

## MATTHEW MORSE BOOKER

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### *Positions held*

2004- Assistant, Associate, and Professor of American Environmental 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  
2008-14 Primary Investigator, Spatial History Lab, Stanford University  
2008-09 Visiting Assistant Professor, Lane Center for American West, Stanford University

### *Education*

2005 Stanford University - Ph.D. in American History  
1997 University of Oregon - M.S. in Environmental Studies  
1993 Watershed Masters certificate, Washington State University Extension  
1991 University of California, Berkeley - B.A. in Latin American History  
1988-89 Hindu College, University of Delhi, India

### *Peer-reviewed publications*

- 2025 M. M. Booker and K. D. Ericson, "Seed Oyster Inspection, Matsushima Bay (circa 1958)" *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. Finalist, Northern California Book Award
- 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

## Conferences

- 2025 "Where is a Monoculture Made? Transplanting Seed Oysters from Miyagi Prefecture to Washington State and France," with K. Ericson, Kyoto University; panel on "Moving Aquafarms between Material and Social Environments in Transpacific Context," American Society for Environmental History ASEH Presents, February 2025
- 2025 Moderator, panel on "Environmental Histories," History Graduate Student Association conference, NC State
- 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 \$18,000 to support research with and internship for Isabella Bartels, MA Public History
- 2024 National Endowment for the Humanities, \$471,000 to support scholars conducting advanced humanities research at the National Humanities Center from 2025-2028
- 2023 Burroughs Wellcome Fund, \$150,000 to support a scholar working at the intersection of humanities, arts, medicine and science at the National Humanities Center, 2023-2026
- 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 Chancellor's 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*

- 2025- Program Committee, 2026 American Society for Environmental History annual conference
- 2025- Advancement Council, UNC Press
- 2025 Jefferson Scholars interview committee, NC State University
- 2024- Co-founder and co-organizer, Triangle Environmental Humanities Seminar, National Humanities Center, Forest History Society, NC Museum of Natural Sciences, Duke, UNC-CH, and NC State
- 2022 Advisory Board, Senior Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Affairs, NC State



2022 Advisory Board, Triangle Scholarly Communication Institute  
 2021-22, 2025- 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*

#### Talks & Media

2025 ["Beavers are Redefining Campus Culture."](#) Caroline Alexander, *Technician* March 25  
 2024 ["Episode 117: Matthew Booker."](#) Into the Fire: Burning Coal Theatre Company podcast, November 27  
 2024 ["What's On Tap? Maybe One Day Your Wastewater."](#) Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost News, August 12  
 2024 Chef Ricky Moore, 2022 James Beard Award winner and owner of Saltbox Seafood Joint, in conversation with Matthew Booker, Professor of History, [Center for Study of the American South 30th Anniversary Celebration, Chapel Hill, NC](#)  
 2024 ["Oysters: The Luxury Delicacy that was Once a Fast-Food Fad."](#) Veronique Greenwood, BBC April 20  
 2023 ["Finding Hope in History: Climate Change and the Humanities."](#) The William A. Kinnison Endowed Lecture, Wittenberg University

- 2022 ["Filth into Food: Lessons from the Past."](#) Wicked Problems, Wolfpack Solutions, Invited lecture for incoming undergraduates, NC State
- 2020 ["Food Fights: A Civil Conversation about Contemporary Food Debates."](#) The Leading Voices in Food podcast, Duke Sanford World Food Policy Center
- 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 Americans stop eating locally?"](#) Environmental Studies program, Bowdoin College
- 2014 "Why did 20<sup>th</sup>-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

*Other educational work*

- 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
- 2000- Guest lectures in courses at the University of Oregon, Chapman University, Kyoto University, the University of Zurich, University of Stavanger, and North Carolina State University

For information about my students and collaborative projects, see my faculty website:

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