

Andrew Wender Cohen

Department of History
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs
Syracuse University
awcohe01@maxwell.syr.edu

Employment

Professor—History – Maxwell School– Syracuse University— 2016 to 2017, 2022 to Present.

Dr. Walter Montgomery and Marian Gruber Professor— History – Maxwell School– Syracuse University— 2017 to 2022.

Associate Professor—History – Maxwell School– Syracuse University – 2005 to 2016.

Assistant Professor—History – Maxwell School– Syracuse University – 1999 to 2005.

J. Willard Hurst Fellow – Institute for Legal Studies –Wisconsin Law– 1997 to 1999.

Researcher – Public Citizen’s Congress Watch, Washington, D.C. – 1991.

Education

University of Chicago–Ph.D., History, awarded with Distinction, 1999.

Columbia College, Columbia University – A.B., History, 1990.

Books

Anthony Comstock’s Gilded Age: Sex and the Law in Victorian America (current research project).

Gangster of New York: A Violent Life in Nineteenth Century America, Cambridge University Press, 2026.

Contraband: Smuggling and the Birth of the American Century. W.W. Norton & Co. 2015.

The Racketeer’s Progress: Chicago and the Struggle for the Modern American Economy, 1900-1940. Cambridge University Press, 2004. Paperback , 2009.

Articles

“Comstock, Reconstruction Politics, and Moral Surveillance.” *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 23:4 (October 2024): 438-444

“Enforcing Gender at the Polls: Transing Voters and Women’s Suffrage before the American Civil War.” *Journal of Social History* 56:2 (Winter 2022): 386-410. With Carol Faulkner.

- “Ideology Under Fire.” *Reviews in American History* 48:3 (2020): 397-402.
- “Resisting Judgment.” *LABOR: Studies in Working Class History* 10:3 (2013): 95-100.
- “Unions, Modernity, and the Decline of American Economic Nationalism.” *American Right and U.S. Labor*. Eds. Lichtenstein & Shermer, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012.
- “There Was a Crooked History.” *LABOR: Studies in Working Class History* 8:2 (2011): 59-64.
- “Smuggling, Globalization, and America’s Outward State, 1870-1909.” *Journal of American History* 97:2 (2010): 371-398.
- Symposium on Amar’s *The Constitution: A Biography*. *Syracuse Law Review* 59 (2008): 56-8.
- “Labor and the Law.” *Encyclopedia of U.S. Labor and Working Class History*. Routledge, 2006.
- “The Racketeer’s Progress: Crime, Commerce, and Law in Chicago, 1919-1929.” *Journal of Urban History* 29:5 (2003).
- “Obstacles to History? Modernization and the Lower Middle Class in Chicago, 1900-1940.” *The Middling Sorts: Explorations in the History of the American Middle Class*, eds. Bledstein and Johnston. Routledge, 2001.
- “Business Myths, Lawyerly Strategies, and Social Context: Ernst on Labor Law History.” *Law and Social Inquiry* 23:1 (1998).
- American Legal History Research Guide: University of Chicago and Chicago Area Research Libraries and Archives*. With Richard Ross et al. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1994.
- “Teamsters,” “Material Service Corporation,” “Labor Law.” Entries in *Encyclopedia of Chicago History* (University of Chicago Press, 2005).
- Review. Vaz, *Running The Numbers: Race, Police, and The History of Urban Gambling* (2020) in *Journal of African American History*.
- Review. Unterman, *Uncle Sam’s Policeman* (2015) in *Journal of American History*.
- Review. Witwer, *The Shadow of the Racketeer* (2009) in *LABOR* 7:3 (2010).
- Review. Smith, *Borderland Smuggling* (2006) in *Business History Review* 81:4 (2007).
- Review. Lindberg, *To Serve and Collect* (1998) in *Law and History Review* 21:1 (Spring 2003): 241.
- Review. Robertson, *Capital, Labor, & State* (2000) in *Enterprise and Society* 2:4 (2001): 850.

Commentary

“When Americans Loved Taxes,” *Politico Magazine*, 9/7/2015.

