

**Finding the Lost Region: Third Midwestern History Conference**

**DRAFT SCHEDULE**

**FREE TO ATTEND AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**Wednesday, June 7, 2017**

**Grand Valley State University**

**Grand Rapids, Michigan**

**7:00 AM – 7:45 AM**

**Annual Business Meeting for the  
Midwestern History Association**

**9:00 AM – 10:00 AM**

**Morning Plenary Address:**

“The Surprising New Political Battleground: The Midwest.”

Michael Barone, American Enterprise Institute.

**Michael Barone** is Resident Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and Senior Political Analyst for *The Washington Examiner*. He is principal coauthor of the biennial *Almanac of American Politics*, first compiled in 1972 and published by the National Journal Group for three decades. The 2018 edition of the *Almanac* is forthcoming from Columbia Books and Information Services (July 2017). Barone has written many books on American politics and history, which have been published by Crown, Free Press, and others.

# 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

## First Panel Session

- **“African-American History in the Midwest.”**
  - Chair: **Roy Finkenbine**, University of Detroit Mercy.
  - “Forgotten Son: Oscar Charleston, Midwestern Sports Legend.”  
**Jeremy Beer**, American Philanthropic, LLC.
  - “Black Anarchists in the Midwest.”  
**Michelle Campbell and Wesley R. Bishop**, Purdue University.
  - “The African-American Community of Sioux Falls, 1900-1927.”  
**Stephen R. Cusulos**, Independent Scholar.
  - “Jazz and Kansas City: The Integration of the African-American Community.”  
**Kevin Silva**, Elmhurst College.
  
- **“Business, Labor, and Capitalism in the Midwest in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries.”**
  - Chair: **Jon C. Teaford**, Purdue University.
  - “Old Crow Wing: Midwestern Frontier Fur Trade Capitalism in Crow Wing County, Minnesota, 1800-1850.”  
**John Byczynski**, Western Michigan University.
  - “Discovery of a New Story: The Stockton Township Teacher Strike of 1919.”  
**Dan Golodner**, Wayne State University.
  - “Gilded Frontiers and the Middle West.”  
**Andrew Offenburger**, Miami University.
  - “Farming by Rail: Demonstration Trains and the Rise of Mobile Agricultural Science in the Great Plains.”  
**David D. Vail**, University of Nebraska at Kearney.

**10:15 AM – 11:45 AM**

**First Panel Session (continued)**

- **“Great Lakes History Roundtable: The Past and Future of Maritime History in the Heartland.”**
  - **Dana Brown**, Chattanooga State Community College.
  - **Matthew Daley**, Grand Valley State University.
  - **Lynne Heasley**, Western Michigan University.
  - **Theodore J. Karamanski**, Loyola University Chicago.
  - **Jay C. Martin**, Central Michigan University.
  
- **“The History of Punk Rock in the Midwest.”**
  - Chair: **Dave McMahon**, Kirkwood Community College.
  - “Youth Gone Mad: Rockford Rebels Re-Ignite the Rust Belt’s Radicalism, 1970s-2000s.” **David Ensminger**, Lee College.
  - “‘Livin’ in Sin With a Safety Pin’: The Importance of Cleveland in the Punk Rock Movement.” **Rachael Price**, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.
  - “‘The Recline of Midwestern Civilization’: Midwest Punk and the 1980s.” **Jonathan Williams**, Boston University.

**10:15 AM – 11:45 AM**

**First Panel Session (continued)**

- **“Latinos in the Twentieth-Century Midwest: Pushing the Boundaries of Latino and Midwestern History.”**
  - Chair: **Delia Fernández**, Michigan State University.
  - “‘Too Long in a Position of Patron’: Latino-Serving Organizations, Religion, and Fights for Self-Determination in Civil Rights-Era Milwaukee.”  
**Sergio M. González**, University of Wisconsin – Madison.
  - “Ethnic Mexican Migrants in the Industrial Midwest and the Settlement House Movement: Gary, IN, 1919-2001.”  
**Felicia Morales**, University of Notre Dame.
  - “Meatpacking, Mexican Immigration and the Transformation of a Midwest City.” **Carolina Ortega**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
  - “Forging a Midwestern Mexican Community: Seasonal Labor and Consulate Activities in Kansas and Nebraska During the Twentieth Century.”  
**Bryan Winston**, Saint Louis University.
  
