

MATTHEW MORSE BOOKER

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<https://chass.ncsu.edu/people/mmbooker/>

Positions held

2023- Professor, History, NC State University
2020-24 Vice President for Scholarly Programs, National Humanities Center
2017-20 Director, Science, Technology & Society program, North Carolina State University.
2015-20 Director, Archive of Agricultural Genetic Engineering & Society, NC State University
2014-20 Co-founder and coordinator, Visual Narrative faculty research cluster, NC State
2012-22 Associate Professor, Department of History, NC State University
2008-14 Primary Investigator, Spatial History Lab, Stanford University
2008-09 Visiting Assistant Professor, Lane Center for American West, Stanford University
2005-12 Assistant Professor, History, NC State University

Education

2005 Stanford University - Ph.D. in American History
1997 University of Oregon - M.S. in Environmental Studies
1991 University of California, Berkeley - B.A. in Latin American History
1988-89 Hindu College, University of Delhi, India

Additional Training

2024 American Council of Learned Societies, "Fundraising in Academia" - Sevil Miyhandar, CCS Fundraising

Publications

2025 M. Booker and K. Ericson, "Seed Oyster Inspection, Matsushima Bay, circa 1956," *Environmental History* 30.1 (January 2025). doi: [10.1086/733065](https://doi.org/10.1086/733065)

2022 Dunn, R., M. Sanchez, and M. Booker, "Sweetness, Power, Yeasts, and Entomo-Terroir," in V. Bienvenue and N. Chare, eds., *Animals, Plants, and Afterimages: The Art and Science of Representing Extinction* (New York: Berghahn, 2022), 286-302

2021 "Visualizing San Francisco Bay's Forgotten Past," 117-126 in K. Coulter, W. Graf von Hardenburg, and F. A. Jorgensen, eds., *Ant, Spider, Bee: Chronicling Digital Transformations in the Humanities* (Munich: Spider & Cloud). Book chapter based on 2012 article

2021 Andersen, L.K., ...M. Booker, et al., "The Status of Striped Bass *Morone saxatilis* as a Commercially Ready Species for U.S. Marine Aquaculture," *Journal of the World Aquaculture Society* 52.3 (June 2021): 710-730. doi: [10.1111/jwas.12812](https://doi.org/10.1111/jwas.12812)

2021 E. Landis ... M. Booker et al., "The Diversity and Function of Sourdough Starter Microbiomes," *eLife Sciences* (26 January 2021) doi: [10.7554/eLife.61644](https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.61644)

2020 *Down by the Bay: San Francisco's History Between the Tides* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press). Hardback, 2013.

2020 M. Serr, R. Valdez, S. Barnhill-Dilling, J. Godwin, T. Kuiken, and M. Booker, "Scenario Analysis on the Use of Rodenticides and Sex-Biasing Gene Drives for the Removal of Invasive House Mice on Islands," *Biological Invasions* (2 Jan. 2020).

2019 *Food Fights: How History Matters to Contemporary Food Debates* (University of North Carolina Press, 2019), C. Ludington and M. Booker, eds.

2019 "The Century-Old Origins of Contemporary Food Safety Debates," in C. Ludington and M. Booker, eds., *Food Fights: How History Matters to Contemporary Food Debates* (UNC Press, 2019), 145-161

2019 "Introduction," with C. Ludington, in *Food Fights: How History Matters to Contemporary Food Debates* (UNC Press, 2019), 1-14

2018 "Environmental Humanities" (with Kim Gilman), 36-72 in A. Mink, ed., *Humanities in Class: How*

- to Think and Learn in the Humanities* (National Humanities Center: Research Park, NC, 2018)
- 2018 [“Before *The Jungle*: The Atlantic Origins of U.S. Food Safety Regulation,”](#) *Global Environment* 11.1 (2018): 12-35
- 2015 “What Should We Eat?” in M. Pimbert, R. Shindelar and H. Schosler, eds., “Think Local, Eat Global: Exploring Foodways,” *Rachel Carson Center Perspectives* 2015 (1), 45-50
- 2012 “Visualizing San Francisco Bay’s Environmental History,” *Journal of Digital Humanities* 1:3 (September 2012)
- 2006 “Oyster Growers and Oyster Pirates in San Francisco Bay,” *Pacific Historical Review* 75(1) February 2006: 63-88. *Winner, W. Turrentine Jackson Award, American Historical Association, Pacific Coast Branch.*
- 2001 “Pacific Northwest” and “Pacific Salmon” with Matthew Klinge, in C. Miller, M. Cioc and K. Showers, eds. *History in Dispute, Volume 7: Water and the Environment Since 1945: Global Perspectives* (New York: St. James Press/Gale Publications, 2001), 188-203
- 1999 “Integrating History into the Restoration of Coho Salmon in the Siuslaw River, Oregon.” *Sustainable Fisheries Management: Pacific Salmon* (Ann Arbor: Ann Arbor Press, 1999), 625-636

