

COLIN F. WILDER

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https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/artsandsciences/history/our_people/directory/wilder_colin.php
▪ sc.academia.edu/colinwilder

POSITIONS HELD

- 2024- Associate Professor, History Department
Assistant Director, Center for American Civic Leadership and Public Discourse, 2025
University of South Carolina
- 2016-2024 Assistant Professor, History Department
University of South Carolina
- 2016-2022 Associate Director, Center for Digital Humanities
Assistant Director (library faculty), 2012-2016
University of South Carolina
- 2011-2012 Solmsen Fellow, Institute for Research in the Humanities
University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 2010-2011 Postdoctoral Research Associate, Political Science Department
Brown University
- 2008-2009 Von Holst Lecturer in European Civilization
University of Chicago

EDUCATION

- 2010 Ph.D. in History, *University of Chicago*
- 1997 B.A. in Philosophy, *Yale University*

HISTORICAL RESEARCH INTERESTS

The following all with application to especially the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries:

History of capitalism and freedom broadly in European history
History of money markets and international political economy

Foundations of liberalism in Germany and Europe
Conceptual histories of freedom, equality, and justice

Historical bibliometrics for library collections, remediation, and creator networks
Computational methods for historical research esp. text analysis and network analysis

BOOKS

- 2024 *Property and the German Idea of Freedom, from the End of the Thirty Years' War to the Eve of the French Revolution in Germany*. For the series Studies in Central European History, Brill Publishers (Leiden).
- 2022 *New Technologies in Medieval and Renaissance Studies* (NTMRS), Volume III. Co-editors: M. Davis, C. Wilder. University of Toronto Press.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND ESSAYS

- 2022c “Snowvision: Segmenting, Identifying, and Disseminating Stamped Curve Patterns from Fragments of Pottery.” *International Journal of Computer Vision*. Refereed journal. Co-authors: Y. Lu, J. Zhou, S. McDorman, C. Zhang, D. Scott, J. Butkus, C. Wilder, K. Smith, and S. Wang.
- 2022b “Improvement of Clustering Algorithms by Implementation Of Spelling-Based Ranking.” *IADIS International Journal on Computer Science and Information Systems*. Refereed journal. Co-authors: E. Bryer, T. Rhujittawiwat, J. Rose, and C. Wilder.
- 2022a “TL;DR: An experimental application of text analysis and network analysis to the study of historical library collections, in particular the title catalogs of four libraries in the western Holy Roman Empire in the period 1606-1796, accompanied by some methodological speculations and ideas for further research.” *New Technologies in Medieval and Renaissance Studies* (NTMRS), a series edited by Ray Siemens and William Bowen. All selection- and editorial review processes were completely blind-refereed.
- 2021b “Spelling-Based Ranked Clustering Algorithm to Clean and Normalize Early Modern European Book Titles [Dictionary PPE Clustering].” 6th International Conference on Big Data Analytics, Data Mining and Computational Intelligence (BIGDACI). Co-authors: E. Bryer, T. Rhujittawiwat, S. Comandur, V. Madrid, C. Wilder, and J. Rose.
- 2021a “Analysis of Clustering Algorithms to Clean and Normalize Early Modern European Book Titles.” International Conference on Software Engineering and Information Management, January. (Conference papers are double-blind peer-reviewed in full upon submission and effectively double as journal articles in this field.) Co-authors: E. Bryer, T. Rhujittawiwat, S. Comandur, V. Madrid, S. Riley, J. Rose, C. Wilder.
- 2020 “Snowvision: The Promise of Algorithmic Methods in Southeastern Archaeological Research.” *Polish Journal of American Studies*. Special Issue on Digital Humanities. Refereed journal. Co-authors: C. Wilder, S. McDorman, J. Zhou, A. King, Y. Lu, K. Smith, S. Wang, and W. M. J. Simmons.
- 2019 “A Framework for Identifying Designs from Incomplete, Fragmented Cultural Heritage Objects using Curve Patterns”. PEARC 19 conference. Refereed conference paper. (Equivalent of blind refereeing.) Co-authors: J. Zhou, H. Yu, K. Smith, C. Wilder, H. Yu, and S. Wang. Best Paper in Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence track at the conference.

- 2017 “Identifying Designs from Incomplete, Fragmented Cultural Heritage Objects by Curve-Pattern Matching.” *Journal of Electronic Imaging*. Refereed journal. Co-authors: J. Zhou, H. Yu, K. Smith, C. Wilder, H. Yu, and S. Wang.
- 2015 “‘The Rigor of the Law of Exchange’: Freedom, Power, and Responsibility in the German Law Merchant, 1654-1776.” *Zeitschrift für Historische Forschung*. Heft 4/2015. Refereed journal.
- 2012 “Teaching Old Dogs New Tricks: Four Motifs of Legal Change from Early Modern Europe.” *History and Theory*, Vol. 51, February. Refereed journal.

