

# LUCIA MCMAHON

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Professor  
Department of History, Philosophy, and Liberal Studies  
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## CURRENT ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

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Professor, Department of History, Philosophy, and Liberal Studies, William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ  
(At WPU since 2004; at rank of full professor since 2017)

## EDUCATION

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Ph.D., History • 2004 • Rutgers University  
M.A., History • 2004 • Rutgers University  
B.A., History • 1994 • Douglass College

## PUBLICATIONS

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### *Books:*

- 2022: *The Celebrated Elizabeth Smith: Crafting Genius and Transatlantic Fame in the Romantic Era* (University of Virginia Press, 2022).
- 2012: *Mere Equals: The Paradox of Educated Women in the Early American Republic* (Cornell University Press, 2012).
- 2000: *To Read My Heart: The Journal of Rachel Van Dyke, 1810-1811*, co-edited with Deborah Schriver (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2000; 2015 re-release in print and ebook).

### *Articles, Review Essays, and other Publications:*

- 2025: “‘At Home or Abroad We Are Never Sure’: New Jersey Women’s Revolutionary Experiences,”  
Forthcoming in *Teaching Revolutionary NJ Symposium* ePublication.
- 2023: “A Splendid Assembly of Ladies,” New Jersey Historical Commission Women’s History Blog:  
<https://www.revnj.org/blog/splendid-assembly-of-ladies>
- 2022: “Women in Revolutionary New Jersey”: A Research Report for the “Expanding the Narrative” Series to Support Women’s History Events and Programming at Dey Mansion-Washington’s Headquarters.
- 2019: “Family Matters: Centering Elite Women’s Lives in an Age of Revolution,” *Early American Literature*, 53, no. 3 (Fall 2019): 809-820.
- 2018: “The Power of Friendship and Love: Personal Relationships in Revolutionary America,” *Reviews in American History*, 46, no. 1 (March 2018): 39-45.

- 2017: ““She Pursued her Life-Work’: The Life Lessons of American Women Educators, 1800-1860,” in Margaret Nash, ed., *New Perspectives on the History of Women’s Education in the United States* (Palgrave, 2017): 23-43.
- 2016: Abridged excerpt from *Mere Equals: The Paradox of Educated Women in the Early American Republic*, in *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in United States History, Volume 1: The Colonial Period to Reconstruction*, 17<sup>th</sup> Edition, edited by Larry Madaras and James SoRelle (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2016).
- 2015: ““To Detail the Incidents of Such a Life’: The Life and Writings of Louisa Catherine Adams,” *Reviews in American History* 43, no. 3 (September 2015): 477-483.
- 2014: ““Memorials of Exemplary Women Are Peculiarly Interesting’: Female Biography in Early National America,” *Legacy* 31, no. 1 (2014): 52-57.
- 2012: ““So Truly Afflicting and Distressing to Me, His Sorrowing Mother’: Expressions of Maternal Grief in Eighteenth-Century Philadelphia,” *Journal of the Early Republic* 32, no. 1 (Spring 2012): 27-60.
- 2009: ““A More Accurate and Extensive Education than is Customary’: Educational Opportunities for Women in Early Nineteenth-Century New Jersey,” *New Jersey History* 124, no. 1 (Fall 2009): 1-28.
- 2009: ““Of the Utmost Importance to Our Country’: Women, Education, and Society, 1780-1820,” *Journal of the Early Republic* 29, no. 3 (Fall 2009): 475-506.
- 2008: Review Essay on Women and Gender in Print Culture, *Journal of the Early Republic* 28, no. 4 (Winter 2008): 674-683.
- 2005: Encyclopedia Entries: “Affection” and “The Education of Women and Girls,” in *The Encyclopedia of the New American Nation* (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2005).
- 1998: ““While Our Souls Together Blend’: Narrating a Romantic Readership in the Early Republic,” in Peter N. Stearns and Jan Lewis, eds., *An Emotional History of the United States* (New York University Press, 1998): 66-90.
- Ongoing: Book reviews published in several journals, including: *Journal of the Early Republic*, *H-SHEAR*, *American Nineteenth Century History*, *Journal of Social History*, *New England Quarterly*, *New Jersey Studies*, *New-York Journal of American History*, *Journal of Southern History*, *Journal of American History*, and *Reviews in American History*.

## RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- April 2026: Roundtable Participant, “Revolution250 Playlists: Greatest Hits from the *Journal of the Early Republic* Archives,” Accepted at the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Philadelphia, PA
- October 2025: Workshop Presenter and Moderator, “Take Me With You: Curating and Collecting,” Memory and Memorialization Conference, New Jersey Historical Commission, Trenton, NJ
- July 2025: Panel Chair and Commentator, “Educated Voices: The Emotional and Social Labors of Young Women in Early American Contexts,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Conference, Providence, RI

- May 2025: Presenter, “‘At Home or Abroad We are Never Sure’: New Jersey Women’s Revolutionary Experiences,” Teaching Revolutionary NJ Symposium, Atlantic Cape Community College, Mays Landing, NJ
- March 2024: Co-Organizer and Panel Participant, Revolutionary Women Symposium, Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello, Charlottesville, VA
- November 2023: Presenter, “‘The Proper Education of Your Daughters’: Women’s Education in New Jersey,” Unfinished Revolution: New Perspectives on the American Revolution in New Jersey Conference, New Jersey Historical Commission, Trenton, NJ
- January 2022: Panel Participant, “What is the American Revolution?” New Jersey Historical Commission/*Revolution NJ* “Big Ideas for the 250<sup>th</sup>” Professional Development Series (Virtual Event)
- November 2021: Panel Participant, “Publishing in New Jersey History,” New Jersey Historical Commission Conference (Virtual Event)
- July 2021: Panel Commentator, “Creating Protestant Saints: Female Icons in Print and Material Culture,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Conference (Virtual Event)
- November 2020: Panel Moderator, “Protest and Controversy in New Jersey Political History,” Battles for the Ballot Conference, New Jersey Historical Commission (Virtual Event)
- November 2020: Roundtable Participant, “Book Session: Kabria Baumgartner’s *In Pursuit of Knowledge: Black Women and Educational Activism in Antebellum America*,” History of Education Society Annual Conference (Virtual Event)
- November 2019: Panel Moderator, “Unearthing New Jersey Women,” New Jersey Women Make History Conference, New Jersey Historical Commission, New Brunswick, NJ
- July 2019: Presenter, “Researching and Writing a Life in Fragments,” SHEAR Biography Workshop, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Conference, Cambridge, MA
- July 2018: Roundtable Participant, “New Intellectual Histories of Early American Women,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Conference, Cleveland, OH
- July 2017: Panel Commentator, “Female Citizenship and the Life of the Mind in Antebellum America,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Conference, Philadelphia, PA
- April 2017: Presenter, “Schoolgirl Stories: Reading Women in Nineteenth-Century Print Culture,” Organization for American Historians Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
- November 2016: Presenter, “‘She Pursued her Life-Work’: The Life Lessons of American Women Educators, 1800-1860,” History of Education Society Conference, Providence, RI
- July 2016: Presenter, “To ‘Shrink from the Title of Blue-stockings’: Recasting Women’s Literary Reputations,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Conference, New Haven, CT
- May 2016: Panel Chair, “Processes and Technologies of Making,” Early American Material Texts Conference, Philadelphia, PA
- July 2015: Roundtable Participant, “Gender and Genius in the Early Republic,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Conference, Raleigh, NC

- June 2015: Presenter, “Reconstructing the *Fragments* of Miss Elizabeth Smith,” Southern Association for Women Historians Conference, Charleston, SC
- June 2015: Presenter, “Uncommon Sweetness and Superior Talents: The Literary Reputation of Elizabeth Smith, a Learned Lady,” Joint Conference of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture/Society of Early Americanists, Chicago, IL
- July 2014: Panel Commentator, “Rumor, Gender, and Interracial Relationships in the Early Republic,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Conference, Philadelphia, PA
- March 2014: Panel Chair, “Education Proper in a Republic,” The Republics of Benjamin Rush Conference, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Carlisle, PA

