

RICHARD J. ROSS

312 W. Nevada Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801
217-344-2856

College of Law and Department of History
University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign)
504 E. Pennsylvania Avenue
Champaign, Illinois 61820
(217) 244-7890
Email: Rjross@illinois.edu

EMPLOYMENT

Professor of Law and History, College of Law and Department of History, University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign), 2004-present

- Thomas M. Mengler Faculty Scholar (2006-2008)
- Co-Director, Legal History Program (2004-)

Visiting Professor of Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School (Fall 2008 and Fall 2009)

Associate Professor of Law and History, Law School and Department of History, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2003-2004; Assistant professor, 2001-2003; Governing faculty for undergraduate Legal Studies program, 2001-2004

Associate Professor of Law, Indiana University School of Law, Indianapolis, 1999-2001

Assistant Professor of Law, University of Chicago Law School, 1993-99; Visiting assistant professor, 1992-93.

EDUCATION

Yale Graduate School, Ph.D., History Department (1987-1993, 1998): “The Commoning of the Common Law: Print, Memory, and the Intellectual History of Legal Communications, 1520-1640.” (Dissertation advisor: John Demos)

Yale Law School, 1985-1989; J.D., May 1989
Symposium Editor and Senior Editor, Yale Law Journal (1987-88).

Yale University, 1980-1984; B.A., May 1984
Summa Cum Laude; Distinction in the history major; Phi Beta Kappa

PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS PENDING

Review of Christopher Brooks, Law, Politics and Society in Early Modern England (Cambridge, 2008), in Law and History Review 27 (forthcoming, 2009)

- “Puritan Godly Discipline in Comparative Perspective: Legal Pluralism and the Sources of ‘Intensity,’” American Historical Review 113 (2008): 975-1002.
- “The Career of Puritan Jurisprudence,” Law and History Review 26 (2008): 227-58.
- “Legal Communications and Imperial Governance: British North America and Spanish America Compared,” in Cambridge History of Law in America, Volume 1: Early America (1580-1815), ed. Christopher L. Tomlins and Michael Grossberg (Cambridge, 2008), 104-143.
- Review of Michael Burrage, Revolution and the Making of the Contemporary Legal Profession: England, France, and the United States (Oxford, 2006), in Continuity and Change 23 (2008): 199-200.
- Review of J. H. Elliott, Empires of the Atlantic World: Britain and Spain in America 1492-1830 (New Haven, 2006), in Law and History Review 25 (2007): 648-49.
- “Communications Revolutions,” Encyclopedia of Law and Society: American and Global Perspectives (Sage Publications, 2007), I, 212-14.
- “Pre-Revolutionary Popular Constitutionalism and Larry Kramer’s The People Themselves,” Chicago-Kent Law Review 81 (2006): 905-910.
- “The Ancient Constitution in the Old World and the New” (coauthored with James S. Hart), in The World of John Winthrop: Essays on England and New England, 1588-1649, eds. Francis J. Bremer and Lynn A. Botelho (Boston, 2005), 237-289
- “Communications Revolutions and Legal Culture: An Elusive Relationship,” Law and Social Inquiry 27 (Summer 2002): 637-84
 • Reprinted in: Law and Society Approaches to Cyberspace, ed. Paul Schiff Berman (Ashgate Publishing, 2007)
- “Introduction: Intersecting Diasporas,” William and Mary Quarterly 58 (October 2001): 849-54.
- “The Memorial Culture of Early Modern English Lawyers: Memory as Keyword, Shelter and Identity, 1560-1640,” Yale Journal of Law and the Humanities 10 (Summer 1998): 229-326.
- “The Commoning of the Common Law: The Renaissance Debate over Printing English Law, 1520-1640,” University of Pennsylvania Law Review 146 (January 1998): 323-461.
- Review of A. G. Roeber, Palatines, Liberty, and Property: German Lutherans in Colonial British America (Baltimore, 1993), in Law and History Review 14 (Spring 1996): 170-173.
- “The Legal Past of Early New England: Notes for the Study of Law, Legal Culture, and Intellectual History,” William and Mary Quarterly 50 (1993): 28-41.

