

**CHARLOTTE LEIB**  
<http://charlotteleib.com>

Department of History  
Yale University  
New Haven, CT 06511

(973) 647-2661  
[charlotte.leib@yale.edu](mailto:charlotte.leib@yale.edu)  
ORCID: 0009-0000-4300-8051

## **EDUCATION**

Yale University

Ph.D. Candidate in US History, Aug. 2019 – present  
Graduate Certificate in Environmental Humanities, 2023  
Teaching Race Certificate, Center for Race, Indigeneity and Transnational Migration, 2024

Harvard University, Graduate School of Design

Master in Landscape Architecture, 2019  
Master in Design Studies, History and Philosophy of Design and Media, with Distinction, 2019

Princeton University

Bachelor of Arts in Architecture, 2013  
Certificates in American Studies and Urban Studies, 2013

## **DISSERTATION**

“An Environmental and Energy History of the New Jersey Meadowlands”

Committee: Paul Sabin (Chair, Yale University); Lauren Benton (Yale University);  
Joyce Chaplin (Harvard University); Sonja DümpeImann (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München,  
Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society).

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Environmental Humanities Fellow, Fall 2025, Spring 2026

New Haven Environmental History Project (Paul Sabin)

Teaching Fellow, total of six semesters from 2021–25; Dissertation Fellowship Year 2023–24

Climate & Environment in American History (Mark Peterson)  
American Energy History (Paul Sabin)  
American Architecture & Urbanism (Elihu Rubin)  
Introduction to Urban Studies (Elihu Rubin)  
Global Catastrophe Since 1750 (Bill Rankin)  
Botanical Bodies: Plants, Medicine & Colonial Science (Elaine Ayers)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“[Provisioning Parks in Petrochemical America: Origins and Legacies of the Land and Water Conservation Fund](#).” In *Journal of Energy History* 12, no. 1 (2024): 1–39. Special issue on environmental histories of the petroleum industry, edited by Cyrus Mody, Odinn Melsted & Simone Schleper.

\* Awarded the 2026 Alice Hamilton Prize from the American Society for Environmental History.

### Peer-Reviewed Chapters in Edited Volumes

“Parks, Planning, and the Quest for Justice in Newark’s ‘Sacrifice Zone.’” In *New Jersey’s Natures: Environmental Histories of the Garden State*, edited by Raechel Lutz. Rutgers University Press, May 2026: 41–68.

\* Awarded the 2026 Landscape History Chapter Essay Prize from the Society of Architectural Historians.

“A Place for Pèhpastèk: Colonial Growth and Indigenous Resistance in the New Jersey Meadowlands.” *Roots to Skylines: Hybrid Labor & Planetary Building*, edited by Clemens Finkelstein & Sonia Sobrino Ralston, Harvard University Press, forthcoming 2028.

#### Digital Humanities and Map-Based Publications

“[Wild Rice and Munsee Lenape Lifeways in the New Jersey Meadowlands](#).” Contribution to [Our Land, Our Stories](#) website, edited by Anita Bakshi and developed in collaboration with the Rutgers University Landscape Architecture Department and Ramapough Lunaape Nation. Part of a larger series, “Plants and Munsee Lenape Lifeways...” September 2025—ongoing.

“[Prelude to a Revolution: How maps, scarcity, and severe weather combined to shape the new American Republic, and a revolution we’re still waiting on](#).” Boston Public Library, Leventhal Map & Education Center website. Three-part series. January 28, February 25 & March 18, 2026.

\* Featured in NiCHE Canada’s Environmental History Worth Reading monthly newsletter.

#### Exhibition Catalog Entries

“David Zeisberger, ‘Essay of a Delaware-Indian and English spelling-book.’” In *1776 Across the Americas*, forthcoming publication for the John Carter Brown Library, forthcoming 2027.

#### Other Writing

“[Healing Wounds of Light: Birds, Cities, and the Fast, Slow and Forgotten Violence of Artificial Illumination](#).” *The Metropole*, The Official Blog of the Urban History Association. October 8, 2025.

\* Awarded the 2025 Urban History Association Graduate Student *Metropole* Essay Contest Prize.

\* Featured in NiCHE Canada’s Environmental History Worth Reading monthly newsletter.

“[Engineering Nature, Igniting Risk: LA’s Fires and A Century of Landscape Manipulation](#).” *The Metropole*, The Official Blog of the Urban History Association. May 27, 2025.

\* Recognized as one of the top three “most-read” *Metropole* articles of 2025.

