

# MOLLY C. MICHELMORE

103 Newcomb Hall  
Lexington, Virginia 24450  
[michelmorem@wlu.edu](mailto:michelmorem@wlu.edu)  
she/her/hers

---

## EDUCATION

- 2000-2006** Ph.D., Department of History, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, June 2006.  
Dissertation: “‘Taxing State/Welfare State: How the Politics of Aid to Families with Dependent Children and the Federal Income Tax Shaped Modern America’”
- 1994-1998** Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts, May 1998 *Summa Cum Laude*, Degree in History with the Highest Honors, May 1998

## EMPLOYMENT

- 2020-** Professor and Head of the History Department, W&L University
- 2017-2020** Associate Professor and Head of the History Department, W&L University
- 2012-2017** Associate Professor of History, W&L University
- 2006-2012** Assistant Professor of History, W&L University

## BOOKS

- 2018** *The United States in World War II: A Documentary History*. Co-edited with Mark Stoler, Hackett Press, 2018
- 2012** *Tax and Spend: The Welfare State, Tax Politics and the Limits of American Liberalism*, University of Pennsylvania Press, Politics and Culture in Modern America Series

## BOOK CHAPTERS & PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- 2021** “No Unnecessary Burden: Taxpayers and the Politics of Work, Family, and Welfare,” *Journal of Modern American History* (Forthcoming Summer 2021)
- 2020** “Ain’t Gonna Pay for War No More: Taxes, Resistance, and Antiwar Activism in the Pioneer Valley and Beyond,” in *Amherst in the World*, University of Michigan Press, 2020
- 2018** “Creating the Marriage Penalty: Tax Politics, Gender and Political Realignment in 1970s America,” *Journal of Women’s History*, Summer, 2018
- 2012** “‘What Have You Done For Me Lately?’ The Welfare State, Tax Politics, and the Search for a New Majority,” *The Journal of Policy History*, Fall 2012

## SELECTED REVIEWS & ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES

- 2019** Review of *Ensuring Poverty: Welfare Reform in Feminist Perspective* in the *Journal of American History* (Spring 2020)
- 2016** “Whose Welfare? New Directions in the Cultural, Social and Political History of the American Welfare State,” *Reviews in American History* (Summer 2017) (3000 Words)
- 2016** “Tax Resistance and Pacifism,” *Opposition to War: An Encyclopedia of United States Peace and Anti-War Movements in American History*, ABC-CLIO (1000 words)
- 2015** Review of *American Tax Resisters* in the *Journal of American History*, March 2015  
Review of *Losing the Center: The Decline of American Liberalism, 1968 - 1992*, in the *American Historical Review*, March 2015
- 2014** “Taxes and American History,” *American Political Culture: An Encyclopedia*, ABC-CLIO (3500 Words)
- 2014** Review of *The Politics of Policy Change: Welfare, Medicare and Social Security Reform in the United States in Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 12, no. 2 (June 2014)
- 2012** “The National Welfare Rights Organization,” *Oxford Encyclopedia of Social History*, Oxford University Press, 2012 (500 Words)

## NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2017** Visiting Scholar, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociales, Centre d’Etudes Nord-Américaines, Paris, France
- 2008** Kandersteg Scholar, Remarque Institute, New York University
- 2004-2005** Fellowship in Contemporary History, Public Policy and American Politics, Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia
- 2005** Research Fellowship, Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library
- 2004** Smithsonian Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution
- 2003** Graduate Fellow of the Academy, American Academy of Political and Social Science, Fels Institute of Government, University of Pennsylvania

## ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

- 2019** Chair/Commentator 2019 Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Panel on “Facts and Fictions: Expert Ideas and the Politics of Public Finance,” Chicago, Illinois

