy' *Forty Years* Later (London, 2015),reviewed in *Journal of Modern History* 90(2018): 197-198.

Mita Choudhury, *The Wanton Jesuit and the Wayward Saint: A Tale of Sex, Religion, and Politics in Eighteenth-Century France* (University Park, Penn., 2015), reviewed in *French History* 31 (2017): 111-113.

Jonathan Sheehan and Dror Wahrman, *Invisible Hands: Self-Organization in the Eighteenth Century* (Chicago, 2015), featured review in *American Historical Review* 121 (2016): 890-892.

Antoine Lilti, *Figures Publiques: L'invention de la célébrité (1750-1850)* (Paris, 2014), four-part discussion in *H-France Forum* 10 (2016).

Michel Pastoureau, *The Bear: History of a Fallen King* (Cambridge, Mass., 2011), reviewed in *Journal of Modern History* 85 (2013): 404-407.

Raymond Birn, *Royal Censorship of Books in Eighteenth-Century France* (Stanford, 2012), reviewed in *French History* 27 (2013): 128-130.

Robert Descimon and Élie Haddad, ed., *Épreuves de Noblesse: Les expériences nobiliaires de la haute robe parisienne (XVIe-XVIIIe siècle)* (Paris, 2010), reviewed in *Journal of Modern History* 84 (2012): 196-198.

Paul Cheney, *Revolutionary Commerce: Globalization and the French Monarchy* (Cambridge, Mass., 2010), reviewed in *Journal of Modern History* 83 (2011): 895-897.

Brian Sandberg, *Warrior Pursuits: Noble Culture and Civil Conflict in Early Modern France* (Baltimore, 2010), reviewed in *H-France Review* (November, 2011).

William Doyle, *Aristocracy and its Enemies in the Age of Revolution* (Oxford, 2009), reviewed in *Journal of Modern History* 83 (2011): 175-177.

Jean-Marc Moriceau, *Histoire du Méchant Loup: 3000 attaques sur l’homme en France, XVe-XXe siècles* (Paris, 2007) and Nathaniel Wolloch, *Subjugated Animals: Animals and Anthropocentrism in Early Modern European Culture* (Amherst, N. Y., 2006), reviewed in *Journal of Modern History* 81 (2009): 165-167.

Michael Sonenscher, *Before the Deluge: Public Debt, Inequality, and the Intellectual Origins of the French Revolution* (Princeton, 2007), reviewed in *American Historical Review* 113 (2008): 592-593.

Samuel Gibiat, *Hiérarchies Sociales et Ennoblissement: Les commissaires des guerres de la maison du roi, 1691-1790* (Paris, 2006), reviewed in *American Historical Review* 112 (2007): 1266-1267.

James R. Farr, *A Tale of Two Murders: Passion and Power in Seventeenth-Century France* (Durham, N. C., 2005), reviewed in *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 37 (2007): 449-450.

Gretchen Elizabeth Smith, *The Performance of Male Nobility in Molière’s Comédie-Ballets: Staging the Courtier* (Hampshire, England, 2005), reviewed in *Seventeenth-Century News* 65 (2007): 230-232.

Michel Figeac, *L’Automne des Gentilshommes: Noblesse Aquitaine, Noblesse Française au siècle des lumières* (Paris, 2002), reviewed in *Histoire, Economie, Société* 23 (2004): 454-455.

David A. Bell, *The Cult of the Nation in France: Inventing Nationalism, 1680-1800* (Cambridge, Mass., 2001), reviewed in *Journal of Social History* 37 (2003): 244-247.

Sophia Rosenfeld, *A Revolution in Language: The Problem of Signs in Late Eighteenth-Century France,* reviewed in *French Politics, Culture, and Society* 21 (2003): 137-140.

#### Darrin M. McMahon, *Enemies of the Enlightenment: The French Counter-Enlightenment and the Making of Modernity* (Oxford, 2001), reviewed in *H-France Review* (February, 2002).

Harry Liebersohn, *Aristocratic Encounters: European Travelers and North American Indians* (Cambridge, 1998), reviewed in *Journal of Modern History* 72 (2000): 501-503.

John A. Lynn, *Giant of the Grand Siècle: The French Army, 1610-1715* (Cambridge, 1997), reviewed in *Journal of Modern History* 71 (1999): 952-954.

Sara Melzer and Kathryn Norberg, *From the Royal to the Republican Body: Incorporating the Political in Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century France* (Berkeley, 1998), reviewed in *H-France Review* (April, 1999).

Angela Zito, *Of Body and Brush: Grand Sacrifice as Text and Performance in Eighteenth-Century China* (Chicago, 1997), reviewed in *Rethinking History* 3 (1999): 114-116.

Philippe Salvadori, *La Chasse sous l’Ancien Régime* (Paris, 1996), reviewed in *Journal of Modern History* 70 (1998): 466-468.

Donna Bohanan, *Old and New Nobility in Aix-en-Provence, 1600-1695: Portrait of an Urban Elite* (Baton Rouge, 1992), reviewed in *Histoire Sociale/Social History* 36 (1993): 147-149.