“Capitol Crimes: Sex, Violence, And Congressional Scandals Through History.” *Writ* (Findlaw.com), 7/18/2001.

“Why ‘Close Winners’ Seldom Stay Long in the White House.” *CNN.com*, 12/5/2000.

“Increasing the Size of Congress Could Limit Campaign Spending.” *CNN.com*, 6/30/2000.

They Love to Fly, and It Shows: An Analysis of Privately Funded Travel by Members of Congress, 1989-90. With M. McCauley. Wash., D.C.: Public Citizen’s Congress Watch, 1991.

PACking the Deck: How Political Action Committees Give to Both Candidates. With J. Hatch. Wash., D.C.: Public Citizen, 1991.

Awards, Fellowships, and Honors

Citation for Excellence in Graduate Education—Syracuse University—2019.

Otey and Barbara Scruggs History Faculty Scholar—Syracuse University—2012-15.

Fellow – American Council of Learned Societies—2010-11.

American Fellow – Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study – 2005-6.

Fellow – National Humanities Center – 2005-6 (declined).

Daniel Patrick Moynihan Award – Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University – 2005.

John M. Olin Faculty Fellow – National Association of Scholars – 2002-3.

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow – Newberry Library – 2002-3 (declined).

Appleby-Mosher Research Fellowship – Syracuse Univ. – 2000, 2001.

J. Willard Hurst Fellow for Legal History – Institute for Legal Studies— 1997-9.

Mellon Dissertation Fellowship – Andrew W. Mellon Foundation – 1996-7.

Dissertation Fellowship – Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation – 1996.

Littleton-Griswold Fellowship– American Historical Association – 1995.

University Fellowship – University of Chicago – 1991 to 1995.

Younger Scholars Fellowship – National Endowment for the Humanities – 1989.

Team of the Year (Top in U.S.) – American Parliamentary Debate Assn. – 1989.

Quarterfinalist – World University Debate Championships – 1989.

Papers, Presentations, and Other Significant Work

Panelist. “The Origins and Legacy of the Comstock Laws.” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting. Chicago, Ill. April 4, 2025.

Commenter. History of Capitalism Seminar. Newberry Library. Chicago, Ill. October 6, 2023.

Chair. “The State: Economy and Finance.” British American Nineteenth-Century History Conference. Queens College, Oxford University (UK). Sept. 22-24, 2023.

Commenter. History of Capitalism Seminar. Newberry Library. Chicago, Ill. Jan. 27, 2023.

“Incarceration and Capitalism: Rethinking the Historical Relationship.” Work, Capitalism, And Democracy: Past, Present, and Future. Center for the Study of Work, Labor, and Democracy. University of California, Santa Barbara. May 20-21, 2022.

“Other Suffragists, Other Stories: Women’s Rights, Gender, and Illicit Voting before the Civil War.” History Department Workshop. Syracuse University. November 6, 2020. With Carol Faulkner.

“Women Voters and Male Violence in Antebellum America.” “How Long Must Women Wait for Liberty?” Woman Suffrage and Women’s Citizenships in the Long History of the 19th Amendment. Université de Lille / Université Paris-Est Marne-la-Vallée. January 8-10, 2020.

Invited Talk. “Anthony Comstock’s Gilded Age.” University of Minnesota Law School Legal History Workshop. Minneapolis, MN. November 2018.

Paper. ““They are blind to the abilities of colored men’: The Douglass Family, African Americans, and the United States Civil Service.” Frederick Douglass Across and Against Times, Places, and Disciplines. Université Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3. Paris, France. October 2018.

Paper. “Anthony Comstock’s Gilded Age.” Intimate State: Gender, Sexuality, and Governance in Modern U.S. History. Brown University. Providence, RI. February 2018.

Invited Talk on *Contraband: Smuggling and the Birth of the American Century*. Northern District of New York Federal Court Bar Association Dinner. Albany, NY. December 2017.

Roundtable on “A Public Service Workforce for the Future.” Tanner Day. Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. Syracuse, NY. October 2017.

