

**REBECCA A. AMATO**

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**EDUCATION**

2013 Ph.D. The Graduate Center, City University of New York, Department of History  
Title: *Alien Spaces: Planning, Reform, and Preservation on the Lower East Side, 1880-2002*  
Committee: Gerald Markowitz (chair), David Nasaw, Suzanne Wasserman, Joseph Heathcott, Josh Brown

2000 M.A. New York University, Cinema and Cultural Studies  
Title: *Augenblick: Cinema, Modernity, and the Visually Literate Spectator*  
Adviser: Sheril Antonio

1996 B.S. Northwestern University, Department of Radio-TV-Film, *graduation with distinction*

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Director of Teaching and Learning**, Illinois Humanities, May 2020-present

- Direct and manage daily operations for The Odyssey Project/Proyecto Odisea, a free humanities-based, UIC-accredited college program for low-income adults in Chicagoland with little to no access to higher education.
- Plan and lead staff and faculty orientation, training, and active coaching across Odyssey/Odisea sites; provide ongoing mentoring and monitor individual work plans; formally observe and evaluate each faculty member once per academic year and provide written and/or oral feedback of teaching performance.
- Direct and manage the NEA Big Read, an annual, statewide, funding-reliant book group and public conversation program.
- Oversee Program Manager for Gwendolyn Brooks Youth Poetry Awards and K-12 teacher network.
- Work with K-12 teachers to develop lesson plans and curricula that amplify the work of Illinois Humanities and its grantee partners.
- Administer program evaluations and develop evaluation measures for larger

Teaching and Learning program goals.

- Serve as a thought leader for the organization in matters of curriculum, teaching and learning, and participant-centered programming grounded in a critical pedagogy approach; functions as a general resource in matters related to curriculum, assessment and programs across organization programs; assesses and plans facilitated dialogue programming across the organization.
- Manage a staff of 9 part-time and 1 full-time employees.

**Associate Director**, Civic Engagement Initiatives and Urban Democracy Lab, New York University, Gallatin School of Individualized Study, April 2014-May 2020

- Administered and oversaw the Gallatin Global Fellowship in Urban Practice, a summer research program for advanced undergraduate and graduate students.
- Administered and oversaw the Doctoral Fellowship in Urban Practice, a year-long research and pedagogy fellowship for NYU doctoral candidates planning to pursue engaged scholarship.
- Worked with the Director to conceive of, plan, coordinate, and market public workshops and panel discussions on topics related to affordable housing, environmental justice, labor justice, data for social justice, and cultural citizenship.
- Managed web site development, social media, institutional branding, and budgets for the Office of Civic Engagement and Urban Democracy Lab.
- Developed partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs) in New York, Chicago, Oakland, Jackson, MS, Buenos Aires, Berlin, and Madrid.
- Managed an Administrative Aide, three doctoral fellows, two graduate student workers, and an intern; and mentored the Lab's Emerging Leaders Program.

**Class Adviser**, New York University, Gallatin School of Individualized Study, 2006-2010

- Academic Adviser to the Classes of 2008 and 2011 at Gallatin (400+ undergraduate students).
- Led and organized workshops on registration, academic requirements, scholarships/fellowships, pre-law, pre-med, and other post-graduate planning.
- Coordinated with the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) to provide additional advising and curricular support for Gallatin students served by HEOP.

## TEACHING AND ADVISING

University of Illinois Chicago, History Department

Fall 2023-Spring 2024

- HIST499, History Internship

The Odyssey Project, Illinois Humanities  
Spring 2021

- Justice in the City, co-taught with Christophe Ringer

New York University, Gallatin School of Individualized Study,  
2006-2010, 2014-present

- American Bohemia, Spring 2007, Fall 2007
- Place and Memory, Spring 2009, Spring 2010
- (Dis)Placed Urban Histories, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018
- Critical Race Theory & Your Education, Fall 2018 (co-taught with twenty-three Gallatin faculty members)
- Land & Property, Spring 2019
- Faculty sponsor for independent studies, tutorials, and senior projects.
- Consistent faculty advising load of 15+ B.A. and M.A. students.
- Mentor for Albert Gallatin Scholars student group, Fall 2008, Spring 2010, Spring 2018. Co-organized and co-led research travel for the group to Venezuela (2009), Turkey (2010), and Northern England, Ireland, and Northern Ireland (2018).
- Mentor for Americas Scholars student group, Spring 2017. Co-organized and co-led research travel for the group to Bogotá, Colombia and São Paulo, Brazil.
- Faculty Mentor and Administrator for Gallatin Global Fellowship in Urban Practice, 2014-2020
- Faculty Mentor and Administrator for Doctoral Fellowship in Urban Practice, 2017-2020