“[Turning Towards Action in Landscape History](#),” with John Dean Davis, Margot Lystra, and Pollyanna Rhee. A reflection on the stakes and concerns of the field of landscape history and its future. *PLATFORM: A digital forum for conversations about buildings, spaces, and landscapes*. January 9, 2023.

#### Design & Environmental Communications Publications

[Cambridge Guide to City Trees](#). Cambridge, MA: Cambridge Department of Public Works, 2020.

“Site and Shelter: Design for the ‘Whole Landscape,’” [Platform 12: How About Now?](#), edited by Carrie Bly, Isabella Frontado, and Natasha Hicks. Harvard University Graduate School of Design; Actar, 2019.

\* Master in Design Studies Thesis Profile and Excerpts.

“The Desert Bloom File,” [Platform 10: Live Feed](#), ed. Jon Lott and John May. Harvard University Graduate School of Design; Actar, 2017. \* Landscape Architecture Studio Project, with Pierre Bélanger, et al.

Staff contributor (draft project text, image curation, graphic design correspondence), Kate Orff & SCAPE / Landscape Architecture, [Toward an Urban Ecology](#). The Monacelli Press, 2016.

“Fountain Square,” “West Austin Historic District,” “Temple Square,” and “Salt Lake City Capitol Historic District,” [Society of Architectural Historians Archipedia](#), edited by Gabrielle Esperdy, Karen Kingsley. Charlottesville: UVaP, 2012—. Co-authored with Thaisa Way.

#### Book Reviews

“Review of Rebecca K. Wright, *Moral Energy in America: From the Progressive Era to the Atomic Bomb* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2025).” *Journal of Energy History*, forthcoming, 2026.

“[Review of Jane Hutton, \*Reciprocal Landscapes: Stories of Material Movements\*](#) (Routledge, 2020).” *Journal of Landscape Architecture* 15, no. 2 (2020): 86–87.

“[Dümpelmann, \*Seeing Trees: A History of Street Trees in New York City and Berlin\*](#) (Yale University Press, 2019),” with Evan Friss, and Catherine McNeur (commentators); Sonja Dümpelmann (author); and Kara Schlichting (editor). *H-Environment Roundtable Review* 10, no. 2 (2019).

## PRIZES

Alice Hamilton Prize

for best article published outside of the journal *Environmental History*  
awarded by the American Society for Environmental History, 2026

Society of Architectural Historians’ Landscape History Chapter Essay Prize

for an outstanding article or chapter concerning the history of designed landscapes  
awarded by the Society of Architectural Historians, 2026

Graduate Student Essay Prize

for best publication in an essay contest on the theme of “light” in urban history  
awarded by the Urban History Association’s *The Metropole*, 2025

Best Paper on Housing Prize

for Master in Design Studies Thesis, “Site and Shelter: Design for the ‘Whole Landscape’”  
awarded by the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies, Harvard University, 2019

Joseph Sanford Shanley 1917 Memorial Prize in Architecture

awarded to an outstanding graduating senior for travel and research  
School of Architecture, Princeton University, 2013

## FELLOWSHIPS

Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Short-Term Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society, 2026–27

Moore Family Fellowship in the Making of the American Landscape, Garden Club of America, 2026–27

Robert Rettig Annual Meeting Fellowship, Society of Architectural Historians, 2025

Samuel Smith Fellowship for Research in New Jersey History, New Jersey Historical Commission, 2023–24

Fellowship, Center for Digital Scholarship, American Philosophical Society, 2023–24

Short-Term Fellowship, John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, 2023–24

Yale Club of Philadelphia Research Fellowship, 2023–24

Short-Term Fellowship, New-York Historical Society, 2018–19

Bell Fellowship, Forest History Society, 2017

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Dean’s Merit Scholarship, Master in Design Studies Program, Harvard University, 2017–19

The Land Conservancy of New Jersey Scholarship, for Masters at Harvard University, 2016–17

Boston Society of Landscape Architects Scholarship, for Masters at Harvard University, 2016–17

Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar, State of New Jersey, 2009–10

## SELECTED GRANTS

John Nolen Research Fund Award, Cornell University Manuscripts & Collections, 2025–26

Law, Environment & Animals Program Grant, Yale University, 2025–26

Early Career Digital Publications Grant, Boston Public Library Leventhal Map & Education Center, 2023–24

Getty Specialized Library Research Grant, Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, 2019–20

Research Travel Grant, Oak Spring Garden Foundation, 2019

Research Travel Grant, Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies, 2019

Garden and Landscape Studies Graduate Workshop Grant, Dumbarton Oaks, 2017

Penny White Project Grant, Harvard University 2017

## CONFERENCE TRAVEL GRANTS

Multiple grants received from 2017–26 from: Yale University; Harvard University; Johns Hopkins University; National Science Foundation; Omohundro Institute; Society of Architectural Historians; American Society for Environmental History; Society for American City and Regional Planning History; Society for the History of Technology; Urban History Association; Dumbarton Oaks; and other institutions.

