

Tammy S. Gordon

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Current and Recent Positions

Professor of Integrative Humanities and Social Sciences, 2026-present, Department of Integrative Humanities and Social Sciences, North Carolina State University;
Director of Master of Arts in Liberal Studies
Professor of History, 2018-2026 (Associate, 2015-2017), History Department, North Carolina State University, Director of Public History (2018-2023), Interim Director of Graduate Programs (Spring 2018)
Associate Professor of History (Assistant, 2005-2010), University of North Carolina Wilmington, 2005-2015, Director of Public History, 2011-2015
Senior Visiting Research Fellow, University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom, 2012-2014

Education

Ph.D, American Studies, Michigan State University Advisor: Lisa Fine
MS, Kinesiology and Recreation Administration, North Carolina Central University (in progress, expected graduation 2028)
M.A., American Studies, Michigan State University
B.A., English, Northern Michigan University

Research Interests

Leisure and recreation, community studies, transnational cultures, martial arts studies

Books

The Mass Production of Memory: Leisure Travel and Personal Archiving in the Age of the Kodak. University of Massachusetts Press, 2020.
The Spirit of 1976: Commerce, Community, and the Politics of Commemoration. University of Massachusetts Press, 2013.
Private History in Public: Exhibition and the Settings of Everyday Life. Alta Mira Press, 2010.

Digital and Oral History Projects

Interviewer and Project Designer, "Aikido Dojos, Transnational Exchange, and Small Business: An Oral History," Oral History Online Collections, sponsored by the Hagley Library and Museum (in progress)
Project Manager, Researcher, Editor, [Brick Layers: A Historical Atlas of NC State Campus](#)
Creator and Facilitator, [NC HB2: A Citizens' History](#)

Creator and Blogger, [Tammy's Museum Walkabout](#)
Creator and Editor, [Department of Cultural References](#)
Creator and Editor, [NC State Public History Youtube Channel](#)

Teaching Experience

North Carolina State University:

Courses: MLS 501: Visual Rhetoric of Sport and Leisure; HA 410: History of the Art of Photography; HI 240: Introduction to Visual Culture; HI588: Family and Community History, HI596: Introduction to Public History, HI 589: Interpretation at Parks and Historic Sites, HI254: Modern US History, HI300: Sophomore Seminar, HI792: Colloquium in Modern US Cultural History, HI 789: Public History in International Context

Study Abroad Programs: Public History in Prague, Czech Republic (2018); History of Japanese Influences on US Culture, Japan (2024); Visual Studies in Historical Context, Japan (2025)

University of North Carolina Wilmington:

History 570: Introduction to Public History, History 572: Education and Interpretation at Museums and Historic Sites, History 571: Care and Management of Historical Collections, History 574: Museum Exhibition, History 202: United States History Since 1865, History 480: Museum Management, HST 573: Special Topics in Public History: Public History in International Context, HST 290: The Practice of History, HST 295: Contemporary Issues in Historical Perspective: International Heritage Tourism, HST 270 Global Issues in Historical Perspectives: The History of Tourism

Museum Experience

Assistant Curator, Exhibits Division, Michigan State University Museum, 1999-2004

Primary responsibility: Exhibit development at six Michigan Department of Natural Resources State Fish Hatcheries, including immersion environments, re-creations, over 25 miles of interpretive trails, core exhibits, and site-specific exhibits relating to fisheries history at the state, local, and national levels.

Assisted development of exhibits at MSU Museum site's three galleries with rotating exhibits, with two-three new exhibits installed per year.

Articles, Reviews, and Presentations

Selected Articles and Reviews:

“‘Aikido Practitioners in Every Country Should Change and Unite with the Tradition’: Kisshomaru Ueshiba, Historical Memory, and the Internationalization of Aikido, 1948–1984,” *International Journal of the History of Sport*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09523367.2024.2407992>

“Individuals in the Crowd: Privacy, Online Participatory Curation, and the Public Historian as Private Citizen,” *Handbook of Digital Public History*, edited by Serge Noiret and Mark Tebeau, DeGruyter Press, 2021

With Matthew Champagne, Sarah Soleim, Katie Schinabeck, and Lisa Withers, "Q: 'Sir, would you like a history of this monument? A: 'F**k You!'," *History@Work*, March 21, 2018,

<http://ncph.org/history-at-work/q-sir-would-you-like-a-history-of-this-monument/>

"The Exhibition and the Funeral: Commemoration as Display," in Seth Bruggeman, ed. *Commemoration: The American Association of State and Local History Guide* Lanham, Maryland: Roman and Littlefield, 2017. 15-19.