- **“Midwestern Politics in the Progressive Era.”**
  - Chair: **Jason Duncan**, Aquinas College.
  - “Exploring Michigan’s Role in the City Manager Movement.”  
**Neal Buckwalter**, Grand Valley State University.
  - “Woman Suffrage and Civic Responsibility in the Midwest: South Dakota, 1914.” **Sara Egge**, Centre College.
  - “Belle Maniates’ Novel *David Dunne*: Champion of the Progressive Movement?” **Patricia Oman**, Hastings College.

**10:15 AM – 11:45 AM**

**First Panel Session (continued)**

- **“Midwestern Regionalism.”**
  - Chair: **Jon Lauck**, Midwestern History Association.
  - Commentator: **Wendy Griswold**, Northwestern University.
  - “The American Midwest: A Region or an Anti-Region?”  
**Bruce Bigelow**, Butler University.
  - “Commemoration and Confrontation: Patriotic Nationalism in the Antebellum Midwest.” **Adam Criblez**, Southeast Missouri State University.
  - “Legacy of Dissent: The Civil War Roots of Midwestern Regionalism.”  
**Christopher Phillips**, University of Cincinnati.
  - “The Midwestern Roots of Theories of Regionalism and Cultural Pluralism.”  
**Michael C. Steiner**, California State University – Fullerton.
  
- **“Over There, Back Here: Midwestern Experiences During World War I and Its Aftermath.”**
  - Chair: **Jo Ellyn Clarey**, Greater Grand Rapids Women’s History Council.
  - “Julia Grace Wales and Wisconsin’s Plan to End the First World War.”  
**Deborah Buffton**, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse.
  - “‘About Broken Down with Ceaseless Work’: Care of the Ill and the Dead in Rural Areas, and Small Cities and Towns of the Midwest during the Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919.” **Gari-Anne Patzwald**, Independent Scholar.
  - “Between Bolos and the British: Perils and Privations of American Doughboys in Northern Russia, 1918-1919.”  
**Jeff Schultz**, Luzerne County Community College.

**10:15 AM – 11:45 AM**

**First Panel Session (continued)**

- **“Settling the Midwest: Origins, Migrations, Genealogies.”**
  - Chair: **John E. Miller**, South Dakota State University.
  - “From the Highlands to the Plain: Scottish Heritage in the Midwestern United States.” **Thomas Richardson**, National Personnel Records Center, NARA.
  - “The Distribution and Origins of German Natives in the Old Northwest in 1850.” **Gregory S. Rose**, The Ohio State University at Marion.
  - “‘We took Ohio without firing a shot!’: Southern Appalachian Migrants Invade the Midwest.” **Emily B. Wagner**, Loyola University Chicago;  
**Thomas E. Wagner**, University of Cincinnati;  
**Phillip J. Obermiller**, University of Cincinnati.

**12:00 PM – 12:30 PM**

**Lunch Break**

**12:45 PM – 1:45 PM**

**Afternoon Plenary Address:**

“From Fort Detroit to Ferguson: Why Studying Black Midwestern History Matters.”

Erik S. McDuffie, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Erik S. McDuffie** is Associate Professor in the Department of African American Studies and the Department of History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Currently, he is working on a new book-length manuscript, tentatively titled “Garveyism in the Diasporic Midwest: The American Heartland and Global Black Freedom, 1920-1980.” In 2016, he won a National Endowment of the Humanities fellowship to complete the book. He is the author of *Sojourning for Freedom: Black Women, American Communism, and the Making of Black Left Feminism* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2011). The book received the 2012 Wesley-Logan Prize from the American Historical Association and the Association for the Study of African American Life & History, as well as the 2011 Letitia Woods Brown Book Prize from the Association of Black Women Historians. He earned his Ph.D. in history in 2003 from New York University with a concentration in the African diaspora and U.S. history since 1865. A sixth generation Midwesterner, his family hails from the United States, Canada, and St. Kitts.