## RECENT & UPCOMING PANELS *(selected)*

- “Melting Ice, Warming Waters, and Wildfires: Political and Economic Responses to Greater New York City’s Changing Climate, 1879–1881.” Panel: “Cities Aflame: The Politics of Fire and Climate Change in Modern America.” Chair/Commentator: Lily Geismer (Claremont McKenna College). American Political History Conference. Washington, D.C. June 2–4, 2026.
- “A New Lens on the End of the Little Ice Age: Periodizing climate change in the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions with nineteenth-century ice trade records.” New Perspectives in Environmental History, Northeast Environmental History Conference, Yale University. February 28, 2026.
- “Wild Rice and Munsee Lenape Lifeways in the New Jersey Meadowlands.” Urban History Association Conference. Digital Projects Exhibition. Los Angeles, CA. October 10, 2025. \* Project featured in University of Richmond’s November 2025 *New American History*, “All History is Local” newsletter.
- “How Landscape Architects Became Plastic Consumers: A History.” Panel: “Environmental Histories of Plastics 1: Plastic Producers.” Chair: Finn Arne Jørgensen (University of Stavenger, Norway). Convened by Elsa Devienne (Northumbria University, UK). European Society for Environmental History Conference. Uppsala, Sweden. August 18–22, 2025.
- “Revolutions in the Grass: Little Ice Age Agricultural Adjustments and the Acceleration of the 1740–1770s in the Middle Colonies.” Panel: “Climate, Commodities, and Colonial Life.” Chair: Matthew Mulcahy (Loyola U. Maryland). Comment: Eric Herschthal (U. of Utah). 28th Annual Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture Conference. Charleston, South Carolina. June 13, 2025.
- “Shifting States: Sand Drains and Saltmarsh Urbanism, 1933–20XX.” Panel: “Dividing Lines: The Legacy of the Interstate in the American City.” Chairs: Amanda Reeser Lawrence (Northeastern University) and Lucy Maulsby (Northeastern University). Society of Architectural Historians 78th Annual International Conference. Atlanta, Georgia. May 2, 2025.
- “The New Jersey Meadowlands, Warfare, and the Making of the ‘Petroleum World.’” Panel: “The Petroleum Century and the Transformation of Global Landscapes.” Chair: Brian Black. 4th World Congress of Environmental History. Oulu, Finland. August 22, 2024. \*co-convened with Blake Earle (Texas A&M University at Galveston).
- “Fixing Petrocapital: How Offshore Oil Money Has Shaped American Landscapes and Waterfronts.” Panel: “Petroculture and American Society.” Chair: Darin Barney (McGill University). Petrocultures Conference, “Oil Cities and Post-Oil Cities.” Los Angeles, California. May 16, 2024. \*Presentation described as “illuminating” in *Artforum* (October 1, 2024). See: “[On Site: After Oil...](#)”
- “The Designed Landscapes of the Black Freedom Movement in Watts, Los Angeles.” Panel: “Change, Time, and Designed Landscapes.” Chair: Marc Treib. 2021 Society of Architectural Historians 76th Annual International Conference. Virtual due to COVID. [View the presentation here.](#)

## GUEST LECTURES *(selected)*

- “Historical Land Use Analysis Using Sanborn Maps, Aerial Flyover Imagery, and Satellite Imagery.” American Environmental History. Undergraduate lecture course taught by Prof. Dr. Paul Sabin. Yale University. October 29, 2025.
- “Recovering Histories of Plants and People in a Forgotten Plantation Landscape.” Botanical Bodies: Plants, Medicine & Colonialism in the History of Science. Undergraduate course taught by Dr. Elaine Ayers. Yale University. February 13, 2025. Week 5: “The Rise of Plantation Agriculture.”

- “Research Methods in Environmental History” (lecture) and “Georectifying IIF Maps” (in-class exercise). Survey of Methods for Environment and Society. Graduate course in the environmental humanities taught by Dr. Spencer Adams. Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany. January 28, 2025 (virtual).
- “Sustainable Urban Design Theory.” Guest lecture for undergraduate course taught by Prof. Dr. Pollyanna Rhee, Dept. of Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Nov. 7, 2023.
- “Urban Sidewalks, Living Infrastructures.” Guest remarks in Introduction to Urban Studies undergraduate lecture course taught by Prof. Dr. Elihu Rubin. Yale University. September 9, 2021.