"Cold War Doughboy." *Art From Flour: Barrel to Bag*. Exhibition Catalogue. *Art From Flour: Barrel to Bag*. Edward Irvine, Curator and Catalogue Editor. Wilmington, NC: Cameron Art Museum, 2016. 98-101.

"'Take Amtrak to Black History': Marketing Heritage Travel to African Americans in the 1970s," *Journal of Tourism History*, Vol. 7, Issue 1-2 (2015): 54-74.

"History, Heritage and the Museological Function of Sports Bars." In *The Dynamics of Interconnections in Popular Culture(s)*, edited by Ray Browne and Ben Urish, 36-52. Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014.

Review of *David Bowie Is*, Victoria and Albert Museum, *The Public Historian*, Vol. 35, No. 3 (August 2013): 116-119.

"Visual Agency: The Photograph as an Instrument for Change," *History: Reviews of New Books*, 41 no. 2 (July 2013): 87-90.

Review of Seth Bruggeman, ed., *Born in the U.S.A: Birth, Commemoration, and Public Memory*, *Journal of Southern History*, Vol. 79, no. 4. (November 2013): 1022-1023.

Exhibit review of *Voyagers: Britons and the Sea*, *The Public Historian*, Vol. 34, No. 1 (Winter 2012): 146-149

Review of Stephen Conn, *Do Museums Still Need Objects?*, *American Historical Review*, Vol. 116, Issue 5 (December 2011):1442.

Exhibit Review of The Olde Mill House Printing Museum. *Journal of American History*, Vol. 97, No. 1 (June 2010): 120-123.

"Heritage, Commerce, and Museal Display: Toward a New Typology of Historical Exhibition in the United States," *The Public Historian*, Vol. 30, No. 3 (Summer 2008): 27-50.

Exhibit Review of Palace of the Governors, *The Public Historian*, 29, No. 4 (Fall 2007): 91-93.

Presentations:

"Applied martial arts studies: making the case for the undergraduate curriculum in a humanities context," Martial Arts Studies Association Conference, Brighton, UK, July 2026.

Co-presenter, "How to Host a CampingCon: From Site-Selection and Fundraising to Publicity and Programming," National Council on Public History annual meeting, Montreal, Canada, April 2025

"Muscle Memory: Physical Training and the Transnational Oral History of Aikido in the United States," Public History and Divulcation, University of Quilmes, Argentina, May 22-23, 2023

"The Global Public Memory of Aikido: Japan, the US, and Digital Memory Practices in a Movement Community," Digital Diaspora Symposium, Australian Catholic University Rome Campus, Rome, Italy, December 5-7, 2022

"The Body Rhetoric: Re-creating Historical Physical Movement at Museums and Historic Sites," National Council on Public History National Meeting, May 2-6, 2022 (online)

"'The Conscience of the Nation': Shaping the Future with Historical Thinking," Gerald Aylmer Seminar New Ways to Work: Future Directions for Archival and Historical Practice, Institute of Historical Research, School of Advanced Study, University of London, September 17, 2021 (online)

Papers accepted for presentation during Summer 2020 that were canceled due to the pandemic: ALPH: Italian Federation for Public History (Venice), World Archaeological Congress (Prague), International Federation for Public History (Berlin)

With Melody Hunter-Pillion and Lisa Withers, "Incorporating History in Study Abroad: A Traveling Historians' Workshop," Workshop on Cultural Skills Enhancement, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, February 12-14, 2020.

"Personal Archiving and the Memory Emergency: The Legacy of Vernacular Photography of the First World War in the US," National Council on Public History, Hartford, Connecticut, April 2019

“Photographic Culture and the Roots of US Tourist Behaviors Abroad, 1888-1932,”
TEMA+ Visiting Scholar Lecture, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, March 6,
2019

“The Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation: Activism and the Preservation of
Urban History in the US,” The Resilience of Heritage in Resilient Cities Symposium,
Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, November 2018

“A Lost Cause in the Town Square: Competing Claims on Local History in Raleigh,
North Carolina,” The Role of Historians in Public Life: A Symposium, NC State
European Center, Prague, Czech Republic, June 2018

“Privacy, Safety, and Digital Public History in Times of Political Instability: A Case
Study from North Carolina,” International Federation for Public History Annual
Conference, Ravenna, Italy, June 2017

“‘Gee, that’s Eatin’: American Historical Memory, Food Service, and the Visual
Culture of Rail Travel in the Early 20th Century,” International Federation for
Public History Annual Conference, Ravenna, Italy, June 2017

“The Mass Production of Memory: Tourist Experience and Personal Archiving in
the Age of the Kodak Brownie,” Department of New England and American
Studies, Boston University, February 27, 2017 (invited lecture)

“NC HB2: A Citizens’ History: The Collective Power of Individual Experience,” NC
State University GLBT Center LGBT History Month Lecturer, NC State University,
October 20, 2016.

