

MATTHEW MORSE BOOKER

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Positions held

2024- 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
2012-24 Associate Professor, NC State University
2008-14 Primary Investigator, Spatial History Lab, Stanford University
2008-09 Visiting Assistant Professor, Lane Center for American West, Stanford University
2004-12 Assistant Professor of American Environmental History, NC State 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 "Who Should Be Responsible for Food Safety? Oysters as a Case Study," 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 Kingle, 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

Awards and funded research

- 2026 Pathfinder grant, Office of Faculty Excellence, \$1000 (declined)
- 2026 Co-PI, The Kenan Institute for Engineering, Technology & Science Climate Leaders Program \$15,000 to support climate research and an internship for Caroline Parker, MA Public History
- 2025 Co-PI, The Kenan Institute for Engineering, Technology & Science Climate Leaders Program \$18,000 to support climate research and an 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, \$180,000 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, \$17,000.
- 2019 Alumni Fellow, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Munich. \$10,000.
- 2018 "Analysis of Temporal Price and Demand Changes for Oysters Based on Historical Menu Data via Statistical Methods," Provosts Professional Experience Program, with Alex Sharif (senior in Mathematics), \$1500.
- 2018 "Oyster lives: Personal histories of an industrial food," Provosts Professional Experience Program, with Safari Richardson (senior in STS), \$1500.
- 2018 University Faculty Scholar, North Carolina State University. 3% permanent raise.
- 2017 "A Field Guide to Your Kitchen," with R. Dunn, Burroughs Wellcome Fund, \$15,000.
- 2017 Carroll Visiting Professorship in Urbanization, University of Oregon (declined) \$30,000.
- 2016-17 Donnelley Family Fellow, National Humanities Center, \$35,000.

- 2016 "Reconstructing the food web of Christopher Columbus' Niña, Pinta and Santa Maria: A multidisciplinary approach," Provosts Professional Experience Program, with Bennett Chapman (senior in History), \$1500.
- 2015-17 Co-PI, SEED Foundation, "Habitats: Planning for climate change impacts on San Francisco Bay," Exploratorium Science Center, San Francisco. \$20,000.
- 2015-16 Co-PI, USGS Southeast Climate Center, "Connecting Landscape Adaptation and National Cultural Resource Policy to Climate Change and Cultural Resource Adaptation Decisions," \$325,000.
- 2014 Urban Fellow, Fisher Bay Observatory, Exploratorium Museum, San Francisco. \$15,000.
- 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. \$10,000.
- 2012 Academy of Outstanding Teachers, NC State University
- 2012 Outstanding Teaching Award, NC State University
- 2008 Lonnie and Carol Poole Award for Excellence in Teaching, NC State University

Recent service

- 2026- Chair, Manuscript committee, UNC Press Board of Governors
- 2025- Program Committee, 2026 American Society for Environmental History annual conference
- 2025- Advancement Council, University of North Carolina Press
- 2025- Jefferson Scholars interview committee, NC State University
- 2024- Co-founder and 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
- 2019-24 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*

Recent talks & Media

- 2026 "150 Years of Engineering San Francisco Bay," Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Stanford University, May 11, 2026.
- 2026 "[The Future Is Older Than We Think](#)," NC Chamber of Commerce Imagine Ag Day, March 12
- 2026 "[Recovering the Organic City](#)," [Envisioning Urban Futures: More Than Human Cities](#), The Long View Project, North Carolina State University, January 28
- 2025 "[Beavers are Redefining Campus Culture](#)," Caroline Alexander, *The Technician* March 25
- 2024 "[Episode 117: The Rainmaker](#)," Into the Fire: Burning Coal Theatre Company podcast, November 27
- 2024 "Turning Waste into Food in the Organic City," NCSU Association of Retired Faculty, October 16
- 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, Sanford World Food Policy Center, Duke University
- 2019 "[The Sourdough Project: How Public Science and History Reveal Stories behind Our Daily Bread](#)," Environmental Studies program, Bowdoin College
- 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 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

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/>