### **INVITED TALKS** *(selected)*

- “Between Place and Planet: Digital Tools for Public Scholarship in the Environmental Humanities.” American Philosophical Society Fellows Cohort. February 25, 2025.
- “The Needle in the Haystack: Charting New Energy Histories of Early America with Plants, Maps, and Digital Methods.” Leventhal Map & Education Center, Boston Public Library. December 4, 2024 (virtual).
- “Allmaps and the Power of Assemblage: Integrating Layered Maps and Digital Collections on a Static Site.” National Endowment for the Humanities Allmaps Public Convening, coordinated by Ian Spangler and Garrett Dash Nelson, American Geographical Society Library, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Boston Public Library Leventhal Map & Education Center. November 18, 2024 (virtual).

### **WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS** *(selected)*

- “Provisioning Parks in Petrochemical America: Origins and Legacies of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.” Special issue workshop: Black and Green? Towards an Environmental History of the Oil Industry.” Organizers: Odinn Melsted, Cyrus Mody, and Simone Schleper (Maastricht University), Christof Mauch (Rachel Carson Center). Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society. Munich, Germany. June 15–16, 2023.
- “Trees and their representation, meaning, and use in Verplanck Colvin’s Adirondack Surveys, 1872–1899.” Garden and Landscape Studies Graduate Workshop. Dumbarton Oaks Research Library, Washington, DC, June 5–23, 2017.

### **ROUNDTABLES & COMMENTS** *(selected)*

- “Growth, Obsolescence, and Resistance in the New Jersey Meadowlands.” Roundtable: “Growth, Obsolescence and Resistance at Historical Crossroads.” Chairs: Megan Black and Jamie Jones. American Society for Environmental History (ASEH) Annual Conference. Kansas City, Missouri. March 28, 2026. \*convener and panelist
- “Energy Transitions and Emplaced Interpretations: The Haying Landscapes of Martin Johnson Heade and George Bellows.” Roundtable: Extraction’s Visual Cultures: Workshopping Media, Materiality, and Methods. Chair: Dolly Jørgensen (University of Stavanger, Norway). ASEH Annual Conference. Denver, Colorado. April 4, 2024. \*panelist and co-convener, with Jessica Varner (UPenn)
- “Reimagining Flooding in the Era of Climate Change: What Environmental History Offers to Navigate a Watery World.” Chair: Preston Decker. ASEH Annual Conference. Denver, Colorado. April 4, 2024. \*commentator
- “Irrigation Then & Now: Navigating Histories, Challenging Norms.” Deep Dive Session, “Water or Waste? Adaptive Approaches to Water Resources Management.” American Society of Landscape Architects Annual Conference on Landscape Architecture. Minneapolis, MN. October 27–30, 2023. [Session Guide available here](#). \*panelist and co-convener, with Meg Griscom (Reed Hilderbrand)

“Mapping Lively Landscapes.” Roundtable: “How to Map: A Roundtable on Cartography and GIS for Environmental Historians.” Convened by Geoffrey Wallace (G. Wallace Cartography & GIS). Chair: Kathleen Brosnan. ASEH Annual Conference, Boston, Massachusetts. March 22–26, 2023. \*panelist

“Forest Planting and Community Renewal in Urban Landscapes.” Chair: Joanna Dean (Carleton University). American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference. Eugene, Oregon. March 23–27, 2022. \*commentator and co-convener, with Maria Taylor (Cornell University)

“Landscape Citizenships: A Roundtable.” Yale Environmental Humanities and Yale Environmental History \*convener of public event with Thaisa Way, Ed Wall, Tim Waterman and Jane Wolff. Oct. 29, 2021.