“Activities for the Outdoor Classroom: Connections Between History and STEM
Education,” Camping Con 2016: Outside Public History, Great Smoky Mountains
National Park, October 7-9, 2016

“‘A heart-gripping Kodak story’: Vernacular Photography, American Culture, and
the First World War,” Voices of the Home Fronts Conference, The National
Archives and the Everyday Lives in War Engagement Centre, London, UK.
September 8-10, 2016 (presented via video)

“‘The World is mine—I own a KODAK: Tourism, The Eastman Kodak Company,
and the Making of the Recording Class,” International Federation for Public
History, Bogotá, Colombia, July 7-9, 2016

With Alix Green, “Public History Pond Crossing: Lessons from Transatlantic
Teaching Collaborations,” on a panel called *Collaboration in Public History
Training: Practices, Projects, and Limits*, National Council on Public History.
Baltimore, Maryland. March 16-19.

“Wandering Among the Crumbling Wonders’: American Tourists, Photography, and the Usable Past in the Late Nineteenth Century,” International Committee of Historical Sciences and the International Commission for the History of Travel and Tourism, Jinan, China, August 2015 (presented via video)

“Kodak as you go’: Tourism, Gender, and Marketing the Camera to U.S. Consumers, 1881-1931,” University of Hertfordshire’s History Weekend, Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, UK, February 2015

“The People’s Bicentennial Commission and the Politics of Commemoration,” Invited Talk, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK, February 2015

“The 5K: Fit For History,” American Association for State and Local History Annual Conference, St. Paul, Minnesota, September 19, 2014

“Sides Trips in Camera-Land’: Kodak, Mass Travel, and American Historical Imagination, 1888-1930,” *Faculty Fridays Series*, UNCW, April 11, 2014

“The Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation: A Case Study in Activism, Consumerism, and Public History,” at *From Engagement to Activism: Public History as Civic Responsibility*, a symposium at North Carolina State University, April 5, 2014.

“Helping Communities Manage Historical Resources: Community Engagement and the UNCW Public History Program,” North Carolina Campus Compact 2014 Civic Engagement Institute, Wilmington, North Carolina, February 4, 2014.

“Education in Global Public History: Curricular Innovations in the University of North Carolina Wilmington Public History Program,” poster presentation of the joint meeting of the American Association for State and Local History and the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience in Birmingham, Alabama, September 19, 2013.

“Grand Tour Portraits and the Growth of Heritage Tourism: The History of a Travel Trope,” National Popular Culture Association Conference, Washington, D.C. March 29, 2013

“The Spirit of 1976: Commerce, Community, and the Politics of Commemoration,” Institute for Historical Research Public History Seminar, University of London, United Kingdom February 20, 2013.

With Alix Green, “Public History in Practice: The Responsibilities of Historians” at the University of Hertfordshire Research Conference at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, United Kingdom in February 2013.

"Internationalizing the Public History Curriculum: Prospects and Challenges," UNCW History Department Faculty Friday Series, Wilmington, North Carolina, February 2012.

"Self-Presentation and the Exhibition Medium: Subaltern Voices in Small Museums and Non-museum Settings in the United States," Peopling the Past Conference, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, United Kingdom, July 2011.

"'Take Amtrak to Black History': Marketing Heritage Travel to African Americans, 1964-1989," National Council on Public History Conference, Pensacola, Florida, April 2011

"Public History Programs and Historical Resources: University/Community Dynamics in the North Carolina Gullah Geechee Heritage Corridor, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Raleigh, North Carolina, October 2010

"BuyCentennial Sellabration: Market Segmentation, Mass Consumption, and Historical Memory in 1976," National Council on Public History National Conference, Portland, Oregon, March 2010.

"Public History Programs and Historical Resources: University/Community Dynamics in the North Carolina Gullah Geechee Heritage Corridor," National Council on Public History National Conference, Portland, Oregon, March 2010. Also presented at Association for the Study of African American Life and History annual meeting, Raleigh, North Carolina, October 2010.

"'We look for museums just like this': International Visitors' Perceptions of Small History Museums in the United States," National Council on Public History National Conference, Providence, Rhode Island, April 2009.