**Fellowships, grants, honors**

Gus Steinhilber Award from the Education Law Association, *Best Legal Brief of the Year* (for "Brief of Historians in *NCAA vs. Alston*"), with five historians and counsel Erik Jaffe, 2021

American Philosophical Society, Franklin Research Grants, 2023, 2015, 2005, 1999

Robert Maynard Hutchins Award for defense of academic integrity (Drake Group), 2014

Second runner-up, Katherine Briggs Folklore Prize (UK), 2011, for *Monsters of the Gévaudan*

“Best Cryptozoology Books of 2011,” Cryptomundo.com, for *Monsters of the Gévaudan*

Medieval and Early-Modern Studies (MEMS) Summer Research Grant, UNC-CH, 2011

Faculty Fellow, Institute for the Arts and Humanities, UNC-CH, Fall 2009

John Van Seters Distinguished Term Professorship, UNC-CH, 2007-2012

Academic Leadership Program Fellow, College of Arts and Sciences, UNC-CH, 2007-8

Research Award for Creative Work in the Humanities, UNC-CH, 2007

Spray-Randleigh Fellowships, UNC-CH, 2003, 2002

University Research Council Grants, UNC-CH, 2003, 1997, 1994, 1992

Florence J. Gould Foundation conference grant, 2002

National Humanities Center Fellowship, 1997-98

Junior Faculty Development Award, UNC-CH, 1994

NEH Travel to Collections, 1992

Lilly Endowment Teaching Fellowship, UNC-CH, Fall, 1992

Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Michigan, 1989-90

ITT International Fellowship, 1987-88

Regents’ Fellowship, University of Michigan, 1988-89, 1986-87, 1985-86

Newberry Library Summer Institute Fellowship, 1986

## Service

**University, UNC:**

Faculty Athletics Committee, 2020-2023

Educational Policy Committee, 2010-2013

Chair, Educational Policy Committee-Committee on Student Conduct ad hoc committee to review the Honor System, 2011

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Committee, 2006-2007

Faculty Council (elected), 2003-2006

**College of Arts and Sciences, UNC**:

Medieval and Early Modern Studies Graduate Fellowship Selection Committee, 2011-2012

Chair, Committee on Interdisciplinary Initiatives, 2008-9, 2010-2012

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Curricula, 2004-2008.

Co-Chair, Administrative Boards of the College of Arts and Sciences and General College, 2004-2008

Chair, Subcommittee on General Education (Ad Boards), 2004-2008

Co-Chair, Academic Compliance Subcommittee for SACS Reaccreditation Review, 2004-2006

Chair, Curriculum Implementation Committee, 2004-2006

Member, Quality Enhancement Plan Implementation Committee, 2006-2009

Member, First Year Experiences Steering Committee, 2005-2008

Member, Difficult Dialogues Initiative Steering Committee, 2005-2007

Member, Dean’s Interdisciplinary Studies Task Force, 2006-2007

Member, Registrar’s Ad Hoc Committee to Review Undergraduate Advising (2000)

Undergraduate History Advisor, 1993-96

Renaissance Studies Committee, 1991-94

**History Department, UNC**:

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, 2022-2025

Post-tenure Review Committee, 2021-22

Chair, Prize Committee, 2016-2019

Convener, European field, 2019, 2013, 2002-04

Honor System Liaison, 2013-2018

Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2015-2016

Associate Chair, 2010-2013, 1998-2004

Executive Committee, 2010-2013

Undergraduate Studies Committee’s Boyatt Award selection subcommittee, 2010-2013

Director of Undergraduate Studies, 2003-04, 1998-2000

Committee on Teaching, 2000-2001

Chair’s Advisory Committee, 2002-04 and 1998-2001 (ex officio), 1994-96 (elected)

Graduate Studies Committee, 2010-2013, 2002-04, 1998-2001 (ex officio), and 1993-96

Chair, Speakers’ Committee, 1994-7

History majors advisor, 1993-96

**Profession**:

President, North Carolina State Conference of the American Association of University Professors ((AAUP) (2022-2025)

Vice-President, UNC-CH chapter of the AAUP (2018-2023)

Drake Group Executive Committee, Member-at-Large (2014-2015)

Vice-President, Institut Français d’Amérique (formerly Institut Français de Washington), 2013-2017

Pinkney Prize Committee (Best book), Society for French Historical Studies, 2006-2007

Editorial Board, *French Historical Studies*, 2002-2005

Board of Trustees, Institut Français d’Amérique, 1994-2017

Dissertation Committees in Art History (UNC), Musicology (UNC), Romance Studies (UNC), History (University of Toronto, Duke University)

**Manuscript** reviewer for presses:

University of Chicago Press; Duke University Press; Saint Martin's; Prentice-Hall; Stanford University Press; Yale University Press; Cambridge Scholars Publishing; Lexington Books; Courtauld Books Online

**Manuscript** reviewer for journals:

*Annales: Histoire, Sciences Sociales*; *Journal of Modern History*; *French Historical Studies*; *Journal of the Western Society for French History*; *Journal of Social History*; *Clio*; *Virtus: Journal of Nobility Studies*; *Comparative Studies in Society and History*

**Project** reviewer for:

National Humanities Center; European Research Council; Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study; American Philosophical Society

**Professional memberships**: American Historical Association; Society for French Historical Studies; Western Society for French History

**Courses Taught**:

Western Civilization to 1650

Early-Modern Europe, 1450-1789

France in the Age of Monarchy, 1337-1750

Eighteenth-Century Europe

Old Regime France

The French Revolution

Historical Time

Big-Time College Sports and the Rights of Athletes, 1874 to the present

Monsters, Murder, and Mayhem in Microhistory: French Case Studies (First Year Seminar)

The Old Regime and the French Revolution (undergraduate seminar)

Louis XIV and the Splendid Century (undergraduate seminar)

Aristocratic Identity in the Atlantic World, 1550-1850 (undergraduate seminar)

Identity in Early-Modern France (graduate colloquium)

Problems in the French Revolution (graduate colloquium)

Early-Modern Europe (graduate colloquium)

Introduction to Research (graduate seminar)

Master's Seminar (graduate seminar)

Dissertation Design (graduate seminar)

Women’s Writing in Early-Modern France (NEH seminar, with Michèle Longino of Duke University)