“Reflections on the Magic Mirror,” review of Kermit L. Hall, The Magic Mirror: Law in American History (Oxford, 1989), in Ius Commune 18 (1991): 287-295.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Law in the Seventeenth Century,” in American Centuries: The Ideas, Issues, and Trends that Made U.S. History, ed. John Demos (MTM Publishing).

The Commoning of the Common Law: The Relationship of the English People to their Law, 1500-1700 (book in progress)

History of American Law (casebook in progress) (with Robert Gordon, Ariela Gross, and Daniel Hulsebosch)

AWARDS AND PRIZES

Sutherland Prize, Honorable Mention (1999) (presented by the American Society for Legal History for the best article on English legal history published in the previous calendar year. Awarded for “Memorial Culture of Early Modern English Lawyers.”)

Best New Professor Award, Indiana University School of Law, Indianapolis (1999-2000) (presented by vote of the student body for achievement in teaching)

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

Founder and Director, Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, Center for Renaissance Studies, Newberry Library (Chicago) [beginning in fall 2005, the Symposium will present each year a conference that gathers law professors, historians, and social scientists to explore a particular topic in comparative legal history in the early modern period, broadly defined (c.1492-1815)].

Organized: “New Perspectives on Legal Pluralism in the Early Modern Atlantic,” Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, Center for Renaissance Studies, Newberry Library, Chicago (co-organized with Lauren Benton) (upcoming, April 2010)

Organized: “The Law of Nations and the Early Modern Atlantic World,” Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, Center for Renaissance Studies, Newberry Library, Chicago (co-organized with Eliga Gould) (upcoming, April 2009)

Organized: “Law, Religion, and Social Discipline in the Early Modern Atlantic World,”

Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, Center for Renaissance Studies, Newberry Library, Chicago (October 2006)

Organized: “Membership in Communities and States in the Early Modern Atlantic World: Legal Rules, Social Judgments, and the Negotiation of Citizenship,” Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, Center for Renaissance Studies, Newberry Library, Chicago (October 2005)

Organized: “Owning Knowledge: The History of Modern U.S. Intellectual Property Law,” Institute for Legal Studies, University of Wisconsin Law School (November 2004)

Organized: “Law, Family, and State Organization in the Early Modern Atlantic World,” Institute for Legal Studies, University of Wisconsin Law School (November 2002)

PAPERS AND COMMENTS

Keynote Address: “Law: Continuity and Change in the Early Modern Period,” Early Modern Workshop in Jewish History, Yeshiva University, New York (August 2008)

Commentator, Conference on Legal Transplantations, Institute for Advanced Study, Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University, Israel (June 2008)

“Puritan Godly Discipline in Comparative Perspective: Legal Pluralism and the Sources of ‘Intensity’” Presented at:

- Early Modern Studies Workshop, University of Pennsylvania History Department (October 2008)
- Ad Hoc Workshop, University of Pennsylvania Law School (October 2008)
- New York University Legal History Colloquium (August 2008)
- Oxford Legal History Forum, Faculty of Law, Oxford University, England (March 2008)
- British History in the Seventeenth Century Workshop, Institute for Historical Research, London, England (October 2007)
- University of Tel Aviv Legal History Workshop (March 2007)
- Stanford Law School Legal History Workshop (February 2007)
- Center for the Study of Law and Society, Berkeley Law School (February 2007)
- American Society for Legal History, 2006 Meeting (November 2006)
- Conference on “Law, Religion, and Social Discipline in the Early Modern Atlantic World,” Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, Newberry Library, Chicago (October 2006)
- Triangle Legal History and Early American History workshops (September 2006)
- Law and Society Association conference (July 2006)

Chaired Panel on “Law and Power in U.S. History,” Law and Society Association conference (July 2006)

“Pre-Revolutionary Popular Constitutionalism and Larry Kramer’s The People Themselves (2004),” Symposium on Larry Kramer’s The People Themselves: Popular Constitutionalism and Judicial Review, Chicago-Kent Law School (November 2005)

Chaired Panel on “Crime and the Law in England, 1750-1850,” North American Conference of British Studies (October 2005)

Commentator and Chair, Panel on “Indigenous Peoples, Empire, and Law,” 10th Anniversary Conference, Harvard University’s International Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World, 1500-1825 (August 2005)

Commentator, Conference on “Britain and Political Mobilization,” Nicholson Center for British Studies, University of Chicago History Department (May 2005)

“Legal Communications and Imperial Governance in Colonial British and Spanish America.”