# 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

## Second Panel Session

- “**Fermentation and Frontiers: Midwestern Beer in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries.**”
  - Chair: **Patrick Pospisek**, Grand Valley State University.
  - Commentator: **William Kerrigan**, Muskingum University.
  - “The ‘White Alien’: German Immigrants, Brewing, and Citizenship in 1850s Chicago and Cincinnati.” **Brian Alberts**, Purdue University.
  - “‘The Cultural Struggle of Immigrant Workers’: Ethnic Fluidity Among Immigrant Brewery Workers in Chicago and Milwaukee, 1895-1914.”  
**Alison Orton**, University of Illinois at Chicago.
  - “Community Memory: Midwest Craft Brewing and Hyperlocal History.”  
**Josh Sopiartz**, Governors State University.
  
- “**Heartland Heritage: Parks and Public History in Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin.**”
  - Chair: **Scott St. Louis**, Grand Valley State University.
  - “Indiana State Parks and the Landscape of Modernity.”  
**Steven Burrows**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
  - “For the Enjoyment of the People: The Creation of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.” **Kathy S. Mason**, University of Findlay.
  - “The Case for Josette Juneau: Wisconsin’s Fur Trade History in Public.”  
**Mia Phifer**, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.

# 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

## Second Panel Session (continued)

- “Histories of Religion in the Midwest.”
  - Chair: **Dave McMahon**, Kirkwood Community College.
  - “Wisconsin Marianism and Upper Midwestern Catholic Culture, 1858-2010.”  
**Michael Pfeifer**, City University of New York.
  - “For God and Country: Case Studies of Early American Muslims in the Midwest.” **Ryan Schuessler**, Independent Scholar.
  
- “Innovative Approaches to Native American History in the Midwest.”
  - Chair: **Sean O’Neill**, Grand Valley State University.
  - “Applying Game Theory to the Strategic Options Available to Tecumseh’s Native Confederacy for Control of the Lower Great Lakes Prior to the War of 1812.” **Evelyn M. Buday**, Ivy Tech Community College.
  - “‘The young folks [want] to go in and see the Indians’: Davenport Citizens, the Press, and Dakota Prisoners of War.”  
**Linda Clemmons**, Illinois State University.
  - “Indigenous Nations and Settler Resentment: From the Reagan Era to the Rise of Trump.” **Doug Kiel**, Northwestern University.
  - “Surveying as an Act of War: Conflict over Land Assessment in U.S. Imperial Expansion and in Potawatomi ‘Survivance.’”  
**David B.H. Lehman**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

# 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

## Second Panel Session (continued)

- **“The Intellectual History of the Midwest.”**
  - Chair: **Paul Murphy**, Grand Valley State University.
  - “Rural Realists and Other Romantics: Agrarianism from Hamlin Garland to John Mellencamp.” **Michael Allen**, University of Washington Tacoma.
  - “Wild Ideas and Rites of Autumn: Dan O’Brien’s ‘Difficult’ Land Ethic.” **Tycho de Boer**, Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota.
  - “Horace M. Kallen, Wisconsin, and the Midwestern Roots of Cultural Pluralism, 1911-1918.” **Michael C. Steiner**, California State University – Fullerton.
  
- **“Midwestern Editors’ Roundtable: Shaping Midwestern History.”**
  - **Ray Boomhower**, Indiana Historical Society Press.
  - **Kathy Borkowski**, Wisconsin Historical Society Press.
  - **Sara Phillips**, Wisconsin Historical Society Press.
  - **Laura Weber**, Minnesota Historical Society Press.

# 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

## Second Panel Session (continued)

- **“Roundtable on Teaching the Midwest.”**
  - **Bruce Bigelow**, Butler University.
  - **Matthew Daley**, Grand Valley State University.
  - **Matthew N. Vosmeier**, Hanover College.
  - **Fred Witzig**, Monmouth College.
  