Public writing

- 2023 [“Interview with Dr Matthew M. Booker and Dr Kjell Ericson – The Seed Oyster Inspectors: Labour and Power in Trans-Pacific Tidelands, 1945-1970s.”](#) June 1, 2023
- 2021 “Why do People Care for Sourdough?” in R. Dunn, M. Vandegrift, K. Dufresne, K. Ciccone, L. Nichols, & M. Jewell, eds. (2021). *Fermentology*. Raleigh: NC State University Libraries. <https://doi.org/10.52750/679579>
- 2020 [“Loss, Grief, and the Humanities in the Time of Pandemic.”](#) Humanities in Action, National Humanities Center
- 2019 [“Sourdough Cultures.”](#) *Seeing the Woods Blog*, Rachel Carson Center, Munich
- 2017 M. Booker and K. Gilman (Shawnee Mission School District, KS), [“How to Think in the Environmental Humanities,”](#) *Humanities in Class, National Humanities Center*
- 2017 [“Humanities Moment: China Camp State Park.”](#) National Humanities Center
- 2016 “150 Years of Observing San Francisco Bay,” *Fisher Bay Observatory Essay #3* (San Francisco: Exploratorium Science Center)
- 2015 [“Why Did Americans Stop Eating Locally?”](#) Rachel Carson Center Blog
- 2013 Blog entry, “Why I wrote Down by the Bay,” [Save the Bay](#)
- 2013 Conceptual editor, “North Carolinians and the Natural World,” *Tar Heel Junior Historian*, magazine of the North Carolina State Museum of History, Raleigh (Fall issue 2013)

Digital humanities

- 2017- [“Oysters in the City”](#) with C. Piccone, S. Vincent and M. Griffin of the Center for Geospatial Analysis, NC State.
- 2010 “From Salt Ponds to Refuge in San Francisco Bay,” with M. De Groot and K. Harris, Spatial History Project, Stanford
- 2009 “Visualizing Sea Level Rise and Early Bay Habitation, 6000BP to Present: The Emeryville Shellmound,” with A. Norton, Spatial History Project, Stanford
- 2009 Michael De Groot and Matthew Booker, “The Struggle for Ownership of the San Francisco Bay Area, 1769-1972” Spatial History Project, Stanford University
- 2009 Gabriel Lee, Alec Norton, Andrew Robichaud and Matthew Booker, “The Production of Space in San Francisco Bay: San Francisco Bay’s Atlantic Oyster Industry, 1869-1920s,” Spatial History Project, Stanford University
- 2009 Allen Roberts and Matthew Booker, “Shell Mounds in San Francisco Bay Area,” Spatial History Project, Stanford University
- 2008 Gabriel Lee, Alec Norton, Andrew Robichaud and Matthew Booker, “Morgan Oyster Company’s Bay Holdings, 1930”, Spatial History Project, Stanford University
- 2008 Gabriel Lee, Alec Norton, Andrew Robichaud and Matthew Booker, “San Mateo County Bay Ownership, 1877-1927”, Spatial History Project, Stanford University