INVITED CONTRIBUTIONS TO ESSAY COLLECTIONS

- 2012 “Ursprünge und Anfänge, immer wieder. Zu unterschiedlichen Formen der Historizität in der deutschen Rechtsgeschichte des 18. Jahrhunderts.” *Geschichtskulturen um 1700*, edited by Thomas Wallnig. DeGruyter. This is a translation of the following article from 2011.
- 2011 “The Importance of Beginning, Over and Over: The Idea of Primitive Germanic Law.” *Intersections*, Vol. 25, edited by Minou Schraven and Maarten Delbeke. Brill Publishers.

REVIEWS

- 2014 “DECIMA: The Digitally Encoded Census Information and Mapping Archive.” *Spenser Review*, Vol. 44, Spring-Summer. Refereed journal.

GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS (SELECT)

Project Director (2025 - ongoing), *Civics and Humanities*. Funded by National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and Institute for Humane Studies, 2024-2029. Over \$1.7 million award. Co-PIs: Christopher Tollefsen, Christine Caldwell Ames.

Project Lead (2025), *Mining Early Modern European Library Collections to Reconstruct Ideas about Freedom, Equality, and Sovereignty*. Funded by the Office of the Vice President for Research, USC, 2024-2025. A collaboration with Harpriya Mehta, Kritik Jain, and Abubakr Usman.

Co-Project Director (2016-2022), *Snowvision: Developing Pattern Recognition Software to Reconstruct Prehistoric Native American Pottery Designs* (worldengraved.org). Funded by successive grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), National Science Foundation (NSF), and National Park Service (NPS) Preservation Technology and Training Grant.

Board of Directors and Technical Lead (2013-2022), *Victorian Lives and Letters Consortium (VLLC) and Carlyle Letters Online* (<https://carlyleletters.dukeupress.edu/home>). With Brent Kinser, David Sorensen, Marion Thain and Francis O’Gorman. Funded by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). Oversaw migration of project to Texas A&M University in 2022.

SOFTWARE

- 2017 *Text Networks*. A set of python modules for computational text analysis which takes a string of text of any given length, removes (English) stop words from it, creates a dictionary of frequencies of all bigrams, and finally creates node and edge files suitable for graphing in Gephi. Available at <https://github.com/ColinWilder/textNetworks>. Based loosely on the Programming Historian.
- 2017 *Latin Phrase Processor*. Lemmatizes Latin phrases stored in CSV form. Available at <https://github.com/ColinWilder/latinPhraseProcessor>. Based in part on code and suggestions from Kyle Johnson of CLTK, Patrick Burns of Disiecta Membra, and others.

INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND ACADEMIC HONORS

- 2026-2029 National Endowment for the Humanities Lifelong Learning Grant
2025-2026 National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman's Grant
2024-2025 Propel AI Research Scholar
2024 Constitution Day lecture grant, Jack Miller Center
2024-2025 ASPIRE Research Grant, University of South Carolina
2019-2021 ASPIRE II Grant, U. of South Carolina, for "The Whole Earth Book Catalog"
2013 Provost's Grant, University of South Carolina, for "Republic of Literature"
2012 American Philosophical Society Franklin Research Grant
2011 University of Nebraska Digital Workshop Award
2010 Visiting Scholar, NEH Institute for Advanced Topics in Digital Humanities
2009 Von Holst Prize Lectureship, University of Chicago
2008 German Historical Institute, Transatlantic Doctoral Seminar, Berlin
2006-2007 Fulbright Fellowship

INVITED TALKS

- 2021 Invited to give talk to South Carolina State Historical Records Advisory Board (SC SHRAB) on digital tools and resources for needs of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other primarily African American Archives in South Carolina. (Declined because of COVID-19 pandemic.)
- 2018 Invited to give talk at Florida State University's Digital Scholars Discussion Group, Tallahassee, January 2018. (Declined.)
- 2018 Invited to give talk at "Reconstructing Historical Networks Digitally: New Approaches, Opportunities and Epistemological Implications of Social Network Analysis", the third annual international conference on digital humanities and digital history at the German Historical Institute Washington, October 25-27, 2018. (Declined.)
- 2017, 2018 Invited to give talk at conference "Translation Studies and/in the Digital Humanities", Chinese University of Hong Kong, December 12-13, 2017. (Invited twice but had to decline both times due to time commitment conflicts.)

- 2015 “Philippina: Model, Design and Topography of Early-Modern Author-Text Networks”. Invited paper at “(Re-)Building Networks” conference, Graduate School Field Committee in Medieval & Early Modern Studies, University of Maryland-College Park.
- 2013 “Developments in Digital Humanities Between Library and Classroom.” Addlestone Library / Lowcountry Digital Library, College of Charleston.
- 2011 “Republics of Literature.” Nebraska Digital Workshop, Center for Digital Research in the Humanities, University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

CONFERENCE PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND WORKSHOPS

I did not attend conferences for several years (see below). In ca. 2017-2020 I had decided not to attend conferences, choosing to focus on completing my monograph and complete articles for publication. I continued to avoid them during the pandemic for these reasons as well as concerns about travel and general logistical trouble. I resumed conference attendance in 2025.