- **“The Woman’s Committee of the WWI Council of National Defense in the Midwest.”**
  - Chair: **Jo Ellyn Clarey**, Greater Grand Rapids Women’s History Council.
  - “Creating ‘An Army of Housewives’: The Woman's Committee Food Programs of World War I.”  
**Anita Anthony-VanOrsdal**, Michigan State University.
  - “Hooverizing and Managing the Nation’s Women: The Example of Jasper County, Indiana.” **Sue Caldwell**, Indiana Genealogical Society.
  - “Schoolyard Patriots: Municipal Housekeepers and Government in Grand Rapids, Michigan.” **Jayson Otto**, Aquinas College.

# 3:45 PM – 5:15 PM

## Third Panel Session

- **“Art, Industry, Politics, and War: The Midwest in the Mid-Twentieth Century.”**
  - Chair: **Pamela Riney-Kehrberg**, Iowa State University.
  - “Selling Iowa: The Iowa Industrial Development Commission and the Recruitment of Industrial Manufacturing, 1945-1960.”  
**Coreen Derifield**, East Central College.
  - “John Steuart Curry’s Agricultural Army.”  
**Lara Kuykendall**, Ball State University.
  - “The Isolationist Stance of Ohio Senators Robert Taft and John Bricker after World War II.” **Bernard Lemelin**, Université Laval.
  - “Prisoners of War in World War II Michigan.”  
**Gregory Sumner**, University of Detroit Mercy.
- **“From Wilderness to World Class City: An Exploration of Identity Within the City of Holland by the Holland Film Group.”**
  - **Rob Byrd**, Moondog Productions.
  - **Robert P. Swierenga**, Hope College.
- **“The New Midwestern Politics? A Roundtable on 2016 and Beyond.”**
  - Chair: **Ted Frantz**, University of Indianapolis.
  - **Sergio M. González**, University of Wisconsin – Madison.
  - **Cory Haala**, Marquette University.
  - **Matt Reiter**, University of Wisconsin – Madison.

# 3:45 PM – 5:15 PM

## Third Panel Session (continued)

- **“Poverty, Power, and the Plow: Midwestern Interactions with Slavery and Social Welfare.”**
  - Chair: **Kathryn Schumaker**, University of Oklahoma.
  - “The Agricultural Roots of Midwestern Social Welfare.”  
**Megan Birk**, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.
  - “Negro Town: A Farming Settlement of Runaway Slaves on Ohio’s Wyandot Grand Reserve.” **Roy E. Finkenbine**, University of Detroit Mercy.
  - “‘Do Help Us Out of Our Troubles’: The Origins of the Myth of the Second Party System.” **Andrew Wiley**, University of Calgary.
  
- **“Preserving the Voice of the Individual: A Panel Presented by Members of the Board of the Michigan Oral History Association.”**
  - Chair: **Richard Peiffer**, G. Robert Vincent Voice Library at Michigan State University.
  - “The Importance of Oral History.”  
**Geneva Kebler Wiskemann**, Michigan Oral History Association.
  - “Oral History Projects.”  
**Jim Cameron**, Michigan Department of Education.  
**Donna Odom**, Society for History and Racial Equity.  
**Karen Schaumann**, Schoolcraft College.
  - “The Michigan Oral History Association.”  
**Richard Peiffer**, G. Robert Vincent Voice Library at Michigan State University.

# 3:45 PM – 5:15 PM

## Third Panel Session (continued)

- “**Regional and Rural Identities in the Midwest.**”
  - Chair: **Ned Watts**, Michigan State University.
  - “Defining Success on the Great Plains: An Individual Interpretation.”  
**Brandon Duxbury**, Iowa State University.
  - “‘A Perfect Community’: When the Agricultural History You Write About Is Your Own.” **Zachary Michael Jack**, North Central College.
  - “‘This is not Wobegone’: Rural Identity and Robert and Nell Peters.”  
**Patricia Stovey**, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse.
  
