

Jeffrey W. Baron

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University of Rochester | 362B Rush Rhees Library | P.O. Box 270070 | Rochester, NY 14627

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., History **University of Rochester (expected May 15, 2025)**
Dissertation: "Treasure Excavations in the Medieval and Early Modern Hispanic World," a study of bureaucratic, inquisitorial, and criminal records of licensed and illicit treasure-hunting and grave-robbing in Iberia and colonial Latin America.
- M.A., History **University of Rochester, 2020**
- M.A., Religious Studies **University of Colorado, Boulder, 2018**
- B.A., History **University of California, Santa Cruz, 2012**

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

"Grave Robbing as Philanthropy: How Tombs Became Taxable Treasure in Colonial Latin America." *Renaissance Quarterly* 78.1 (Spring 2025). In press.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Gretchen Starr-LeBeau, *Seven Myths of the Spanish Inquisition*, in *Bulletin of Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies*. In press.

WORK IN PROGRESS

"The Lure of Fortune: Treasure Hunting and Migration in the Hispanic World, 1371–1673," an exploration of licenses and migration patterns in Spain, Colombia, Mexico and Peru (revision of paper delivered at NYSAEH 2024, for submission to *Viator*).

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

External

New York State Association of European Historians (NYSAEH) Barbara J. Blaszak Prize for Best Graduate Paper (2024)

NYSAEH Barbara J. Blaszak Prize for Best Graduate Paper (2022)

University of Rochester

Mellon-Meliara Digital and Interdisciplinary Fellowship (UR Humanities Center, 2024–2026)

Lina and A. William Salomone Prize (UR History Dept., 2024)

Sanford Elwitt Memorial Prize (UR History Dept., 2023)

Meliara Global Scholars Fellowship (UR Humanities Center, 2023)

Bruce F. Pauley Research Fellowship (UR History Dept., 2022)
Russell Hope Robbins Library Digital Fellow (UR, 2021–2022)
Bruce F. Pauley Research Fellowship (UR History Dept., 2020)
Dexter Perkins Fund Graduate Award (UR History Dept., 2020)
Robert L. and Mary L. Sproull Fellowship (UR Graduate School, 2019–2021)

COURSES TAUGHT

University of Rochester

"The History of Treasure" (lower division, 2024)

SUNY Brockport

"Colonial Latin America" (upper division, 2023)

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

University of Rochester

"Postwar Europe, 1945–2019" (lower division, 2021)

"Early Modern Europe, 1450–1700" (lower division, 2021)

University of Colorado

"Judaism" (upper division, 2018)

"Christian Traditions" (upper division, 2016–2018)

"Modern Christianity" (upper division, 2018)

"American Indian Religious Traditions" (lower division, 2017)

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

National/International

"Buried Treasures, Legislative Measures: The Rise of Licensed Treasure Hunting in Medieval Castile and Aragon." International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (To be presented: May 2025).

"The Bureaucracy of Buried Treasure in Renaissance Spain." Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference, Chicago, IL (March 21–23, 2024).

"Grave-robbing as Philanthropy: How Tombs Became Taxable Treasure in Colonial Latin America." Mediterranean Seminar Winter Workshop, Miami, FL (February 3–4, 2023).

"The Medieval and Early Modern Mediterranean: Representations from Within and Beyond." Mediterranean Seminar Winter Workshop, Rochester, NY (February 21–22, 2020).

Regional

"Staking a Sacred Claim: Colonial Excavations in South America, 1500–1700." Northeastern Conference on Andean and Amazonian Archaeology and Ethnohistory, Rochester, NY (October 25–26, 2024).

"The Lure of Fortune: Treasure Hunting and Migration in the Early Modern Hispanic World." New York State Association of European Historians Annual Conference, Oswego, NY (October 4–5, 2024).

- "The Bureaucracy of Buried Treasure in the Early Modern Hispanic World." Central New York Humanities Corridor, Early Modern Hispanic Studies Annual Symposium, Rochester, NY (April 13, 2024).
- "The Legality and Morality of Colonial American Grave Robbing." New York State Association of European Historians Annual Conference, Niagara, NY (October 7–8, 2022).
- "Licensed Plunder: Draining the Sacred Lake of Guatavita." New York State Latin American History Workshop (Zoom, March 19, 2021).