Invited Talk on *Contraband: Smuggling and the Birth of the American Century*. University of Tennessee. Knoxville. March 2017.

Invited Talk. “Metropolitan Freebooters: The Rough Workers Who Made the Erie Canal.” Erie Canal Museum. Syracuse, NY. March 2017.

Chair. Roundtable on the 20th Anniversary of Lizabeth Cohen’s *Making a New Deal*. Urban History Conference. October 2016.

Invited Talk on *Contraband: Smuggling and the Birth of the American Century*. University of Paris, Sorbonne III. Institut de Monde Anglophone, June 2016.

Paper. “Dr. Tradelove: How FDR Taught Americans to Stop Worrying and Love the World.” Policy History Conference. June 2016.

Invited Talk on *Contraband: Smuggling and the Birth of the American Century*. University of California. Berkeley. May 2016.

Chair. “Who Remade the Modern American City? Private Sector Civic Leadership and Urban Change 1945-2000.” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting. April 2016.

Invited Talk. “Body Searches, Smuggling, and the Origins of the Right to Privacy,” Brandeis University. Department of History. March 2015.

Respondent. Jesse Hoffnung-Garskoff. “How Migration to New York Shaped the Politics of Race and Citizenship in Late-19th Century Cuba.” A lecture in honor of Otey Scruggs. Maxwell School. October 2014.

Roundtable Participant, “State of the Field: American Legal History,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting. April 2013.

Roundtable Participant, “The One Percent,” Business History Conference. March 2012.

“Gilded-age Smuggling, Globalization, and the Origins of the Right to Privacy,” Institute Judiciary, Politics, and the Media, Syracuse College of Law. April 2012.

“The Smuggler’s Story: Contraband and the Nineteenth-Century Economy,” Capitalism by Gaslight Conference, Library Company of Philadelphia. June 2012.

“Sweet Land of Contraband: Sugar Smuggling and America’s Outward State, 1865-1901.” Society for the History of American Foreign Relations. June 2011.

Commentator. "Controversies in the History of Organized Employers and Anti-Unionism." Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting. April 2010.

"The Perils of Inspection: Smuggling, Globalism, and the Right to Privacy," American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting. Dallas. November 2009.

"Unions, Modernity, and the Decline of American Economic Nationalism." Right and Labor Conference. University of California, Santa Barbara. January 2009.

"New Approaches to the History of the New Deal." Invited talk. University of California, Davis. November 2008.

Commentator. Symposium on Akhil Reed Amar's *The Constitution: A Biography* (2005). Syracuse Law School, March 2008.

"Contraband: Globalization and Empire in Gilded-age America." Invited talk. State University of New York at Geneseo. October 2007.

"Smuggling and Empire: International Trade and the American State, 1870-1917." Paper. American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting. November 2006.

"Smuggler's Nation: Gilded-age America Buys the World, 1870-1917." Invited Talk. Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. March 2006.

"The Racketeer's Progress." Invited Talk. Kheel Center, Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations. September 2004.

"The Chicago Race Riots and Urban Legal Culture, 1911-1922." Paper. American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting. November 2003.

Commentator. "Lessons for a Globalizing World? Historical Experiences ... in Market Integration." G.A.I., Maxwell School, Syracuse University, January 2003.

"Labor Racketeering and the De-Politicization of Criminal Law." Invited Talk. Law and the Disappearance of Class in 20th c. America. Penn Law School. November 2002.

"The Lessons of Sacco and Vanzetti for Today." Panel. Syracuse Social Movements Initiative. Syracuse University. September 2002.

"The Racketeer's Progress: Crime, Commerce, and Law in Chicago, 1919-1929." Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting. April 2002.

Commentator. "Organized Labor and Organized Crime: Cleaning House in the Building Service Employees' Union." Gotham Center Conference on New York City History. October 2001.

“Racketeering, Criminal Law, and the New Deal Legal Order.” Invited Talk. Syracuse University Law School Faculty Speakers Series. November 2000.