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

Visiting Critic, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Department of Architecture/Geofutures Program, 2026

Mentor, UConn Landscape Architecture Professional Development Course, Fall 2025

Mentor, 1stGenYale program for first-generation and/or low-income undergraduates, 2021–23

Graduate Representative, Yale Environmental Humanities Steering Committee, 2021–23

Graduate Coordinator, Yale Environmental History Working Group, 2021–23

Visiting Critic, Harvard Design Discovery Program, Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD), 2018

Oral History Coordinator, Women in Design Lineage Project, Harvard GSD, 2016–18

Class Representative, Master in Landscape Architecture 2019 cohort, Harvard GSD, 2016–17

Graduate Assistant, NEH City/Nature Urban Environmental Humanities Institute, Seattle, WA, 2017

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Oral Historian, Society for American City & Regional Planning History, Internal History Project, 2026–

Social Media Coordinator, Urban History Association Biennial Conference, 2025

Fellowship Application Reader, Oak Spring Garden Foundation, 2024

Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Architectural Education*, 2024

Contributor/volunteer, #FliptheList ASEH initiative to diversify Wikipedia’s “[List of environmental books](#),” 2020

Media Officer, American Society for Environmental History Graduate Student Caucus, 2018–19

## EMPLOYMENT

Expert Witness, Civil Litigation Cases, US Environmental History, 2025–present

History Tutor, 2024–present

Public Communications, Lecture Preparation, Ghostwriting, Design Services: multiple design firms, 2013—23

Designer, Research Advisor, Intern Coordinator, Entry-Level Hiring, Reed Hilderbrand, 2021–23

Street Tree Surveyor; Publication Designer, City of Cambridge Dept. of Public Works, 2019–20

Freelance Landscape Designer, Margie Ruddick Landscape Architecture, 2018, 2013

Exhibition Design/Curatorial Research Staff, OMA/AMO, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 2018

Editorial Staff, Urban Farming Practices Manual, Urban Farming Institute, Boston, MA, 2016

Technical Assistant, Design and Fabrication Lab, Harvard Graduate School of Design, 2015–19

Studio Assistant, SCAPE Landscape Architecture, New York City, 2014–15

Junior Architectural Designer, Design Made, Morristown, NJ, 2014

Community Outreach Intern, Yestermorrow Design/Build School, Waitsfield, VT, 2013

Swimming Coach, The Swimming Hole, Stowe, VT, 2013

Kilo Architectures, Intern, Paris, France, 2012

## CONSULTING ON EXHIBITIONS & FILMS

Historical consultant for and speaker within a Connecticut Humanities Council-sponsored film on the Stephen Mather US National Historic Site in Darien, CT. Contributions include: commentary on Native American and settler colonial histories of New England; Mather’s controversial legacy as the first Director of the US National Park Service. *American Issues Initiative*. 2025–present.

Exhibition consultant, “[Hudson Rising](#),” New-York Historical Society, 2018–19

## **DIGITAL & COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS**

Mapping software: ArcGIS, QGIS, Leaflet, AllMaps.

Design & illustration software: AutoCAD; Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign.

Modeling software: Rhinoceros, SketchUp, Grasshopper, ClimateStudio.

Digital humanities tools: GitHub, VSCodium, panel-truck web UI tool, IIF image integration,

Wax static site generator with Jekyll, Wordpress.

Basic coding experience: HTML, CSS, Markdown, Javascript, Lightweight webmap development.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL & TECHNICAL SKILLS**

Schematic design and design development drawings for buildings and landscapes;

Climate adaptation planning; geospatial analysis; cartography; site grading and modeling;

Design-build project development; carpentry; woodworking; materials specification;

Hydrological analysis; stormwater catchment design; planting design and soils assessment;

Woody plant identification; street tree identification; graphic design; landscape representation;

Green roof design-build certification.

## **LANGUAGES**

English (fluent)

French (reading: advanced; speaking: intermediate; writing: elementary)

German (reading: intermediate; speaking: beginner)

Dutch (reading: beginner)

Lenape (reading: beginner)

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

American Historical Association

American Society for Environmental History

Landscape Research Group

Society of Architectural Historians, Landscape History Chapter

Society for American City & Regional Planning History

Society for the History of Technology

Urban History Association

## **HISTORY REFERENCES**

Dr. Paul Sabin

Randolph W. Townsend, Jr. Professor of History, American Studies, and Environment, Yale University

Email: paul.sabin@yale.edu

Phone: (203) 848-7199

Dr. Joyce Chaplin

James Duncan Philips Professor of Early American History, Professor of American Studies, Harvard University

Email: chaplin@fas.harvard.edu

Phone: (617) 496-3597

Dr.-Ing. Sonja Dümpelmann

Professor and Chair of Environmental Humanities,

Co-Director Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Email: sonja.duempelmann@rcc.lmu.de

Phone: +49 (0) 89/ 2180- 72352 (Germany)

Dr. Lauren Benton

Barton M. Biggs Professor of History and Professor of Law, Yale University

Email: lauren.benton@yale.edu

Phone: (203) 432-7285