Guttman Community College, City University of New York, New York, NY

- Arts in New York City, Winter 2013
- Academic Writing and Skills Workshops, Fall 2012, Winter 2013, Spring 2013

Marymount Manhattan College, New York, NY

- American Feminism: Roots and Issues, Fall 2005

City University of New York, Hunter College, New York, NY

- U.S. History, Civil War to the Present, Summer 2004

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Museum of the City of New York, New York, NY (2013-2014)  
Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellowship

Brooklyn Historical Society, Brooklyn, NY  
Oral Historian (2011-2012)  
Consulting Historian for Education (2009, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2019)

Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness, New York, NY (2011-2012)  
Research Associate/Writer for Ethan Sribnick & Ralph Da Costa Nuñez,  
*Family Poverty and Homelessness: The Poor Among Us* (New York:  
Palgrave Macmillan, 2015) and History of Family Poverty in New York City  
website

New York Public Library, New York, NY (2011-2012)  
Consulting Historian for Curriculum Development

American Social History Project/Center for Media and Learning, New York, NY  
(2003-2006)  
Durst Research Scholar for *Virtual New York*  
(<https://virtualny.ashp.cuny.edu>)

LaGuardia and Wagner Archives, LaGuardia Community College, City University  
of New York, New York, NY (2003)  
Curriculum Writer

New-York Historical Society, New York, NY (2002-2003)  
Manuscripts Reference Assistant  
Curator of John Quincy Adams Mini-Exhibit

Lower East Side Tenement Museum, New York, NY (1999-2002)  
Development Coordinator  
Educator/Tour Guide  
Curator for Immigration Film Series  
(<http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/history/johnson/immi.htm>)

## PUBLIC HUMANITIES & ADVOCACY PROJECTS

*This Land is Your Land: Cooper Square Community Land Trust History Project, Creator, 2017-2019*

I organized a team of student researchers in a four-fold process of advocacy and documentation in collaboration with the Cooper Square Committee, Cooper Square Mutual Housing Association, and Cooper Square Community Land Trust. These include: a) Conducting oral histories with long-time Lower East Side residents and advocates for the expansion of a community land trust, b) The production of historical reports on the Lower East Side's recently deconsecrated Church of the Nativity and the life and impact of Dorothy Day, the church's former parishioner and co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement on the Lower East Side, c) Promotional videos for use in community town halls, as well as with city officials and media outlets, d) Participation in a local exhibition on architecture and sites of resistance at The Loisaida Center.

*Melrose Oral History Project/South Bronx Cultural History Walking Tour, Creator, 2017-2020*

As a result of oral history and place-based research conducted in my course, (Dis)Placed Urban Histories, in 2017 and 2018, I am working with Women's Housing and Economic Development Corporation (WHEDco) in the South Bronx to develop signage and maps for a walking tour of sites proposed by community members as "places of significance." The project has already resulted in an on-line archive using Omeka and a series of entries in the historical mapping app, Clio.

*Displaced Histories: Stories of the Southside, Creator, 2015-2016*

In the first two iterations of the course, (Dis)Placed Urban Histories, in Spring 2015 and Spring 2016, students were charged with historicizing the process of gentrification in South Williamsburg, Brooklyn, through archival research and oral history. This course was offered in collaboration with Southside United HDFC, also known as "Los Sures." In spring 2015, students produced an exhibit on-site in South Williamsburg, tracing the history of the neighborhood from European settlement to the present. In spring 2016, students were matched with long-time neighborhood residents to co-produce oral histories and an archive, which were hosted on an Omeka site. The students also mounted an exhibit on-site in South Williamsburg.