Talks

- 2023 "Finding Hope in History: Climate Change and the Humanities," The William A. Kinnison Endowed Lecture, Wittenberg University
- 2019 "[The Sourdough Project: How Public Science and History Reveal Stories behind Our Daily Bread.](#)" Environmental Studies program, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME
- 2018 "The Past and Future of Food Production in Urban Estuaries," Environmental Education Program, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
- 2018 "Creating and Performing Stories in the Humanities and Sciences," National Humanities Center
- 2017 "The Rise of Aquaculture & Resurgence of the Oyster Industry in the Southeast," with T. Galivan and T. Callaghan, TerraVita Festival, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2017 "La Subida y Caída de un Alimento Industrial," National Institute of Ecology, Coatepec, Mexico
- 2017 "[The Rise and Fall of the Industrial Oyster.](#)" National Humanities Center
- 2017 Public talk, "Military and Social History of Dunkirk. How We Remember the Past," Marbles Museum, Raleigh
- 2015 "San Francisco Bay's edible past as a shared problem for ecologists and historians," Mellon Ecology and Evolution Seminar, UC Davis
- 2015 "[Visualization as a research tool in the humanities.](#)" NC State Libraries Coffee & Viz
- 2015 "The century-old origins of our contemporary food debates," Environments and Societies Seminar, UC Davis
- 2005 "A brief history of mercury in San Francisco Bay," Department of Environmental and Molecular Toxicology, North Carolina State University
- 2014 "[Why did urban Americans stop eating locally?](#)" Environmental Studies program, Bowdoin College
- 2014 "Why did 20th-century Americans lose their faith in local food?" Rachel Carson Center, LMU, Munich, Germany
- 2014 J. Woff and M. Booker, "[Intimacies of Time and Place: Reading San Francisco Bay.](#)" San Francisco Exploratorium
- 2013 "Down by the Bay: San Francisco's History Between the Tides," [California Historical Society](#), San Francisco
- 2013 "Down by the Bay: Lessons from San Francisco Bay's Past," Chapman Lecture, Chapman University, Orange, CA
- 2007 "San Francisco Bay's Immigrant Oysters, 1860s-1920s: How They Got There, Why They Disappeared, and Why This History Matters," The University of Oregon Environmental Studies Program Distinguished Speaker Series, Inaugural Lecture

Conferences

- 2022 Co-organizer and moderator, "[A Crisis of Caring: The Humanities and Our Health](#)," National Humanities Center
- 2021 "The 'Pacific' Oyster Trade and the Possibilities of Trans-Pacific Environmental History," with K. Ericson, Kyoto University; panel on "Rethinking the Place of Japan in Global Histories of Transplantation," Sixth Biennial Conference of East Asian Environmental History, Kyoto, Japan
- 2021 Co-organizer and moderator, "[In Our Image: Artificial Intelligence and the Humanities](#)," National Humanities Center
- 2019 Co-organizer, moderator, panelist: "[Beyond Despair: Theory and Practice in Environmental Humanities](#)," National Humanities Center, Durham, NC
- 2019 Co-organizer and moderator, "[An Evening with Margaret Atwood](#)," NC State University
- 2019 Moderator, "Rising NC: Art and Sea Level Rise on the North Carolina Coast," African American Cultural Center/Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center, NC State
- 2019 Moderator, Colloquium on Alexander von Humboldt 250th anniversary, Forest History Society, National Humanities Center, and Duke Nicholas School for the Environment

- 2018 “What Sourdough Bread Tells Us About the Anthropocene,” with Lori Shapiro, Harvard Medical School, Anthropocene and Citizen Science: Evidence Gained through the “Opening-up” of Academic Knowledge Production? Deutsches Museum, Munich
- 2017 Conference organizer: “Habitats: The Bay as It Is,” Ed Ricketts and John Steinbeck’s unfinished natural history of San Francisco Bay, Exploratorium Science Center & UC Davis
- 2017 Co-organizer and moderator, “AGES: The Untold Story of GMO Pioneers.” Genetic Engineering and Society Center, NC State
- 2016 Discussant, “Bodies and Structures: Deep-Mapping the Spaces of Japanese History,” UNC-CH
- 2016 “Modifying Tradition: Food safety in the 20th century U.S.,” at “Consuming the World: Eating and Drinking in Culture, History, and Environment.” Rachel Carson Center, Munich
- 2015 “Placing responsibility for food safety in the twentieth century,” American Society for Environmental History, Washington, D.C.,
- 2014 Organizer and Chair, roundtable on urban environmental history, American Society for Environmental History, San Francisco
- 2014 Comment, panel on public history and environmental history, American Society for Environmental History, San Francisco
- 2014 “Lessons from the boom and bust of an Atlantic fishery,” Post-collapse: Ecology and Environmental Humanities conference, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- 2013 Comment, “No Illusions, No Fantasy, No Melodrama: The Legacy of Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*,” 50th Anniversary of Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*, College of Natural Resources, NC State University
- 2012 Organizer and comment, Food + History conference, NC State
- 2012 “Assessing the spatial turn in US history,” Organization of American Historians/National Council of Public Historians, Milwaukee
- 2012 “Making Use of Nature: How resources became commodities in America during the Nineteenth Century,” Organization of American Historians/National Council of Public Historians, Milwaukee
- 2012 “Digital urban environmental histories,” American Society for Environmental History, Madison
- 2010 “How did the Japanese oyster become American?” Society for the History of Technology, Tacoma
- 2010 “Visualizing the Story of San Francisco Bay,” Narrating the Visual Conference, North Carolina State University
- 2009 “Visualizing San Francisco Bay, Doing Spatial History,” Western History Association
- 2009 “Looking Backward to Look Ahead: San Francisco Bay Environmental History and Impending Climate Change,” San Francisco Estuary Institute
- 2009 Chair, “From Sweetwater to Seawater: Integrating Terrestrial and Marine Environmental Histories in the Coastal Zone,” American Historical Association annual meeting, San Diego
- 2007 “San Francisco Bay’s Immigrant Oysters,” European Society for Environmental History meeting, Amsterdam
- 2006 Panelist, “Centering Nature: Humans, History and the Environment,” Method and Meaning: A Workshop in Historical Meaning and Interpretation, Department of History, Duke University
- 2006 “Oysters and Marine History,” Sea Educational Association Marine Environmental History Workshop, Key West, FL
- 2005 Chair and Discussant, “The Chao Praya, Arakawa, and Thames: Re-Engineering Rivers and Societies in Bangkok, Tokyo, and London,” American Society for Environmental History, Houston
- 2004 “Foraging, Private Property, and Environmental Inequality on Bay Area Shorelines,” American Society for Environmental History, Victoria BC