Presented at:

- London Legal History Seminar, University College, London (December 2007)
- Imperial History workshop, Institute for Historical Research, London, England (November 2007)
- USC Legal History Workshop (October 2007)
- Duke Law School Faculty Workshop (September 2006)
- Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture conference (June 2005)
- Yale Law School Legal History Forum (April 2005)
- University of Connecticut School of Law Faculty Workshop (April 2005)
- University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) Workshops in Early American and Latin American History (October 2004)
- Northwestern Law School (October 2004)
- Midwest Law and Society Retreat (October 2004)
- American Bar Foundation Seminar (May 2004)
- American Society for Legal History, 2003 Meeting (November 2003)

“Legal Communications in the Early Modern Atlantic World.” Presented at:

- Conference on “Atlantic Legalities, 1500-1825,” Harvard University’s International Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World, 1500-1825 (April 2005)
- University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) Workshop in Early Modern European History (April 2005)

Commented on panel entitled, “Law, Family, and State Organization in Early America,” for the Law, Family, and State Organization in the Early Modern Atlantic World conference, University of Wisconsin Law School (November 2002).

“Law as Communication in Early America,” Section on Legal History, American Association of Law School’s Annual Meeting (January 2001)

Commented on and chaired panel entitled, “Natural Law Thought in British North America,” American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting (October 2000)

“The Midwives and Morticians of Puritan Jurisprudence: The Law of Early Massachusetts in History and Historiography.” Presented at:

- North American Conference of British Studies (October 2004)
- University of Wisconsin Law School (May 2002)
- Newberry Seminar in Early American History, Newberry Library, Chicago (October 2000)
- Conference on “John Winthrop’s Worlds: England and New England, 1588-1649,” Millersville University (September 1999).

Commented on legal history panel and participated in concluding round table discussion for a conference on “The Uses of Script and Print, 1300-1700,” University of Exeter, England (April 2000)

“Methods and Approaches in Early American Legal History,” Northwestern University History Department (December 1999)

“Print and Electronics: The Effect of Communications Revolutions on Legal Culture.” Presented at:

- University of Wisconsin Law School (November 1999)
- Indiana University School of Law, Indianapolis (February 2000)
- Chicago-Kent School of Law (February 2000)

Commented on a paper on “Noachic and Natural Law among German-Speakers in Early Modern North America,” for a conference on “Jews and Pietists in Dialogue in Enlightenment America,” Pennsylvania State University (October 1999)

“Legal Culture and Legal Communications,” prepared for a festschrift panel entitled, “Studies in Social-Legal History in Honor of Lawrence Friedman, II: Comparative Legal Cultures,” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting (May 1999)

Invited Lecture: Kane Lecture in Legal History, University of Kansas Law School: “History of the Book and the Law: Connections and Opportunities” (October 1998).

Paper also presented at:

- University of Southern California Law School (August 1999)
- Chicago-Kent College of Law (November 1998)

“Authority and Legal Authorship, 1500-1800,” American Society for Legal History, 1998 Meeting (October 1998)

Commented on panel, “Writing Law and Laws about Writing,” Law, Culture and the Humanities Conference (March 1998)

“The Memorial Culture of Early Modern English Lawyers: Memory as Keyword, Shelter and Identity, 1560-1640.” Presented at:

- Yale Law School Legal History Forum (November 1997)

- Georgetown Law School Legal History Workshop (November 1997)
- University of Chicago Law School Work-in-Progress Series (November 1997)
- University of Chicago Legal History Workshop (January 1998)
- Princeton University American Studies Colloquium on Law and Society (February 1998)
- New York University Law School Legal History Workshop (February 1998)

“Why Did Common Lawyers Become Uneasy about the Printing Press a Hundred Years after its Introduction?” Presented at:

- Harvard Law School Legal History Workshop (April 1996)
- New York University Law School Legal History Colloquium (April 1996)
- University of Pennsylvania Legal History Workshop (December 1996)
- University of Chicago Comparative Legal History Workshop (January 1997)
- University of Chicago Law School Work-in-Progress Series (Spring 1997)

“The Intellectual and Political Challenges of Print in Early Modern English Legal Culture,” American Society for Legal History, 1995 Meeting.