*Urban Listeners Working Group, Founder, 2016-2020*

Founded at New York University and hosted by The Graduate Center of the City University of New York in collaboration with New York University's Urban Democracy Lab between fall 2017 and spring 2018, the Urban Listeners (titled "City Amplified" at

CUNY) working group invites oral history practitioners, artists, archivists, and scholars to examine how radical archiving practices can amplify the rich range of oral history and place-based research projects occurring across New York City. Upon its return to New York University in Fall 2018, the working group has re-focused on community history for the purposes of social justice advocacy.

*Humanizing Data Symposium, Organizer, 2016*

This day-long symposium examined how humanities scholars and activists can use data and digital strategies to enhance and disrupt the kinds of research questions, methods, and narratives that define the humanities. Its aim was to rethink alliances, forge stronger and more equal relationships between university-affiliated researchers and community-based organizations, and amplify opportunities to share both resources and authorship with one another. Featured projects and presenters included Dr. Kimon Keramides (NYU) and Jonathan Ned Katz on "Queering the Web," Dr. Jack Tchen (Rutgers-Newark) and Heather Lee (NYU, Shanghai) on "Decolonizing Data," Dr. Caleb Elfenbein (Grinnell College) on Mapping Islamophobia and Erin McElroy of the Anti-eviction Mapping Project, and Gergely Baics and Leah Meisterlin on historical mapping as "digital activism."

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*Envisioning Brooklyn: Family, Philanthropy, and the Growth of an American City* (with Steven H. Jaffe). New York: Brooklyn Historical Society, 2017

### Articles, Chapters & Interviews

"Emma Goldman," "Henry Street Settlement," and "Atlantic Yards." *A People's Guide to New York City*, eds. Carolina Bank Muñoz, Penny Lewis, and Emily Molina. University of California Press, 2021.

"Crossing the Gentrification Frontier: The Lower East Side Tenement Museum and the Blind-spots of Social History" in *Radical Roots: Civic Engagement, Public History, and a Tradition of Social Justice Activism*, ed. Denise Meringolo. Amherst College Press, 2021.

"Radical is a Process: Public History Pedagogy in Urban Universities", co-authored with Gabrielle Bendiner-Viani, Mary Rizzo, Dipti Desai, and Denise Meringolo in *Radical Roots: Civic Engagement, Public History, and a Tradition of*

*Social Justice Activism*, ed. Denise Meringolo. Amherst College Press, 2021.

"On Empty Spaces, Silence, and the Pause" in *Aesthetics of Gentrification: Seductive Spaces and Exclusive Communities in the Neoliberal City*, eds. Christoph Lindner and Gerardo Sandoval. Forthcoming from Amsterdam University Press, 2021.

"(Dis)Placed Urban Histories: Combining Digital Humanities Pedagogy and Community Engagement" (with Zachary Coble) in *Quick Hits for Teaching Digital Humanities: Successful Strategies from Award-Winning Teachers*. Indiana University Press, 2020.

"Displacement is the New Dispossession: A Word from Our Neighbors," in *More Art in the Public Eye*. Duke University Press, 2020.

"Reusing Landholdings of the Archdiocese of New York for Low-Income Housing" in *Dio Non Abita Più Qui: Dismissione di luoghi di culto e gestione integrata dei beni culturali ecclesiastici*, ed. Fabrizio Capanni. Artemide Edizioni Press, 2019.

"De-Radicalizing Public Engagement" in [The City Amplified: Oral Histories and Radical Archives](#), eds. Prathibha Kanakamedala and Allison Guess, Center for the Humanities, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, 2019.

"Public Housing," [A History of the East Village and Its Architecture](#), ed. Francis Morrone, Greenwich Village Society for Historical Preservation, December 2018.

"Board to Death?" *Urban Omnibus* (March 2018)  
<https://urbanomnibus.net/2018/03/board-to-death/>

"Right to the City: Q&A with Rebecca Amato" *Drift*, Volume 1: New York, 2015.  
<https://driftmag.com/products/volume-1-new-york>

"Revolutionary Silver: The Story Behind a Myer Myers Coffeepot" and "Their 'Noblest Work': Robert R. Livingston, Thomas Jefferson, and the Louisiana Purchase," *City Courant: The Journal of the Museum of the City of New York*, Spring 2014.

