

CURRICULUM VITAE

Steven Sarson

Education

1987 – BA First Class Honours, American History and Politics, University of East Anglia

1990 – MA, The Johns Hopkins University

1998 – PhD, The Johns Hopkins University

2013 – Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches, Paris Cité Université (Paris 7 - Denis Diderot)

Professional Posts

Spring 1988: Adjunct lecturer, School of English and American Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich

1989-92: Research Assistant for Professor Jack P. Greene, Department of History, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland

1991-92: Adjunct professor, Department of History, Towson State University, Maryland

1992-2014: Lecturer, Senior Lecturer/*Associate Professor*, Department of History, Swansea University

2014-present: Professor of American Civilisation, Department of English Studies, Jean Moulin University Jean Moulin - Lyon 3

Publications

Books

When in the Course of human events: History and Historical Consciousness in the US Declaration of Independence (University of Virginia Press, forthcoming in 2025)

Barack Obama: American Historian (London, New York: Bloomsbury, 2018). Translated into Portuguese and Spanish by Ubook, Rio de Janeiro, 2021

The Tobacco-Plantation South in the Early American Atlantic World, in the series *The Americas in the Early Modern Atlantic World* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013).

British America, 1500-1800: Creating Colonies, Imagining an Empire (London: Arnold Press; New York: Oxford University Press, 2005; Second Edition, London: Bloomsbury, 2010).

Edited document collection

The American Colonies and the British Empire, 1607-1783, 8 Volumes (London: Pickering and Chatto, Major Works Series, 2010-11) with Jack P. Greene

Articles and book chapters

“Peoples and the Formations of Nations, States, Empires, and Societies: Four Essays in Early American History and Historiography,” Introduction to special edition on “Historiographies of the American Revolution,” *Journal of Early American History*, forthcoming in 2025

“Harmonizing the ‘sentiments of the day’: The Declaration of Independence and the Forging of a Revolutionary Consensus,” *Journal of the Société des Etudes Romantiques et Dix-neuviémistes*, Open Edition, Special edition, *Discours des révolutions, discours sur les révolutions*, ed. Augustin Habran et Hélène Parent, 2024

“The ‘illustrious Fathers of this Republic’: Frederick Douglass on the Founders, the Fourth of July, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution,” *GRAAT On-Line, Etudes sur le genre & Etudes Culturelle*, “Abolitionnisme(s) aux États-Unis. Et ailleurs?” ed. Monia O’Brien Castro and Maboula Soumahoro (septembre, 2020), 85-103

“Les révolutions anglaises du XVII^e siècle: le Chesapeake et les Antilles,” ed. Eric Roulet, *Les colons contre l’Empire. Les contestations dans l’Amérique franco-anglaise du XVII^e et du XVIII^e siècles* (Aachen: Shaker Verlag, 2020), 170-98

“‘A total contradiction to every principle’: American Revolutionaries and the Glorious Revolution,” ed. Edward Vallance, *Remembering Early Modern Revolutions* (London: Routledge, 2019), 61-77

“‘Breadth and Depth’: Some Remarks on Atlantic History and Vast Early America,” *XVII-XVIII. Revue de la Société d’études anglo-américaines des XVII^e et XVIII^e siècles*, Numéro 74 (2017): <https://journals.openedition.org/1718/820>

“Origines des colonies britanniques et les fondations de l’indépendance américaine,” *Outre-Terre : Revue européenne de géopolitique*, Numéro spécial, “Brexit!” 49 (février 2017), 443-56

“‘[T]he way to make a huge fortune, easily and without risk’: Economic Strategy and Tactics among Tobacco-South Planters in the Early National United States,” ed. Pierre Gervais, Yannick Lemarchand et Dominique Margairaz, *Building a Fragmented World : Merchant Management in the Age of Commerce, 1650-1850* (London: Pickering and Chatto, 2014), 153-70