"Local History, Global Economy: Small Museums and Heritage Tourism in the United States," *International Popular Culture Association Conference*, Reykjavik, Iceland, August 2007.

"'Old Things Can Break Down Barriers': Race, Ethnicity, and Communication in Small Historical Museums, *National Council on Public History Meeting*, Santa Fe, New Mexico, April 2007.

"The Difference Between Popular and Public History: Case Studies in Exhibition Media of Mid-American States" *National Popular Culture Association Conference*, Atlanta, Georgia, April 2006.

“Exhibits Practice/Historical Practice: Exhibits Standards and Guidelines at Work in History Displays,” *Great Lakes History Conference*, Grand Valley University, October, 2004

“‘Can After Can of Wriggling Government Bass Fry’: Community Politics, Fish Resources, and Northern Michigan Fish Hatcheries, 1900-1930.” *Great Lakes American Studies Association Conference*, Youngstown, Ohio, October 2001

Doctoral Committee Chair

Apostolopoulos, Petros. "Discussing the Past: The Production of Historical Knowledge on Wikipedia," 2022

Gevorg Vardanyan, “Remembering *Medz Yeghern*: Armenian Genocide and Armenian Americans, 1890s–1965,” 2023

Matthew Champagne, “Things Not Allowed in the House: Interpreting the Queer Past at Museums and Historic Sites,” 2024

Shima Hosseininasab, “The Story of Two Breaches (and a Beheaded Bust): (Re)Shaping Public Memory by Radical Interventions in Monuments,” 2024

JoCora Moore, “Let the Work I’ve Done, Speak for Me: The Civil Rights Activism of Modjeska Monteith Simkins and the Preservation of Black Women’s History,” 2025

Kawan Allen, In progress

Mandy Paige-Lovingood, in progress

Masters Theses Chair

Guertin, Beth, *Preserving the Local in World Heritage: History, Tourism and UNESCO at Angkor Archaeological Park*, 2014

Ward, Elan, *Veterans, Oral History, and Humanitarian Military Intervention: Expanding the Voices in Public History Projects*, 2014

Allen, Kawan, *Tools of Oppression, Agents of Change: Jim Crow, Google Searches, and the Unmet Potential of the History Web*, 2013.

Deadmon, Kara, *The Correct Thing to Do?: Preservation and Interpretation at the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum*, 2012.

Scott, Jennifer, *Growing Community: A History of GROW, Wilmington, North Carolina’s First Gay and Lesbian Organization*, 2012.

Smith, Jo-el, *Fun For Everyone: A History of Popular Culture Museums*, 2012

Bell, Chris, "The Least Restrictive Museum: Programming for Cognitively Disabled Visitors to North Carolina History Museums," 2011.

Nowack, Katie, *Altared States of Building: Examining the Church-to-Bar Trend in the North and Midwest*, 2011.

Bricker, Jesse, *Thinking Inside the Box: History-in-a-Box Programming and the American Civil War*, 2010.

Jamet, Christine, *An Analysis of Associations Between History Museums and Community Colleges : Students' Perceptions of History Museums*, 2010

Griffiths, Colleen, *In Service of Society: Conflicts of Curatorship in 1976 Bicentennial Museum Exhibitions*, 2010.

Nappo, Meaghan, *Not a Quiet Riot: Stonewall and the Creation of Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgender Community and Identity Through Public History Techniques*, 2010.

SanCartier, Shannon, *Fort Fisher State Historic Site: A Crossroads of National and Local Memory*, 2010, Winner of the History Department's Best Thesis Award.

Wallace, Danielle, *The Visitor's Battleship: A Visitor Study of the Battleship North Carolina*, 2010.

Student Curated Exhibitions Led

Soldiering On: The 1918-19 Influenza Pandemic at NC State College, D.H. Hill Library, December 2016

Still Standing: Why Slave Dwellings Matter, a collaboration with the Bellamy Mansion Museum and The Slave Dwelling Project, Bellamy Mansion Museum, May 2015

Push and Pull: Eastern European and Russian Migration to the Cape Fear Region, UNCW Public History Graduate Student Gallery, April 2014 and Pender County Library, October 2014

Tangible Reminders: Tourist Souvenirs and the History of Travel, UNCW Public History Graduate Student Gallery, opened November 2012.

Feeding Tradition: A History of Tidal Creek Cooperative Food Market, a collaboration with Tidal Creek Cooperative Food Market, opened April, 2012.

Development Through Leisure: A History of Beach-Going in Carolina's Playground, 1880-1970, opened at Federal Point History Center in Carolina Beach, NC, April 2012.