"Using radical public history tours to reframe urban crime" (with Jeffrey T.

Manuel), *Radical History Review*, no. 113 (2012): 212-224.

"Lunchtime: How the School Lunch Program Began," *Uncensored Magazine* (Summer 2011)

"The Business of Dinner: An Interview with Robert Kenner" (with Rahul Hamid), *Cineaste Magazine* 34:3 (2009), 38-41.

*Forthcoming*

"Community Curation" in *Routledge Companion to Publicly Engaged Humanities Scholarship*, eds. Daniel Fisher-Livne and Michelle May-Curry, expected 2024.

## PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

Discussant: "Working Group: Facilitating Difficult Conversations in an Era of Political Polarization," National Council on Public History Conference, Atlanta, April 2023.

Plenary Presentation and Workshop Leader (with Kerry McLean, WHEDco and Arielle Hersh, UHAB): "Building Solidarity and Co-Learning in University-Community Partnerships," The University and the Neighborhood Conference, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC, November 2022.

Panelist: "Social Justice in Public History: Finding a History of Radical Practices," National Humanities Conference, Detroit, November 2021.

Panelist: "Humanities 2030," National Humanities Conference, November 2020

Panelist: "Shape Shift: Back to the Drawing Board," Urban Design Forum, The Clemente, November 2019

Panelist: "A People's Guide to New York City: Highlighting Histories of Resilience, Activism, and Social Change," American Sociological Association Conference, New York, August 2019

Chair/Panelist: "Earthly Concerns: Religious Institutions and Real Estate," Resisting Displacement and Dispossession, Planners Network Conference, New



York, June 2019

Invited Talk: "On Empty Spaces, Silence, & the Pause," Aesthetics of Gentrification: Art, Architecture, and Displacement International Conference, University of Oregon, Slow Lab, Portland, OR, April 2019

Invited Talk and Poster Session: "Reusing Landholdings of the Archdiocese of New York for Low-Income Housing," Decommissioning and Reusing Churches: Issues and Research Perspectives International Conference, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy, November 2018

Chair/Commentator: "Public Space as/in States of Emergence," American Studies Association Conference, Atlanta, GA, 2018

Invited Talk: Teaching Scholarship Circle on Activism and Community Engagement, Hunter College, City University of New York, April 2018

Invited Talk: "Viva Loisaída: CHARAS/El Bohío and Anticolonial Resistance on the Gentrification Frontier," Urban Research Day, New York University, March, 2018

Moderator: "What is the Model City? Film Screening & Discussion" UnionDocs, New York, NY, March 15, 2018

Panelist: "Web Hosting: Creating Infrastructure for Digital Storytelling," Digital Humanities Forum 2017, Digital Storytelling, Kansas City, KS, 2017

Invited Talk: "Careers Beyond the Tenure Track," The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, March 2017

Invited Talk: "What Can You Do with a Ph.D. in the Humanities?" NYU Center for the Humanities, March 2016 and March 2017

Organizer: "The Pedagogical Potential and Perils of 'Community-Engaged' Learning," American Studies Association Conference, Chicago, IL, 2017

Organizer: "Radical Pedagogies/Radical Messages: Possibilities of University-Community Partnership," National Humanities Conference, Boston, MA, 2017

Organizer: "Back to the Old Neighborhood: The Politics of Documenting Neighborhood Change," American Studies Association Conference, Denver, CO, 2016

Panelist: "The Politics of Documenting Neighborhood Change," New York University, New York, NY, October 25, 2016

Roundtable Participant: "Folded, Spindled, Mutilated," America and Its Unfit: Eugenics Then & Now Conference, Asian Pacific American Institute, New York University, September 2015

Invited Talk: "A Brooklyn Barrio: Living Los Sures, A Pop-Up School of Local Experience and Neighborhood Celebration," Van Alen Institute & UnionDocs Center for Documentary Art, May 2015

Panelist: "Failure to Plan or Planned Failure? Urban Planning and Gentrification on the Lower East Side," American Studies Association Conference, Toronto, Canada, 2015

Panelist: "Conquering the Gentrification Frontier: Lower East Side Tenement Museum, Heritage Preservation, and Urban Development," Urban History Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA, 2014