“‘It cannot be expected that I can defend every man’s turnip patch’: Embargoes, the War of 1812 and Inequality and Poverty in the Chesapeake,” Wars of 1812, special edition, *Revue Française d’Etudes Américaines*, 139 (2^e Trimestre 2014), 16-29

“Yeoman Farmers in a Planters’ Republic: Socioeconomic Conditions and Relations in Early National Prince George’s County, Maryland,” *Journal of the Early Republic*, 29:1 (Spring 2009), 63-99

“‘The torment with the servants’: Management and Labor in a Southern Maryland Plantation Household in the Early Nineteenth Century », *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 102:3 (Fall 2007), 131-55

“Similarities and Continuities: Free Society in the Tobacco South before and after the American Revolution,” Eliga Gould et Peter S. Onuf (dir.): *Empire and Nation: The American Revolution In The Atlantic World (Anglo-America in the Trans-Atlantic World)*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004), 136-58, 341-45

“‘Objects of distress’: Inequality and Poverty in Early Nineteenth-Century Prince George’s County,” *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 96:2 (Summer 2001), 141-62

“Distribution of Wealth in Prince George’s County, Maryland, 1800-1820,” *Journal of Economic History*, 60:3 (September 2000), 847-55

“Landlessness and Tenancy in Early National Prince George’s County, Maryland,” *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd Series, 62:3 (July 2000), 569-98

“‘One must differentiate oneself a little’: Economy, Society and Refinement in Early National Prince George’s County, Maryland,” *Borderlines: Studies in American Culture*, 5:3 (1998), 253-73

“Harriet Beecher Stowe and American Slavery,” *New Comparison: A Journal of Comparative Literary Studies*, 7 (Summer 1989), 33-45

Other

“*La déclaration d’Indépendance: écrire le manifeste d’une nation*,” ed. Carine Lounissi, Eric Schnakenbourg, Bertrand Van Ruymbek, *Révolution américaine et naissance des États-Unis, 1763-1800* (Paris, Armand Colin, forthcoming 2025).

“The Declaration of Independence,” ed. Christa Dierksheide et Woody Holton, *Encyclopedia Virginia*, Virginia Humanities, forthcoming 2024.

“The US Bill of Rights,” *Modern History Review* (London: Hodder Education, 2023)

“Barack Obama: American Historian,” *History News Network*, 9 September 2018 : <https://historynewsnetwork.org/article/169742>

“Chesapeake Region,” ed. Ken Wachsberger and Jordan Goodman, *Tobacco: Scribner’s Turning Points in History Series*, (Michigan: Macmillan Reference USA, Farmington Hills, 2005), 117-25

“Maryland” » and “Tobacco,” in *Colonization and Settlement (1585-1763)*, Volume 2, ed. Billy G. Smith, *The Facts on File Encyclopedia of American History* (New York: Facts on File Inc., 2003), 209-11, 373-75

“Chronology,” ed. Jack P. Greene et J. R. Pole, *A Companion to the American Revolution* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1992, 2000), 707-42

“African American History: Colonial Beginnings to 1860,” “American Revolution: Character, Scope, Significance,” “Colonial History: Colonies, Settlement, and Growth, 1) Chesapeake Bay,” “Colonial History: Society,” “Colonial History: Slavery and Indentured Servitude,” ed. Peter J. Parish, *Reader’s Guide to American History* (London: Fitzroy Dearborn, 1997), 14-16, 37-38, 140-42, 148-49, 152-53

Book reviews:

American Historical Review; Economic Journal; English Historical Review; History: A Journal of the Historical Society; Institute of Historical Research; Journal of American History; Journal of American Studies; Journal of Early American History; Journal of Economic History; Journal of Southern History; Slavery and Abolition; William and Mary Quarterly

Conference and seminar papers (since 2016)

“‘[W]hen they left their native Land, and settled in America’: The Fairfax County Resolves and the Revolutionary Debate on the Origins of Colonies and Empire,” Plenary panel paper, “The Origins of Revolution,” sponsored by the David Center for the American Revolution of the American Philosophical Society, and the George Washington Presidential Library, Gunston Hall and Mount Vernon, Virginia, 24 July 2024