Awards and funded research

- 2025 The Kenan Institute for Engineering, Technology & Science Climate Leaders Program (with Isabella Bartels, MA Public History), 2025 cohort
- 2024 National Endowment for the Humanities, \$471,000 to support scholars conducting advanced humanities research at the National Humanities Center from 2025-2028

- 2022 Luce Foundation Henry Luce Senior Fellow, \$150,000 to increase support for a senior scholar in art history, theology or East Asian studies at the National Humanities Center
- 2022 James P. Geiss and Margaret Y. Hsu Foundation to support a scholar working on a [topic involving Early Modern China](#) and its world at the National Humanities Center, 2023–2026
- 2021 Luce Foundation East Asia Fellowships GR-000001450 \$647,500 to support four Fellows from East Asian universities for two years at the National Humanities Center
- 2020 “[Archive of Agricultural Genetic Engineering and Society](#),” Non-Laboratory Scholarship/Research Program, Provost’s office, NC State
- 2019 Alumni Fellow, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Munich
- 2018 University Faculty Scholar, North Carolina State University
- 2017 “A Field Guide to Your Kitchen,” with R. Dunn, Burroughs-Wellcome Fund
- 2017 Carroll Visiting Professorship in Urbanization, University of Oregon (declined)
- 2016-17 Donnelley Family Fellow, National Humanities Center
- 2015-17 Co-PI, SEED Foundation, “Habitats: Planning for climate change impacts on San Francisco Bay,” Exploratorium Science Center, San Francisco
- 2015-16 Co-PI, USGS Southeast Climate Center, “Connecting Landscape Adaptation and National Cultural Resource Policy to Climate Change and Cultural Resource Adaptation Decisions”
- 2014 Urban Fellow, Fisher Bay Observatory, Exploratorium Museum, San Francisco
- 2014 PI, Chancellors Faculty Excellence Program ~\$4M award to fund “Visual Narrative” faculty cluster creating four tenure lines in History, Art & Design, Computer Science, and Electrical Engineering
- 2014 Carson Fellow, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Munich
- 2012 Academy of Outstanding Teachers, NC State University
- 2012 Outstanding Teaching Award, NC State

