

Kristian Taketomo

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EDUCATION

ABD, PhD expected 2020

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

M.A. History, 2014

Ph.D Candidate in History, since April 2015

Carleton College, Northfield, MN

B.A. in History, 2011

DISSERTATION

“Megalopolis, U.S.A.: Regional Urbanization and the Invention of the Northeast Corridor, 1945-1973”

My dissertation examines the ways in which metropolitan growth and demographic shifts in the second half of the twentieth century—in the United States and elsewhere—forced social scientists, regional planning associations, and municipal, state, and federal agencies to reassess existing definitions of “urban” and “rural,” invent new spatial typologies, and devise new ways of measuring and thinking about urbanization and urban space.

Proposal defended in April 2015

Expected dissertation defense date in Spring 2020

Committee Members: Kathy Peiss (Chair), Francesca Ammon, Amy Offner

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Postwar urbanization, history of the social sciences, sociology of professions, metropolitan history, statistical thinking and the history of data

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

2012-2018 Benjamin Franklin Fellow, UPenn

2012-2018 Patterson Robert Fellow, UPenn

2015-2016 Center for Teaching and Learning Fellowship, UPenn

2016, 2017 Leslie Townsend Fund Grant Recipient, UPenn

- 2015 Mellon Humanities, Urbanism and Design (H+U+D) Research Grant
- 2015 Teaching Assistant of the Year Award, UPenn History Undergraduate Advisory Board
- 2013 Summer Research Fellowship, Winterthur Library

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 “The Discovery of Megalopolis,” American History Workshop — Constructing America: Identities, Infrastructure, and Institutions, University of Michigan (*upcoming* — May)
- 2017 “Public Opinion and the Regional City in Postwar America,” Society for American City and Regional Planning History, Cleveland, OH (October)
- 2016 “O Public Road’: The Walt Whitman Bridge and the Ethics of Public Naming,” Kislak Center Graduate Student Curatorial Series, Penn Libraries, Philadelphia, PA (April)
- 2016 “Urbanization as Development: Modernization and “The City” in Postwar America,” DCC Graduate Series Workshop, UPenn, Philadelphia, PA (February)
- 2016 “Towards an Urban Future: Density and Development in Postwar America,” Humanities, Urbanism, and Design Colloquium, UPenn, Philadelphia, PA (January)
- 2014 “None of us have to have a crystal ball’’: Cuban Refugees in Miami and Fears about the Future,” History of the Future Graduate Conference, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO (October)
- 2014 “The “People’s Capitalism’’: Selling Free Enterprise at Home and Abroad,” SHAFR Summer Institute, Williams College, Williams, MA (June)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2018 Integrated Studies Program: Orthodoxies and Disruptions
Grader to Prof. Ben Nathans
- 2015 Asian American History
Grader to Prof. Eiichiro Azuma

- 2014 The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich
Teaching Assistant to Prof. Thomas Childers
- 2014 America in the 1960s
Teaching Assistant to Prof. Thomas Sugrue
- 2013 Modern American Culture
Teaching Assistant to Prof. Kathy Peiss

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- 2017- 2018 Post-1945 U.S. History Search Committee, Graduate Representative
- 2013-2014 Clio Club (Penn History Graduate Student Organization), Officer

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- 2015-2016 GAPSA (Graduate and Professional Students Association), UPenn
Vice Chair for Student Life
- 2015-2016 Student Health Insurance Advisory Committee, UPenn
- 2015-2016 Penn Transit Advisory Board, UPenn
- 2015-2016 Bookstore Advisory Committee, UPenn
- 2014-2015 Lambda Grads (LGBT Graduate Group), UPenn
Vice Chair for Advocacy and School Networking
- 2012-2015 Out after Carleton (Carleton LGBTQ Alumni Group)
Leadership Committee Member

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2016 Research Assistant to Tami Friedman
- 2014 Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP), Conference Volunteer
- 2013 Research Assistant to Thomas Sugrue

TECHNICAL SKILLS, LANGUAGES, & CERTIFICATION

Center for Teaching and Learning, UPenn, Teaching Certificate

Urban Studies Certificate, UPenn

French (reading proficient)

GIS (proficient)