Organizer: "Citizen Participation in Urban and Neighborhood Planning," Society for Community and Regional Planning History, Toronto, Canada, 2013

Organizer: "City Planning Exhibits," Urban History Association Conference, New York, NY, 2012

Panelist: "Spaces of Poverty: The 'Congestion Exhibit' and the Lower East Side, 1907-1911," New York State History Conference, Lewiston, NY, 2012

Panelist: "Developing the East Village," National Council on Public History, "Public History and Gentrification" Working Group, Pensacola, FL, 2011

Panelist: "Public History's Outlaws" Working Group, National Council on Public History, Portland, OR, 2010

Panelist: "Policing Female Sexuality: Masculinity and Vice Investigations in New York City, 1919-1932," New York Metro American Studies Association, New York, NY, 2005

Invited Talk: "Digital Doctoral Work: Five Case Studies" panelist, Career Path or Road to Nowhere? A New Media Lab Expo on Graduate Education and Digital Media, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, New York, NY, November 2005

Invited Talk: "Scholar Talks: Teaching American History Grant at P.S. 41, Brownsville, Brooklyn," Brooklyn Historical Society, Spring 2004.

### Guest Lectures

"Public Humanities and Social Change," Designing Media for Social Change, Loyola University Chicago, March 3, 2022.

"Community History Collaborations," Introduction to Public History, graduate class, New York University, November 1, 2017 and April 17, 2019

"Mapping the Lower East Side," The Peopling of New York, undergraduate class, Macaulay Honors College, City University of New York, March 8, 2016

"Seward Park Urban Renewal Site," On Location: Exploring America: *Ground Zero*, undergraduate class, Washington University, March 9, 2015

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

- Urban Design Forum Fellow, 2020-2021
- Appointee to Manhattan Borough President's Task Force on Religious Facilities, 2019-2020
- Humanities New York, Reading & Discussion Series Grant Awardee, 2019
- American Association for State and Local History 2019 Award for Excellence for Brooklyn Historical Society's Young Scholars program (Consulting Historian)
- Featured Project: (Dis)Placed Urban Histories, *Humanities for All*, National Humanities Alliance, 2018  
(<https://humanitiesforall.org/projects/dis-placed-urban-histories>)
- National Endowment for the Humanities, selected as participant in summer institute on Art and Public Culture in Chicago, sponsored by Newberry Library,

2018

- Teaching with Technology Grant, New York University, 2015
- University Fellowship, The Graduate Center, CUNY, 2003, 2011
- Jewish Studies Award, New York University, 2007
- Graduate Assistantship, The Graduate Center, CUNY, 2002

## **PROFESSIONAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Board Member, Chicago Cultural Alliance (2023 to present)

Member of Lifelong Learning Research Team for We Will Chicago Citywide Planning Initiative, 2021-2022

University of Illinois Chicago History Department, Affiliated Faculty (2021 to present)

National Endowment for the Arts, Arts Education Grant Review Panel, National Endowment for the Arts (2022 and 2023)

Judge, *29<sup>th</sup> Annual New York City History Day*, Museum of the City of New York (2019)

Department of Cultural Affairs Reviewer (2001, 2014, 2018, 2019)

TheDream.US College Access and Success Program for DREAMers, National Selection Committee (2017, 2018)

Chair/Commentator, Dean's Award for Summer Research Conference (2018)

Elected Representative, NYU Administrative Management Council (2018-2020)

Member NYU Urban Studies Programs Working Group (2018-2020)

Member of Steering Committee, Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics, New York University (2017-2020)

Civic Engagement Committee Member, Gallatin School of Individualized Study, New York University (2017-2020)

Selection Committee for GUIDE Program Fellowships for Borough of Manhattan Community College Students transferring to New York University (2017-2020)

Faculty Panelist, Master's Program RAW Forum (2017, 2018)

Jury Member, Open Poll Design Competition, Van Alen Institute (October 2016)

Selection Committee for Gallatin Global Fellowship in Human Rights, New York University (2014-2020)

Master's Theses Advised:

- Gabryel Smith (2016)
- Alexandra Efimenko (2018)
- Jonathan Wolf (2019)

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Studies Association  
National Council on Public History  
Planners Network