Service

- 2022 Advisory Board, Senior Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Affairs, NC State
- 2022 Advisory Board, Triangle Scholarly Communication Institute
- 2021-22 Nominating committee, UNC Press Board of Governors
- 2019-20 Coastal Resilience and Sustainability Initiative, CHASS representative
- 2019- Board of Governors, University of North Carolina Press
- 2019-22 Strategic Planning Committee, Forest History Society, Durham, NC
- 2019- North Carolina Emergency Management Agency Risk Management Coordinating Council for maintenance and update of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- 2019 Global Engagement Committee, NC State/Makerere University-Kampala, Uganda
- 2019 Interdisciplinary tenure review committee, Forestry and Environmental Resources
- 2018-19 Co-chair, 5-year review for Assistant Dean for Interdisciplinary Studies
- 2018-19 Interdisciplinary Research Symposium committee
- 2018-20 Executive committee, Agricultural Biotechnology in Food, Energy, and Water systems (NSF graduate training grant) interdisciplinary graduate training program, NCSU
- 2018 Global Change Fellowship committee, SE Climate Science Center, Raleigh
- 2018 Outside tenure evaluator, Department of History, SUNY-Albany
- 2014-19 Curriculum committee, Department of History, 2014-15, 2017-18, 2018-19
- 2017 Reviewer, Weyerhaeuser Dissertation Award, Forest History Society
- 2015-16 Member, Provost’s Interdisciplinary Tenure Review task force
- 2016- Board of Directors, Forest History Society, Durham, NC
- 2016-17 Advisory Committee, City of Raleigh Museum
- 2014 Advisor: *Above and Below: Stories from Our Changing Bay*, The Oakland Museum of California. Winner, *Western Museums Association Charles Redd Award for Excellence in Exhibitions, 2014.*
- 2014-20 Co-founder and coordinator, [Visual Narrative](#), Chancellor's Faculty Excellence Program
- 2015 Co-founder, [Digital Humanities Collaborative of North Carolina](#)
- 2015-20 Co-founder and director, “AGES: Archive of Agricultural Genetic Engineering and Society,” [Genetic Engineering and Society Center, North Carolina State University](#)

2014-20 Faculty affiliate, Center for Genetic Engineering and Society, NCSU
 2014-15 Board member, Historic Oak View County Park, Wake County, NC
 2014-15 Adviser: Forest History Society, Documentary film on Carl Alvin Schenck, father of forestry in North Carolina, 2014-2015. *Winner: Midsouth Emmy Award for Best Documentary, 2017*
 2013-14 Co-founder, Ecology Book Club, Google Incorporated, Mountain View, CA
 2013 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Fellowship review committee
 2011-13 Intellectual Entrepreneurship working group, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
 2012- Manuscript reviewer for University of North Carolina Press, University of California Press, University Press of New England, University of Washington Press, Pearson Education, Cengage, *Environmental History, Technology & Culture, Agricultural History, The Southeastern Geographer, Journal of American History, Pacific Historical Review, Western Historical Quarterly*, and *Wetlands: The Journal of the Society of Wetlands Scientists*.

Educational work

2024 [“What’s On Tap? Maybe One Day Your Wastewater.”](#) *Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost News*, August 12, 2024
 2022 “Oysters and Waste: Lessons from the Past,” *Wicked Problems, Wolfpack Solutions* (Invited lecture for required course for all incoming undergraduates), NC State
 2018 “Environmental History: Eating the City,” teacher education course, National Humanities Center
 2017 “Space and Place in the Organic City,” Geo-Inquiry Leadership Institute, North Carolina Geographic Alliance, National Humanities Center
 2016 Workshop leader and teaching consultant, Diocese of Newark, New Jersey, Gilder Lehrman Institute
 2016 Workshop leader and teaching consultant, Charles Hayden Foundation/Benjamin Franklin Institute, Boston, Gilder Lehrman Institute
 2013 Consulting scholar, Teaching American History grant (US Dept of Education), Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History and San Bernardino, CA Schools
 2013 Consulting scholar, Teaching American History grant, Gilder Lehrman Institute and Rockland, NY schools
 2012 Consulting scholar, Teaching American History grant (US Dept of Education), collaboration between Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History and Dunlap, TN schools
 2012 Consulting scholar, Teaching American History grant, collaboration between Gilder Lehrman Institute and Algiers, Los Angeles schools
 2012 Consulting scholar, Teaching American History grant, Gilder Lehrman Institute and Morgan Hill, CA schools
 2010 External reviewer, National Park Service. Review of response to National Research Council report on shellfish in Drakes Estero, Point Reyes National Seashore
 2010 Consulting scholar, “Myths and Realities about America’s Changing Frontier: San Francisco,” Teaching American History grant (US Dept of Education), collaboration between Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History and Grangeville, Idaho schools
 2010 Consulting scholar, “History and Memory: Washington, DC,” Teaching American History grant, collaboration between Gilder Lehrman Institute and Clarkston, Idaho schools
 2010 Consulting scholar, “Look at Who We Are: Stories of Home,” National Endowment for the Humanities grant, Grace Hudson Museum, Ukiah, CA
 2009 Consulting scholar, “The City and the Sea: San Francisco,” Teaching American History grant (US Dept of Education), collaboration between Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History and Clarkston, Idaho schools

For information about my many graduate students and collaborative projects, see my faculty website: <https://chass.ncsu.edu/people/mmboker/>