“‘[T]o declare the causes of the separation’: The Declaration of Independence and the Reasons for the American Revolution,” Fellows Forum, International Center for Jefferson Studies, Charlottesville, Virginia, 30 April 2024

“‘The Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God’ and ‘the Course of human events’: A New Interpretation of the Declaration of Independence and the Making of the United States,” Conference on “The Declaration of Independence at 250,” University of New Hampshire, Portsmouth, sponsored by the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies and Monticello and the William L. and Ruth Dunfey Endowment for the Study of History, 17 November 2023

Commentary on ed. Carine Lounissi and Bertrand Van Ruymbeke, “The American Revolution and Europe: New Transnational Perspectives,” *Revue Française d’Etudes Américaines* 2022/4 (n° 173), 10 November 2023

Invited participant, “The Long Constitutional Debate, Part 1: Liberty versus Imperial Authority, 1764–1773,” Liberty Fund Conference, organised par Jack P. Greene et Gordon S. Wood, Boston, Massachusetts, 4-7 May 2023

“The ‘circumstances of our emigration and settlement here’: The Origins and Formations of People, Property, and Territories in the US Declaration of Independence,” Fellows Forum, International Center for Jefferson Studies, Charlottesville, Virginia, 2 May 2023

“‘The “Course of human events’: History in the US Declaration of Independence,” Public Lecture, Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, Virginie, 25 April 2023

Invited participant, Robert H. Smith Center for Jefferson Studies, “Book Workshop,” Lindsay Chervinsky, *An Honest Man: The Inimitable Presidency of John Adams* (Oxford University Press, 2024)

“From ‘league & amity’ to ‘absolute Tyranny’: The History of Royal Government in the Declaration of Independence,” *Massachusetts Historical Society*, Boston, *Pauline Maier Research Seminar*, 4 April 2023

“‘A distant people’: History, Slavery, and Race in the US Declaration of Independence,” McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Research Seminar, 24 April 2023

“‘We hold these truths’? Equality and Unalienable Rights in American History,” Institut Stansilas de Cannes, conference for Classes Préparatoires aux Grandes Ecoles, 10 February 2023

“To ‘effect their Safety and Happiness’: Conditional Proslavery in the US Declaration of Independence,” University of Hull, sponsored by the Wilberforce Centre for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation and the Cultures of Incarceration Centre, 25 January 2023

Commentary on Emilie Mitran, *Gouverneur Morris, traducteur de la Révolution française (1789-1793)* (Rennes : Les Perséides, 2022) REDEHJA, Journée Publications Récentes, 16 December 2022

“‘We the People’: Concepts of the American People in the United States’ Founding Documents,” Howorth Constitution Day Lecture, The James Madison Center, Delta State University, Cleveland, Mississippi, 15 September 2022

“The ‘inhabitants of our frontiers’: History, Territory, and Peoples in the US Declaration of Independence,” Plenary Lecture, Annual Conference of the *British Group in Early American History*, Cardiff University, 2 September 2022

Invited participant, “Exploring the Bounds of Liberty: The Late Colonial Period,” Liberty Fund Conference, organised by Jack P. Greene and Peter S. Onuf, Providence, Rhode Island, 12-15 May, 2022

“‘The circumstances of our emigration and settlement here,’” Thomas Jefferson’s Civil History and the Invention of Peoples in the US Declaration of Independence,” Biannual Conference of the European Early American Studies Association, Université de Poitiers, 8 December 2021

“‘When in the Course of human events’: History and Historical Consciousness in the US Declaration of Independence,” Revolutionary Memories in the History and Historiography of the Atlantic World, 1730-1830, America2026, Université Aix-Marseille, 1 October 2021

Commentary on *La Marche sur Yorktown*, ed. Bertrand Van Ruymbeke et Iris de Rode Monfaucon, (J-J Guillaume, 2018), Journée Publications Récentes, REDEHJA, 26 March 2021