- 2019** Chair/Commentator 2019 Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, “Author Meets Critic Roundtable: *Starve the Beast: Ronald Reagan and the Tax Cut Revolution* by Monica Prasad,” Chicago, Illinois
- 2019** Chair/Commentator 2019 Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, “Author Meets Critic Roundtable: *How Taxpayers Trumped Children in the Fight Against Child Poverty* by Josh McCabe,” Chicago, Illinois
- 2018** Chair/Commentator, 2018 Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Panel on “The Development of Fiscal Systems: Ideas and Resources,” Phoenix, Arizona
- 2018** Chair/Commentator, 2018 Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Panel on “Cities and States as Fiscal Laboratories,” Phoenix, Arizona
- 2017** Chair/Commentator 2017 Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Panels on “Specialist Actors in Public Finance,” Montreal, Quebec
- 2017** Chair/Commentator 2017 Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Panel on “Redistribution and Revenue,” Montreal, Quebec
- 2017** Commentator 2017 Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Book Roundtable on *A Comparative History of Motor Fuels Taxation: Why Gasoline is Cheap and Petrol is Dear*, Montreal, Quebec
- 2016** Chair/Commentator 2016 Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, panel on the “Comparative Political Economy of Taxation in the 20th Century,” Chicago, Illinois
- 2014** “Taxing the Family: Gender, Tax Policy and Political Realignment in the 1970s,” Paper presented at the 2014 Annual Meetings of the Social Science History Association, panel on the “Social Meaning of Tax Expenditures,” Toronto, Ontario
- 2014** “Taxing Family Values: Gender, Taxation and the Social Compact in the United States,” Paper presented at the 2014 Policy History Conference, sponsored by the *Journal of Policy History*, panel on “State and Society Interactions and the Development of Ideas, Policies and Institutions,” Columbus, Ohio
- 2014** Chair/Commentator, 2014 Policy History Conference, sponsored by the *Journal of Policy History*, panel on “Tax Policy and Social Betterment,” Columbus, Ohio
- 2012** Chair/Commentator, 2012 Policy History Conference, sponsored by the *Journal of Policy History*, panel on “Guns, Taxes, and the Right,” Richmond, Virginia
- 2008** “From Reform to Reduction: Tax Politics and the State in the 1970s,” Paper presented at the 2008 Policy History Conference, sponsored by the *Journal of Policy History*, panel on “American Tax and Welfare Policies, 1950-1970,” St. Louis, Missouri
- 2007** “Liberals and the Supply Side Revolution: Re-Examining Domestic Politics in the 1960s,” presented at the 2007 Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, panel on “Fiscal Policy in the Postwar U.S.,” Chicago, Illinois
- 2005** “American Conservatism and the Politics of Welfare in the Nixon Era,” presented the 2005 Social Science and History Association Annual Meeting, panel on “Re-Thinking Republican Politics in the Nixon Era: Race, Class and Ideology,” Portland, Oregon

- 2005** “‘The New American Majority’ and the Politics of Welfare in the Nixon Era,” presented at the 2005 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, panel on “Democratic Change and Political History in the Twentieth Century,” Washington D.C.
- 2005** “Conservatism, the Family Assistance Plan, and the Politics of Welfare in the Seventies,” presented at the 2005 Miller Center of Public Affairs Fellows’ Conference, Charlottesville, Virginia.
- 2004** “Deadbeats, Taxpayers and Dependent Children, Welfare Reform and Child Support Enforcement, 1950-1974,” presented at the 2004 Policy History Conference sponsored by the *Journal of Policy History*, panel on “Policing the Poor,” St. Louis, Missouri
- 2002** “Making Fathers Out of Deadbeat Dads: Gender, Welfare and Child Support Policy,” presented at the 2002 Social Science History Annual Meeting, panel on “Women, Motherhood, and the Welfare State in Britain and the United States,” St. Louis, Missouri

## **MEDIA & PUBLIC OUTREACH**

- 2020** Featured Guest on *You Don’t Have to Yell*, Episode 35: “We Just Wrote a Check for \$2 Trillion, Now What?”
- 2019** Featured Guest on *Backstory: The History Podcast*, Episode 265: “Nixon Beyond Watergate: A History of the Presidency Before the Scandal,” January 25, 2019
- 2018** “Why Universities Should Be on the Front Lines of the Monument Wars, with Sarah Horowitz and Michelle Brock, Op Ed published in the *Washington Post*, September 6, 2018
- 2017** Featured Guest on NPR’s *On the Media* episode on the History of U.S. Taxation, December 8, 2017
- 2017** Featured Guest on NPR’s *The Takeaway*, “Read My Lips: Exploring the Origins of America’s Anti-Tax Culture,” November 16, 2017
- 2017** “How the GOP Uses Family Values to Slash Taxes,” Op Ed published in the *Washington Post*, November 14, 2017
- 2017** Featured Guest on *Truth, Politics, and Power* podcast on Tax Reform, November 3,
- 2017** “Republicans Have None of the Ingredients Necessary for Tax Reform,” Op Ed published in the *Washington Post*, October 2, 2017
- 2017** “Tax Revolts, Tax Marches, and the Politics of Transparency in U.S. History.” *Process History* (Organization of American Historians Blog)
- 2016** “Restoring Fiscal Sanity.” The First Year Project, Volume 3: The Critical First Budget, Miller Center for Public Affairs (Online Only)
- 2015** Invited Researcher Talk, National Archives and Records Administration, October 2015
- 2014** “The People and Their Taxes,” *Life of the Law* Podcast 8 April 2014
- 2013** “A Tax Worth Celebrating,” Op Ed published in the *Washington Post*, 19 February 2013
- 2013** “The Political War on Taxes,” Op Ed published in the *Huffington Post*, 9 January 2013

- 2013**      Featured Guest on *The Exchange*, New Hampshire Public Radio, 12 January 2013
- 2012**      “Don’t Just Blame the Republicans, Democrats are Allergic to Tax Hikes, Too,” History News Network
- 2012**      “Tax Day Tangle,” University of Pennsylvania Press Online Blog
- 2012**      “GOP’s Policies About More than Economics,” Op Ed Published in *the Richmond Times Dispatch*
- 2011**      “The Hard Truth About the Debt Crisis,” Op Ed Published in the *Christian Science Monitor*
- 2011**      Featured Guest on NPR’s *Virginia Insight*
- 2009**      “The Last Liberal,” Op Ed Piece Published in the *Richmond Times Dispatch* and the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*
- 2004**      “Poverty, Prosperity, and Politics in Postwar America,” Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History Colloquium