Commented on panel, “Justice, Honor, and Identity: New Work in North American Legal History,” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting (June 1995)

Commented on panel, “Telling the Truth: Evidence in Seventeenth-Century England and America,” American Society for Legal History, 1994 Meeting.

Delivered talk on “Trends in American Legal History,” Haifa University Law School, Haifa, Israel (July 1994).

Commented on panel, “Seditious Libel and Partisan Politics in Colonial America,” American Society for Legal History, 1993 Meeting.

“Law in Early American History,” Comparative Legal History Workshop, University of Chicago History Department (October, 1993).

“The Problem of Memory in Early Modern Anglo-American Legal Literature.” Presented at:

- American Society for Legal History, 1992 Meeting
- Boston University Law School Legal History Workshop (February 1993)
- American Bar Foundation Workshop (February 1993)

“The Legal Past of Early New England--An Evaluation and Some Suggestions for the Future,” New York University Law School Legal History Colloquium (March 1992).

“New Views of the Colonial Legal Past,” American Society for Legal History, 1991 Meeting.

COMPETITIVE FELLOWSHIPS

Visiting Research Fellow, American Bar Foundation, Chicago (spring semester 2004)

Fellow, Institute for Research in the Humanities, University of Wisconsin, Madison (fall semester 2003)

Spencer Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, Newberry Library, Chicago (fall semester 2000)

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Postdoctoral Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts (1999-2000) (declined in order to accept the Spencer fellowship)

Law and History Fellowship, Yale Law School (1991-92)

Littleton-Griswold Grant for Research in American Legal History, American Historical Association (1991)

Mellon Fellowship, Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University (1990-91) (enabled graduate students to read social theory outside of their home discipline)

Research Fellowship, Massachusetts Historical Society (1990-91)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS

Visiting Scholar, New York University History Department (2009-2010)

Visiting Scholar, Harvard University History Department (1995-96)

Associate Editor, Law and Society Review (2004-); Editorial Advisory Board (2004-)

Corresponding Editor, e-Legal History Review (2005-) [electronic legal history journal covering the United States, Latin America, England, France, Germany, Portugal, and Italy; edited by Dr. José Manuel Pérez-Prendes Muñoz-Arraco (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)].

Associated Researcher, Institut D'Études Politiques de Paris [Sciences-Po] (2007-2008)

Co-Coordinator, "Early America and the Atlantic World" Workshop and Reading Group, University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) (with Max Edelson) (2005-)

Executive Committee, Board of Directors, American Society for Legal History (2002-2005)

Selection Committee, Cromwell Prize, American Society for Legal History (2004-; chair, 2009)

Willard Hurst Memorial Fund Committee, American Society for Legal History (2002-2006)

Selection Committee, Hurst Prize, Law and Society Association (2004-2005)

Surrency Prize selection committee, American Society for Legal History (2000-2003 and 2006-2008; Chair of Committee, 2000-2003)

Program Committee, American Society for Legal History's Annual Conference (1998-2000)

Reviewer of book manuscripts for: Cambridge University Press; Oxford University Press; Stanford University Press; Yale University Press

Reviewer of article manuscripts for: Journal of Legal History; Journal of Law and Religion; Law and History Review; Law and Social Inquiry; Law and Society Review; Review of Law and Economics.

Evaluator of grant proposals for: American Council of Learned Societies; Newberry Library Fellowship Program; Killam Program, Canada Council for the Arts

Faculty Senate, University of Wisconsin, Madison (2001-2004) (elected by History Department)

Governance Committee, Center for Law, Society, and Justice, University of Wisconsin, Madison (2001-2004)

Executive Committee, Legal History Section, American Association of Law Schools (2000-2003)

Awarded Ross and Helen Workman Law Research Grant, University of Illinois College of Law (2005)

Member of Connecticut Bar since 1989

COURSES TAUGHT

Trusts and Estates

Property

American Legal and Constitutional History

The Legal Cultures of Early America, 1600-1760

The Rule of Law in Historical Perspective

Research Seminar in American legal history