## RECENT PUBLIC TALKS

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- 2026: “The Educational Worlds of Early National Women,” Upcoming Women’s History Month Lecture, Dey Mansion, Wayne, NJ
- 2025: “Exploring Women’s History Through Objects,” Blount Mansion, Knoxville, TN
- 2024: “Women’s Educational Worlds: Hidden Histories,” Morven Museum, Princeton, NJ
- 2024: “Educating Women in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century America,” Wayne Library Lunchbox Learning Series, Wayne, NJ
- 2023-2025: “A Vote, A Voice: Women’s Suffrage and the Fight for Representation,” New Jersey Council for Humanities Public Scholarship Program, presented at Warren County Library, Butler Public Library, Butler High School, and other venues
- 2022-2023: “Remembering the Ladies: Material Culture and the Women of the American Revolution,” Professional Development Workshop for K-12 Educators, Dey Mansion, Wayne, NJ
- 2023: Roundtable Participant, Passaic County Book Festival, Clifton, NJ
- 2023: Book Talks for *The Celebrated Elizabeth Smith*, presented at the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello, Dey Mansion, Wayne Public Library, and other venues
- 2022: “Paterson’s Early Industrial History,” presented at Across Time and Space: The Silk Road and Silk City International Conference, William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ
- 2020-2022: “‘The Movement is Sort of a Mosaic’: A History of the Women’s Suffrage Movement,” Public Scholars Project, New Jersey Council for the Humanities, presented at Alice Paul Institute, Fort Lee Library, Cranbury Public Library, Wayne Library, Bloomfield Library, Dey Mansion, and other venues (in person and virtual events)
- 2019: “A New Era in Female History’: Women in Revolutionary America,” presented at Dey Mansion, Wayne Public Library, and Montville Public Library

## RECENT SERVICE AT WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

2025-Present:	Member, Executive Council, Department of History, Philosophy, and Liberal Studies
2025-Present:	Member, Curriculum Committee, Department of History, Philosophy, and Liberal Studies
2025-Present:	Member, Hobart Manor Revitalization Committee
2024-Present:	Chair, Review Panel for UCC 2.0 Area A (Well Being)
2023-Present:	Member, Wellness Day Planning Committee
2023- Present:	Presenter, Yoga Classes for Wellness Day and “Yoga and Mindfulness” presentations for various classes and student events
2020-2025:	Co-Chair, Chair’s Council
2018-2022:	Member, Teacher Education Advisory Council, College of Education
2017-2025:	Department Chair (History; then merged History, Philosophy, and Liberal Studies)
2014-2018:	Member, World War I Lecture Series Committee
2014-2016:	Member, Faculty Senate Council on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Expression
2013-2024:	Program Coordinator, Abram Kartch/Thomas Jefferson Lecture Series (committee member since 2005)
2013-2014:	Faculty Director, NEH Created Equal Grant, Cheng Library
2011-2017:	Assistant Chair, Department of History

## RECENT SERVICE TO HISTORICAL PROFESSION

2025-Present:	Member, New Jersey State Historical Marker Program Advisory Committee, New Jersey Historical Commission
2024-Present:	Member, Jan Ellen Lewis Mentorship Fund, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic
2024-2025:	Member, By-Laws Committee, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic
2023:	Member, New Jersey Historical Commission Annual Conference Planning Committee
2022-2024:	Member, Mary Kelley Book Prize in Gender and Women’s History Committee, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic
2021-2023:	Research Consultant, “Telling Our Story: Living in New Jersey in the 1770s,” New Jersey Council for the Social Studies Grant, awarded by the New Jersey Historical Commission
2021-Present:	Member, <i>Revolution NJ</i> Scholarly and Public Programming Working Group
2021-Present:	Board Member, Friends of Dey Mansion
2020-Present:	Co-Editor, <i>CERES: Rutgers Studies in History</i> , Rutgers University Press book series
2019-2021	Scholar and Speaker, Public Scholars Project, New Jersey Council for the Humanities
2019-2021:	Member, Conference Program Committee, New Jersey Historical Commission