OTHER TALKS

- "Treasure Hunting and Grave Robbing in the Medieval and Early Modern Hispanic World." Humanities Center Jesse L. Rosenberger Work-in-Progress Seminar (November 21, 2023).
- "Antonio de Sepúlveda and the Laguna de Guatavita." Guest lecture for HST 375: Colonial Latin America, SUNY Brockport (Zoom, March 12, 2021).
- "Reactions to the American Encounter: Bartolomé de Las Casas and Michel de Montaigne." Guest Lecture for HIST 123: Early Modern Europe, 1450–1700, University of Rochester (February 16, 2021).
- "Religion in the Mediterranean Landscape." Newcastle University and Bournemouth University, "Royal Workshops of the Alhambra" Archaeology Program, Granada, Spain (July 15, 2017).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Program Assistant** (Medieval and early modern manuscript research in collaboration with Rare Books & Special Collections, conference and event programming), The Rossell Hope Robbins Library, University of Rochester (2019–).
- Research Assistant**, Professor Peter Christensen, University of Rochester. Produced Spanish bibliography for *Precious Metal: German Steel, Modernity and Ecology* (University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2022). (2020).
- Research Assistant**, Professor Sharon Kinoshita, University of California, Santa Cruz and UC Multicampus Research Project in Mediterranean Studies. Principal assistant to co-director and extensive research for: Marco Polo, *The Description of the World*, ed. Sharon Kinoshita (Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 2016). (2012).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- "Passionale Paleography, Engraving, and Pedagogy Workshop" (January–May 2025).
- "Latin Diplomats." Mediterranean Seminar Summer Skills Seminar (August 22–23, 2023).
- "An Introduction to the Archive of the Crown of Aragon (Documents in Latin to ca. 1350)." Mediterranean Seminar Summer Skills Seminar (May 17–20, 2021).
- "Proyecto València la Vella." Archaeological field school at València la Vella, with Catalan Institute of Classical Archaeology, Valencia, Spain (July 30–Aug. 17, 2018).
- "Royal Workshops of the Alhambra." Archaeological field school at Alhambra Palace (UNESCO World Heritage Site), with University of Granada, Newcastle University, and Bournemouth University, Granada, Spain (July 10–29, 2017).

SERVICE

Executive Board Member, New York State Association of European Historians (2024–)
Graduate Liaison, University of Rochester History Department (2024–)
Organizing Committee Member, 2026 Vagantes Conference on Medieval Studies (2024–)
Graduate Organizational Attendant, Northeastern Conference on Andean and Amazonian
Archaeology and Ethnohistory (2024)
Program Coordinator, University of Colorado Mediterranean Studies Group (2016–2019)
Co-organized 29 international workshops and presentations hosted at Brown University,
Princeton University, University of Michigan, University of Oregon, University of Notre
Dame, Pomona College, University of Minnesota, and University of Colorado.

LANGUAGES

Castilian Spanish and English (fluent)
Latin, Swedish, Catalan, Valencian (reading)

REFERENCES

- 1. Thomas C. Devaney**, thomas.devaney@rochester.edu
Associate Professor of History, Associate Dean, University of Rochester
- 2. Laura Ackerman Smoller**, laura.smoller@rochester.edu
Professor of History, University of Rochester
- 3. Thomas Hahn**, thomas.hahn@rochester.edu
Professor of English Emeritus, University of Rochester
- 4. Pablo M. Sierra Silva**, pablo.sierra@rochester.edu
Associate Professor of History, University of Rochester
- 5. Anna Siebach-Larsen**, annasiebachlarsen@rochester.edu
Director, Rossell Hope Robbins Library and Koller-Collins Center, University of Rochester
- 6. Brian A. Catlos**, brian.catlos@colorado.edu
Professor of Religious Studies, Director of CU Mediterranean Studies Group, University of
Colorado, Boulder

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association
The Association for Computers and the Humanities
The Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies
Medieval Academy of America
The Mediterranean Seminar

New York State Association of European Historians
Plus Ultra Collective
Renaissance Society of America
The Sixteenth Century Society

(Updated February 1, 2025)