“Presidents and Kings,” *The Last Best Hope? Understanding America from the Outside In*, Rothermere American Institute Podcast Series, University of Oxford, 14 January 2021

“Barack Obama’s *A Promised Land*,” Rothermere American Institute Book Club Webinar, University of Oxford, 1 December 2020

“‘Les circonstances de notre émigration et de notre établissement dans ces contrées’: Peuples et territoire dans la déclaration d’indépendance américaine, 1776,” Territorialiser les espaces modernes XV^e-XIX^e siècle, Villa Finaly, Chancellerie des Université de Paris, Florence, 2 October 2019

“The ‘illustrious Fathers of this Republic’: Frederick Douglass on the Founders, the Fourth of July, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution,” Journée d’étude: Abolitionisme, Université de Tours, 22 March 2019 ; Journée d’étude, De l’abolition aux réparations (États-Unis-France), Université de Rouen, 15 March 2019

“The ‘saving principles’ of ‘our common creed’: The radical whiggism of Frederick Douglass and Barack Obama,” », Conference on Frederick Douglass: Across and Against Times, Places, and Disciplines, Paris Cité Université, 12 October, 2018

“‘A total contradiction to every principle’: American Revolutionaries and the Glorious Revolution,” Conference on “Remembering Early Modern Revolutions: England, North America, France, and Haiti,” Institute for Historical Research, London, 17 June 2017

“The ‘pursuit of happiness’: Migration, Allodialism, Agrarianism, and an American Pastoral Ideal,” Annual conference of the Association française d’études américaines, Université Strasbourg, 8 June 2017

“‘Breadth and Depth’: Some Remarks on Atlantic History and Vast Early America,” “Empire in the English-speaking world: round table on Empire and Atlantic History,” Annual Conference of the Société d’études anglo-américaines des XVII^e et XVIII^e siècles, “L’Empire/Empire,” 22 January 2017

“‘[A]n instance of despotism to which no parallel can be produced in the most arbitrary ages of British history’: Thomas Jefferson, Natural Rights, and Trade and Navigation Laws in the British-American Empire,” Biannual Conference of the *European Early American Studies Association*, Paris Cité Université, 9 December 2016

“‘A total contradiction to every principle’: The American Revolution and the Glorious Revolution,” Plenary Lecture, Journée d’Etude, “The Glorious Revolution: Transatlantic Perspectives,” Université de Toulouse - Jean Jaurès, 13 March 2016

Commentator, “Epistémologie et pratiques des Humanités numériques,” “Séance numérisation de fonds familiaux,” Sara Georgini (Boston University, Massachusetts Historical Society), “The Adams Papers @ Work : Rewiring Preservation, Access, and Early American Archives in the Digital Age,” 18 March 2016

Other professional contributions

Organisation of conferences

Co-organisator with Hannah Spahn, “The Intellectual Inheritance of the Declaration of Independence,” Liberty Fund Conference, Windsor, UK, 13-16 February 2025

Co-organisator, “Historiographies of the American Revolution,” America2026 Conference, Université Jean Moulin et Université Lumière, Lyon, 14-15 October 2022

Member, Organising Committee, “Anachronismes,” Centre de Recherches Interdisciplinaires et Transculturelles (CRIT), Université de Franche-Comté Musée du Temps, Besançon, 19-20 March 2020

Member, Organising Committee, Annual Conference of the *Society for Historians of the Early American Republic*, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 18-21 July 2019. Organised a panel for Gérard Hugues (Professeur émérite à l’Université Aix-Marseille) on “Translating the French Revolution and Republic for Americans and the French Revolution and Republic for the French,” with papers by Audrey Mallet (doctoral student, Université de Paris), Emilie Mitran

(Lecturer Université Aix-Marseille), Francesca Genesio (Senior Lecturer, Université Aix-Marseille), Carine Lounissi (Senior Lecturer, Université de Rouen), with commentary by Linda Garbaye (Senior Lecturer, Université Clermont-Ferrand, now Professor at l'Université de Caen).