- 2019: Faculty Presenter, NEH Summer Institute for School Teachers at the New-York Historical Society on “American Women in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars”
- 2017: Member, Library Company of Philadelphia Fellowship Selection Committee
- 2016: Member, Driscoll Prize Committee, New Jersey Historical Commission
- 2014-2018: Member, Advisory Board for *New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*
- 2014-2017: Co-Editor of Reviews, *Journal of the Early Republic*
- 2012-2014: Member, 350th Anniversary Scholarship and Publications Committee, New Jersey Historical Commission
- Ongoing: Peer Review Scholarly Referee/Evaluator for Book and Article Manuscripts
- Book manuscript reader reports for academic presses include: Cornell University Press, Oxford University Press, SUNY Press, University of North Carolina Press, University of Virginia Press, and Louisiana State University Press
  - Article manuscript reviews for scholarly journals include: *History of Education Quarterly*, *Journal of the Early Republic*, *Feminist Studies*, *Gender & History*, *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, and *William & Mary Quarterly*

## RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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- 2025-2026: C. Conrad & Elizabeth H. Wright Fellowship, Massachusetts Historical Society
- 2024: Career Development Funding, Office of the Provost, William Paterson University (also awarded 2015 and 2018)
- 2011: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship, Historical Society of Pennsylvania and Library Company of Philadelphia
- 2007-2008: National Endowment for the Humanities Post-Doctoral Residence Fellowship, Library Company of Philadelphia
- 2001-2002: Excellence Fellowship, Rutgers University
- 2001: Gilder Lehrman Dissertation Fellowship, New York Historical Society
- 2000-2001: Spencer Dissertation Fellowship for Research Related to Education
- 1999: Andrew W. Mellon Resident Research Fellow, American Philosophical Society
- 1999: Friends of the Princeton University Library Visiting Fellowship
- 1999: Schlesinger Library Dissertation Grant
- 1999: Mellon Research Fellowship, Virginia Historical Society
- 1999: Women's Studies Research Grant, Duke University Special Collections Library

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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- 2021: Group Project Award for Dean's Council, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, William Paterson University
- 2021: Group Project Award for Thomas Jefferson Lecture Series, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, William Paterson University
- 2018: Group Project Award for WWI Lecture/Film Series, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, William Paterson University
- 2015: Dean's Teaching Award, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, William Paterson University
- 2004: Dean's Award for Excellence in Research, Rutgers University
- 1998: New Jersey Daughters of the American Revolution Scholar Award
- 1995: John C. Enk Award, Rutgers University (for outstanding graduate student achievement)
- 1994: The New Jersey Project Award for Excellence in Feminist Scholarship

## COURSES TAUGHT AT WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

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- Hist 1040: The Early Modern World
- Hist 2050: U.S. History Through Reconstruction
- Hist/WGS 2510: Modern Women and Gender (main campus and WPO sections)
- Hist/Phil 2810: Yoga and Meditation (1 credit course)
- Hist/Phil/ASN 2850: Yoga Traditions and Practices
- Hist 2600: Historical Methods
- Hist 3160: American Women's History
- Hist 3180: American Colonies
- Hist 3200: Jeffersonian and Jacksonian Democracy
- Hist 3240: Social and Cultural History of the Early American Republic
- Hist 4030: Interpreting U.S. History
- Hist 4040: Creation of the Early American Republic
- Hist 4800: Capstone Seminar in Women's History
- Hist 5000: Graduate Seminar: Historical Thinking
- Hist 6490: Graduate Seminar: U.S. Women's History
- Phil 1200: Mindfulness and Contemplative Practices

## CERTIFICATIONS

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2025:	Adult Mental First Aid Course, National Council for Mental Wellbeing
2024-2025:	Advanced Yoga Teacher Training Certification, Yoga Synthesis/Yoga Alliance Registered
2017-2018	Basic Yoga Teacher Training Certification, Yoga Synthesis/Yoga Alliance Registered