Flashback: Community Life Through the Lens of Mack Munn, a collaboration with the Lower Bladen Columbus Historical Society, opened April 2011, winner of the National Council on Public History's Student Project Award, 2012. Opened April 2011 in the UNCW Public History Graduate Student Gallery, North Carolina Museum of Forestry, Pender County Library, Bladen County Library, Bellamy Mansion Museum.

DisSpirit of '76: Bicentennial Commemorations and the American Seventies, opened April 2010, UNCW Public History Graduate Student Gallery.

Spent: Myth and Reality of American Consumerism in the 1980s, opened April 2009, UNCW Public History Graduate Student Gallery.

Rethreading an Industry: Garment Workers, Mass Production & Collective Action, 1890-1920, opened April 2008, UNCW Public History Graduate Student Gallery.

Shaping Society: American Sports and Fitness in the Cold War Era, opened November 2006, UNCW Public History Graduate Student Gallery.

Facing Changes: Expressions of Teens and Young Adults in the 1970s, opened November 2005, UNCW Public History Graduate Student Gallery.

Programming, Committee Work, and Service

Appearance as consultant, *Beyond The Belt - The Legend of Karriem AbdAllah*, documentary by Troy Thomas, 2025

Ad Hoc Committee on Equity and Diversity, 2020, NC State History Department Convener, NC State Public History Program Visiting International Scholar Week, 2020

Co-convener with Jaroslav Ira, "The Role of Historians in Public Life: A Symposium," NC State University European Center, Prague, Czech Republic, June 8, 2018

Program Committee, International Federation for Public History annual meeting, Sao Paulo, Brazil, August 2017

Founding Member, Historians for a Better Future

Organizer, "Free History Lessons," Historians for a Better Future, 2017-2018

Convener and Organizer, with Anne Whisnant, [Camping Con 2016: Outside Public History](#)

Graduate Committee, NCSU History Department, 2015-present

Pack Promise Coach (mentor for first-generation college students), NCSU, 2016-2020
 Chancellor's Leadership Program Advisory Board (mentoring system for first generation/economically college students), NCSU, 2017-2020
 Organizer, "Public History for Public Policy? Recovering the Democratic Imperative," a talk by Alix Green of the University of Hertfordshire (UK), UNCW, 2012
 UNCW History Department Committees: Planning, Graduate, Public History, 2005-2015
 Editor, UNCW History Department Newsletter, 2009-2011
 Organizer, "Surviving the Atomic Bomb: A Talk with Chieko Ishihara," UNCW, 2012
 Consultant, Cape Fear Museum of Science and History, 2007-2008
 Board of Trustees, Lower Cape Fear Historical Society, 2006
 Volunteer Grant Writer, Lansing Public Schools, Lansing, 2003
 Chair, Exhibits and Education Committee, MSU Museum
 Organizer, "Creative Re-Use," MSU Museum Earth Day Event, April 2002

Awards and Honors

NC State Student Government Open Access Education Award, NC State University, 2022
 Hagley Oral History Grant, Hagley Library and Museum, Wilmington, Delaware, 2022 for "Aikido Dojos, Transnational Exchange, and Small Business: An Oral History."
 TEMA+ Visiting Scholar Award, European Union, Charles University, Prague 2018-2019
 Graduate Faculty Mentor Award, NC State University, 2018
 KREAS Travel Award, Charles University, Prague, 2018
 Office of Global Engagement International Travel Assistance Fund, NC State, 2017
 Global Engagement Institute, NC State, 2016
 History Department Nominee for UNCW Graduate Mentor Award, 2013-2014
 Engaged Teaching Fellow Grant, 2013
 History Department Nominee for UNCW Faculty Scholarship Award, 2012-2013
 History Department Nominee for UNCW Graduate Mentor Award, 2011-2012
 UNCW Global Citizenship Grant, 2011, 2014
 UNCW Cahill Research Grant, 2008-2009
 UNCW Moseley Awards, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2011
 UNCW Center for Teaching Excellence Summer Pedagogy Development Award, 2007, 2011
 UNCW International Travel Grant, 2007, 2011, 2013
Discere Aude Award for Undergraduate Mentoring, 2009
 UNCW Summer Research Initiative Grant, 2006, 2014

Professional Memberships

Martial Arts Studies Association
 Leisure Studies Association

Other Activities

Yondan, Aikido, Hemlock Bluffs Aikido, Aikido World Alliance (Sato)

Dojo Cho, Hemlock Bluffs Aikido, <http://hemlockbluffsaikido.org/>