- “**The Significance of Agriculture in the Civil War Era.**”
  - Chair: **R. Douglas Hurt**, Purdue University.
  - “Indiana Agriculture During the Civil War.”  
**Richard F. Nation**, Eastern Michigan University.
  - “Midwestern Agriculture and Radical Republican Politics: Oliver P. Morton’s Nationalist Vision of Indiana in the Civil War Era.”  
**A. James Fuller**, University of Indianapolis.
  - “Agriculture, Nationalism, and Civil War Memory at the Centennial Exhibition, 1876.” **Krista Kinslow**, Boston University.

# 3:45 PM – 5:15 PM

## Third Panel Session (continued)

- **“The Uses of Public Memory in the Rural American Midwest.”**
  - Chair: **David Zwart**, Grand Valley State University.
  - “The Uses of the Past: Public Memory and Farm Historical Pageantry During the 1920s.” **Nancy Berlage**, Texas State University.
  - “‘Then We Traveled by the North Star’: African-American Remembrances of Slavery and War in Central Iowa, 1865-1922.”  
**David Brodnax**, Trinity Christian College.
  - “Little House and Little Church: Memory and the Church in the Published Works of Laura Ingalls Wilder.” **John J. Fry**, Trinity Christian College.
  
- **“Woods, Water, Weather, and Wilderness: Navigating, Conserving, and Transforming Midwestern Environments.”**
  - Chair: **William Kerrigan**, Muskingum University.
  - “The Amazing Journey of the *Grand* and the *Rapids*: Traversing Wisconsin in a 1909 Steamboat.” **Charles Baclawski**, Independent Scholar.
  - “‘We realize that this is a long term proposition’: Soil and Water Conservation in Ottawa County, Michigan, 1935-1955.”  
**Matthew Daley**, Grand Valley State University.
  - “Booming the Cutover: The Campaign for Explosives in the Wisconsin Forest, 1916-1928.” **James Kates**, University of Wisconsin – Whitewater.
  - “Indiana’s Wilderness Fight, 1973-1983.”  
**Kevin McKelvey**, University of Indianapolis.

**5:30 PM – 7:00 PM**

**Reception in Honor of**

**Midwestern History Association Award Recipients**

**7:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

**Evening Plenary Addresses:**

**Locating New Frontiers in Midwestern History**

“Approaching a New Historical Atlas of Midwestern History with  
Deep Maps and Digital History.”

**Jason A. Heppler**, University of Nebraska at Omaha.

**Jason A. Heppler** is Digital Engagement Librarian and Assistant Professor of History at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and a researcher in Stanford University's Spatial History Project. A historian of the North American West with a particular interest in suburbanization, politics and political culture, environmental history, and urban history, he is completing his first book on environmental politics in Silicon Valley after World War II. His work explores the postwar growth of the region and the ways that urban growth led to ecological disaster, introduced social inequality, and jumpstarted debates about urban sustainability. While Silicon Valley's high-tech companies were imagined as a clean alternative to the Rust Belt, the growth, manufacturing, and economic activity introduced challenges to the region's wildlife and its residents. Heppler earned his B.A. in history from South Dakota State University, and M.A. and Ph.D. in history from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

“What is the Midwest? A Question for the Newberry Library.”

**D. Bradford Hunt**, Newberry Library.

**D. Bradford Hunt** is Vice President for Research and Academic Programs at the Newberry. He is the co-author, with Jon B. DeVries, of *Planning Chicago* (American Planning Association Planners Press, 2013), which examines urban planning initiatives in Chicago since the 1950s. His history of the Chicago Housing Authority, titled *Blueprint for Disaster: The Unraveling of Chicago Public Housing* (University of Chicago Press, 2009), won the Lewis Mumford Prize from the Society of American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH) for the best book in North American Planning History in 2008-09. He will serve as president of SACRPH in 2018-19. Prior to the Newberry, he was a vice provost and dean at Roosevelt University, where he was also professor of social science and history. He received his Ph.D. in history from the University of California, Berkeley, and his B.A. from Williams College.