Member, Organising Committee, Organisation du Congrès de la Société des Anglicistes de l'Enseignement Supérieur, "Confluence(s)," Université Jean Moulin - Lyon 3, 2-4 June 2016

Organisateur d'une conférence par Professor Robert Olwell, University of Texas, Austin, "Regarding Jefferson: A Discussion of America's Enduring Fascination with Thomas Jefferson," 10 June 2016

Co-organisateur de la journée d'étude "La Révolution Glorieuse," Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon, Université Lumière - Lyon 2, Université Jean Moulin - Lyon 3, 15 January 2016

Co-organisateur du colloque "1812 in the Americas," Université de Brest, 7-9 June 2012

Co-organisateur du colloque européen de la *European Early American Studies Association*, Venice, 13-14 December 2008

Co-organiser and host of the Annual Conference fo *British Group in Early American History*, Swansea University, 8-10 September 2007

Fellowships

Fellow, The George Washington Presidential Library, Mount Vernon, March, 2025

Peter Nicolaison International Fellow, Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies, Monticello, Charlottesville, Virginie, April 2024

Peter Nicolaison International Fellow, Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies, Monticello, Charlottesville, Virginie, March-April 2023

Participation in research networks

Member, Institut d'Etudes Transtextuelles et Transculturelles

Member, editorial board, *Transtext(e)s Transcultures - Journal of Global Cultural Studies* (Institut d'Etudes Transtextuelles et Transculturelles)

Member of the Board, *European Early American Studies Association* (President, 2022-23)

Member REDHEJA Réseau pour le développement européen de l'histoire de la jeune Amérique, (Vice-President, 2014-2024)

Member, editorial board, *Studies in Democratic Culture*, Palgrave Macmillan, USA, 2014-Present

Member, Société d'études anglo-américaines des XVII^e et XVIII^e

Member, America2026

Associate Member, *Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture*

Associate Member, *McNeil Center for Early American Studies*

Other responsibilities

Consultant *Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia*, Staunton, Virginia, 2022-present

Director for Habilitation de Diriger de Recherche for Pierre-François PEIRANO, Senior Lecturer, Université de Toulon (in progress)

Appraiser for Dr Christa DIERKSHEIDE for promotion to full professor, University of Virginia, 2024

Reporter for Habilitation de Diriger de Recherche for Emma HART (director of the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania), on “The spaces of early American history : place and landscape in everyday life, 1680-1790,” Université Paris VIII – Vincennes St-Denis, October 2020

Membre du Comité d’Experts pour l’unité (Centre de Recherches sur les Mondes Anglophones/English-Speaking World) à Paris Nouvelle Sorbonne Université, 2018

Président of Comité d’Experts for the laboratory HDEA (Histoire et Dynamique des Espaces Anglophones) à Paris Sorbonne Université, 2023

Representative for Université Lyon 3 for the Institut des Amériques, 2014-2016

Member of International Relations department, responsible for Northern Europe

Member de Collège d’experts de recrutement

Participation à des comités de recrutement

2024 PR, LEA, Civilisation américaine, Université Grenoble

2020, MCF, LEA, Civilisation américaine Professeur associé, Université Lyon 3

2023 MCF, LANSAD, Université Lyon 3.

2023 MCF, LEA, Civilisation américaine, Université Lyon 3

2023 MCF, LLCER, Civilisation américaine, Université Lyon 2

2022 PR, LLCER Civilisation britannique, Université Lyon 3

2019, MCF, LEA, Civilisation américaine , Université d’Orléans

2019, MCF, LLCER, Civilisation américaine Maître de conférences, Université Lyon 2

2018, MCF, LLCER, Civilisation britannique, Université Jean Monnet, St. Etienne

2018, PR, LLCER, Civilisation britannique, Université Lyon 2

2015, MCF, LLCER, Civilisation américaine, Université Lyon 2

Teaching

Undergraduate

Year 2: The American Revolution, 1764-1791

Year 3: The Past in the Present: American History on Film (2014-2021)