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2019 -**      Executive Committee, Social Science History Association
- 2016 -**      Co-Chair, Fiscal Policy Network, Social Science and History Association
- 2018**      Annotation for Transparent Inquiry/Qualitative Data Repository, Invited Reviewer
- 2018**      European Research Council (ERC), Grant Peer Review
- 2018**      Book Manuscript Workshop for Monica Prasad Manuscript, *Starving the Beast* (Russell Sage, 2019)
- 2016-2018**      Historians on the Hill, American Historical Association
- 2016**      Panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities, America’s Media Makers Development and Production Grant Panel
- 2010**      Panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities, America’s Media Makers Development and Production Grant Panel, Washington, D.C.

## SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

- 2016 -**      Head, History Department, W&L University
- 2020**      Member, Associate Director of University Museums Search Committee
- 2018 -**      President’s Advisory Committee (Elected)
- 2018 -**      American Shakespeare Company Consortium Task Force
- 2015 -**      Fishback Visiting Writer Advisory Committee
- 2019-2020**      Chair, Assistant/Associate Professor of African History Search Committee
- 2018-2019**      Assistant Professor of African-American History Search Committee

- 2014-2019**    Committee on Courses and Degrees
- 2018-2019**    Howard Pickett Tenure Committee
- 2016**            Lead Faculty Member, Alumni College on the Age of Reagan
- 2016**            Shepherd Faculty Review Committee
- 2016**            Shepherd Strategic Planning Steering Committee
- 2013**            Search Committee Assistant Professor of Civil War Era History Search Committee
- 2011-2013**    Faculty Executive Committee (Elected)

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

- HIST 107: United States History to 1877
- HIST 108: United States History from 1877
- HIST 248: Populism, Progressivism, and the New Deal
- HIST 264: Morning in America? Culture, Society and Politics in the Age of Reagan
- HIST 265: The U.S. in World War II
- HIST 266: The American Century: U.S. History From 1945
- HIST 267: Mapping Change: U.S. Urban History
- HIST 268: Separate and Unequal: Race, Class, and Place in 20th Century America
- HIST 350: Seminar: The Culture and Politics of the Cold War
- HIST 354: Seminar: The History of the American Welfare State
- HIST 355: Seminar: The U.S. in the 1960s
- HIST 269: Seminar: I Love the '70s
- UNIV 201: The Science and Culture of the Atomic Age ( co-taught with Prof. Frank Settle)
- WRIT 100: I Love the '60s

## **INDIVIDUALLY MENTORED STUDENTS**

- 2019-2020**    Daniel Morris, Honors Thesis, "I'd Like to Buy the World a Coke: Coca Cola and the American Century"
- 2018-2019**    Adit Ahmed, Honors Thesis "Becoming Bengal: Understanding Islam as Political Technology in East Bengal and Bangladesh" (co-directed with Tim Lubin, Religion)
- Sarah Dyer, Honors Thesis "Cracking Open the Golden Door: Race, Great Society Liberalism, and the Immigration Reform Act of 1965"
- Morgan Maloney, Honors Thesis "The President's Other Half: Power, Politics, and America's First Ladies"

- Anna Still, Honors Thesis "From Brown to Rodriguez: Race, Residence, and the Limits of 'Equal Protection,' 1954-1973"
- 2013-2014** Timothy J. Fisher, Honors Thesis "You Must be This to Ride: Amusement Parks as Sites of Social Construction in the United States"
- 2012-2013** Joe Landry, Honors Thesis "Striking a Blow Against Labor: The Wagner Act, Market Fundamentalism and the Limits of the New Deal"
- 2011-2012** Charles Andrews (with Prof. Ted Delaney), Honors Thesis on the Relationship between the American Press and the War in Vietnam
- 2011-2012** Julia McCormick, Independent Study on the History of the Women's Army Corps (George Marshall Fellowship)
- 2010** Timothy McAleenan, Independent Study, "Making Race in the United States, 1800 - 2000."
- 2009-2010** Kevin Corn, Honors Thesis, "From Brown to Green: School Desegregation in Roanoke, Virginia," Advisor
- 2010** Jackie Goodell, Independent Study, "Maidenform's 'Dream' Campaign: An Uplifting History of Female Consumers in 20th Century America"
- 2006-2007** James McKay, Honors Thesis, "Religion and Foreign Policy During the Truman Years: Catholicism, Congressmen, and the Cold War,"
- 2007** Taylor Woods, Independent Study, "Beyond the Crabgrass Frontier: Politics, Space, Economy and the 'New' Metropolitan History."

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2000 -** Member, American Historical Association
- 2002 -** Member, Social Science History Association

## NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2000** Legislative Assistant, U.S. House of Representatives, Office of Gerald D. Kleczka, Washington D.C.
- 1999-2000** Legislative Correspondent, U.S. House of Representatives, Office of Gerald D. Kleczka, Washington, D.C.
- 1998** Staff Assistant, U.S. Senate, Office of Senator Barbara Boxer, Washington, D.C.