“Rethinking the Modern Economy: The Building Trades, Violence, and the Law in Chicago, 1900-1920.” Invited Talk. Research Seminar. Hagley Museum and Library. May 2000.

Roundtable. J. Anthony Lukas’s *Big Trouble*. North American Labor History Conference. October 1998.

“State, Civil Society, and Labor Union Development in Chicago, 1900-40.” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting. June 1998.

“The Power of Provincialism and the Validity of Local History.” Conference: Practicing Space, Time, And Place: The Next Social History. University of Chicago. April 1998.

“The Transformation of ‘Racketeering,’ 1927-35: Crime, Market Regulation, and the Rise of the New Deal Order.” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting. November 1995.

“‘Unlawful and felonious, wicked, fraudulent, and malicious’: Conspiracy Cases and the Regulation of Chicago’s Economy, 1900-35.” American Society for Law and History Annual Meeting. Oct. 1995.

“History and the Western Civilization Sequence.” Discussant. U. of Chicago Core Retreat. June 1995.

“Crime Stories: The Underground Economy and the Social History of Crime in Cook County, Illinois, 1920-35.” Seminar Paper. 1992.

“Racial Segmentation in the Washington, D.C. Home Rule Movement.” Paper for the National Endowment for the Humanities. 1989.

Professional Service

Co-editor, series on “American Business, Politics, and Society”—University of Pennsylvania Press—2012-Present.

Editorial Board —*Reviews in American History* — 2018- Present.

Editorial Board — *Law and History Review* — 2005- Present.

Projects and Proposals Committee—American Society for Legal History—2022-2025

William Nelson Cromwell Book Prize Committee—American Society for Legal History—2013-16

Referee for Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, American Council for Learned Societies, *American Historical Review*, *Journal of American History*, *Law and History Review*, *Modern American History*, *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*, *LABOR: Studies in Working-Class History*, *International Labor and Working Class History*, *Journal of Illinois History*, *Social Forces*, Oxford

University Press, University of Illinois Press, Georgetown University Press, University of California-Davis, University of Tennessee, and the University of Wisconsin.

Syracuse University Service

College of Arts & Sciences. Promotion and Tenure Committee—2007-8, 2016-7, 2017-18.

College of Arts & Sciences. Warrior Scholar Project—2017-23.

History Department. Chair, 20th c. U.S. Jewish Search Committee—2023-24.

History Department. Executive Committee— 2004-5, 2007-8, 2008-9, 2014-5.

History Department. Chair, Graduate Program Reform Committee—2009.

History Department. Chair, U.S. Colonial Search Committee—2015-16.

History Department. Chair, U.S. Modern Search Committee—2011-12.

History Department. Chair, U.S. Colonial Search Committee—2009-10.

History Department. Chair, Russia Search Committee—2007-8.

History Department. South Asia Search Committee—2004-5.

History Department. Germany Search Committee—2008-9.

History Department. Middle East Search Committee—2006-7.

History Department. Annual Review Committees— 2006 (2), 2007 (2), 2008 (2), 2009, 2010, 2012 (2), 2013 (2), 2014, 2015 (2), 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019.

History Department. Tenure and Promotion Committees—2007, 2009, 2012, 2015 (2), 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020 (4), 2021 (3), 2022.

Maxwell School. Co-chair, Steering Committee. “Tenth Decade Project”—2014-5.

Maxwell School. Roscoe-Martin Fellowship Committee—2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2016, 2022.

Maxwell, School. Daniel Patrick Moynihan Prize Committee— 2008, 2022.

Maxwell School. Appleby-Mosher Fellowship Review Committee— 2007.

References

George Chauncey – DeWitt Clinton Professor of History – Columbia University.

Kathleen Conzen – Donnelley Professor Emerita of History– University of Chicago.

Ari Kelman— Chancellor’s Leadership Professor of History —UC Davis.

Nelson Lichtenstein — MacArthur Foundation Professor in History – UC Santa Barbara.

Michael Willrich—Leff Families Professor of History—Brandeis University.

Christopher Tomlins – Coffroth Distinguished Professor of Jurisprudence– UC Berkeley.