Year 3: The 1619 Project : Slavery, Race, and British America and the Early United States (2022-present)

Collège de Langues, Year 2 : Histoire des Idées (la conquête de l'Amérique, les documents fondateurs)

Masters

Research Year 1: Liberty and Slavery in Early America, 1607-1791

Research Year 2: The United States Declaration of Independence, 1776

Masters of Education Year 2: Barack Obama's American History (2014-2022)

Language for non-specialists Year 2 : Histoire

National Courses

CAPES

Masters of Education Year 2: exam preparation (2014-2018)

Agrégation:

2021-23 - Option, Civilisation américaine : *De la démocratie en Amérique : Politique et société aux États-Unis, 1824-1848*

2019-21 - Compulsory, Civilisation américaine, La présidence de Barack Obama, 2009-2017

2017-19 - Option, Civilisation américaine : De l'antiesclavagisme à l'abolition de l'esclavage aux États-Unis : idées, arguments et écrits des militants noirs et blancs, 1776-1865

2015-17 - Option, Civilisation britannique : La Glorieuse Révolution, 1688-1701

Supervision of Masters Theses

23 for Masters of Education, 2014-2022.

34 for Research Masters, 2015-2024, with 2 in progress for 2025

PhD thesis completed

Richard HALL, "Reassessing the failure of the Braddock Plan of 1755," Swansea University, July 2014

PhD theses in progress

Leslie TASSERY, “Rhétorique de George Washington et première définition présidentielle du peuple états-unien”

Caroline LAPLACE, “*Star Trek* et la recherche de l’identité américaine par-delà l’ultime frontière”

Member of doctoral committee

Debra E. GLASSCO, “2922 Days: Barack Obama and a Legacy of Public Representation,” Rutgers University, New Jersey (in progress)

Participation in PhD defences

Seynabou THIAM, “‘The heart of your knowledge is in your roots’: Les réfugiés loyalistes noirs dans les provinces de Nouvelle-Ecosse, du Nouveau-Brunswick et de l’Ile-du-Prince-Edouard en Amérique du Nord britannique : étude comparative d’une communauté en exil (1775-1815),” Université Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint-Denis, 30 May 2023

Francesca GENESIO, “Philip Mazzei : un “citoyen du monde atlantique” à l’époque révolutionnaire (1773-1791)?” Université Aix-Marseille, 18 March 2022

Rachel FONDEVILLE, “Genèse et évolution de la gouvernance des nations et tribus Indiennes: Le cas de la Californie de 1850 à nos jours,” Université Jean Moulin, Lyon 3, 9 October 2021

Andy CABOT, “Esclavage, Empires et Diplomatie (France, Grande-Bretagne, Etats-Unis): Abattre ou Consolider l’Esclavage dans le monde Atlantique après Saint-Domingue (c. 1795 - c. 1815)?” (President) Paris Cité Université, 12 January 2021

Emilie MITRAN, “Gouverneur Morris : traducteur de la révolution française,” Université Aix-Marseille, 14 June 2019

Kathleen KUHL, “The Invisible Legacy of the Oneida Indians and the American Revolution,” Swansea University, 19 February 2019

Agnès TROUILLET, “Le mouvement Tea Party 2009-2017: résultat d’une enquête en immersion, à Philadelphie et à Boston,” Université Sorbonne Cité, 29 septembre 2017

Isabelle SICARD, “Vers la tolérance religieuse: le Massachusetts de l’intolérance à la séparation entre Eglise et Etat dans la période post-révolutionnaire, 1776-1833,” Paris Cité Université, 18 November 2016

Emilie ROMAN, “Le bicentenaire de la révolution américaine. Représentations audiovisuelles de la mémoire,” (President) Université Aix-Marseille, 26 June 2015

Florent ATEM, “Silences et Dissidences dans les journaux de l’expédition Lewis et Clark,” Université Aix-Marseille, 22 May 2015