- 2026 “The Goals, Ideas, and Uses of the Historical Profession Today.” Panel organizer and chair. American Historical Association Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, January 6.
- 2025 “The Origins of the Money Market in Germany in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries.” Paper to be delivered at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Portland, Oregon, October 30.
- 2020 “Big Data: Historical Bibliometrics and European Book History, 1500-1800.” University of South Carolina History Department Works In Progress Workshop. Columbia, South Carolina (virtual), October 28. With Stephanie Riley.
- 2017 Organizer of “Early Modern Digital Humanities” sequence of 4 panels, with own paper, q.v., at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 26-28.
- 2017 “A Tool for Computational Text Analysis and Text Network Graphing, Demonstrated Through a Study of the Semantics of Natural Law Texts.” Paper delivered at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 27.
- 2017 “Studying Library Collections in Early Modern Germany with Computational Methods.” Paper presented at Digitizing Enlightenment 2, Radboud University, Nijmegen (Netherlands), June 17.
- 2016 “Index Iuris: A Meta-Archive of Digital Medieval Legal History Sources”. Paper presented at the International Congress of Medieval Canon Law, Paris, July.
- 2016 “Index Iuris: A Meta-Archive of Digital Medieval Legal History Sources”. Paper presented at the 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2016.

- 2015 “Using Network Analysis for the Study of Pre-Modern German Liberalism.” Southeastern German Studies Workshop, Davidson College, Davidson, North Carolina, February.
- 2015 “Origins of Inalienable and Imprescriptible Human Rights, 1625-1761.” History Center Work In Progress Workshop, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, January.
- 2014 Organizer of “Early Modern Digital Humanities” sequence of 8 panels and a poster session, with own paper entitled “Sub- and Supertextual Analysis of Library Holdings in Baroque Germany,” at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2013 Organizer of “Early Modern Digital Humanities” sequence of 5 panels, with paper entitled “Social and Textual Complexes in the German Intelligentsia, 1500-1800,” at Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2012 “Property and the German Idea of Freedom, 1648-1806.” Institute for Research in the Humanities, University Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 2011 Organizer of “Transalpine Humanist Networks in Early Modern Europe” panel, with paper entitled “Humanists Heading South, in Search of Law, Equity and Gainful Employment,” at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Ft. Worth, Texas.
- 2011 “Time Horizons and Entity Nesting: Considerations on Structuring Humanities Data for the German Enlightenment (and Beyond).” National Endowment for the Humanities symposium on Networks and Network Analysis, Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics, UCLA, Los Angeles, California.
- 2011 “Legal Equality and the Rule of Law, from Old Regime to Modern Political Science: Germany, 1725-1834.” “What Equality?” (conference), Centre for Citizenship, Civil Society and the Rule of Law, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, Scotland.
- 2011 “Teaching Old Dogs New Tricks: Four Motifs of Legal Change in Early Modern Europe.” Medieval and Early Modern History Seminar, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.
- 2011 “German Studies and the Digital Humanities.” Round Table discussion, German Studies Association meeting, Louisville, Kentucky.
- 2011 “The Hessian Social Network Project: Results, Tools and Problems from a Historical Social Network Analysis in progress.” Part of “Historical Social Network Analysis: A Practicum,” round table at the American Historical Association (AHA), Boston, Massachusetts.
- 2010 “Objectivity and Universality as Goals of Legal Reform in 16th-Century Germany: An Approach via the Study of Professional Networks in the Hessian Main-Rhine Region.” German Studies Association meeting, Oakland, California.

- 2010 “Analysis of Social Networks and Textual Citations among Legal Operators in the German Enlightenment.” Chicago Colloquium on Digital Humanities and Computer Science, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2010 “The Importance of Beginning, Over and Over: The Idea of Primitive Germanic Law.” Institut für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung (Institute for Austrian Historical Research), Vienna, Austria.
- 2010 “A Brief History of Inalienable Rights, from the French Royal Demesnes to the Rights of Man.” Midwest Political Science Association conference, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2010 “Before Law and Economics: What the Modern Natural Law Tradition Had to Say about Commercial Affairs.” Business History Association conference, Athens, Georgia.
- 2010 “The Genesis of Obligations: *Res merae facultatis* and Natural Rights in the work of Johann Georg Estor.” Europäisches Forum junger Rechtshistoriker (European Forum of Young Legal Historians), Frankfurt am Main (Germany).
- 2010 “Dynamism and Antagonism in the Law: Linear vs. Multipolar Models of Legal Tradition in Early Modern Europe.” Conference on “Dynamism and Change,” Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology, Bielefeld (Germany).
- 2009 “The Emergence of Individual Legal Autonomy in the Law Merchant (*Wechselrecht*) of Early Modern Hesse-Cassel (Germany).” Money and Markets Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University Courses Taught

(all teaching after 2012 is at U. of South Carolina; sorted by most recent teaching first)

- 2025 Senior Seminar: History of Money and Power (HIST 497)
- 2025 History of Freedom (HIST 493)
- 2025 History of American Constitutionalism (HIST 469)
- 2025 Global History of Capitalism (HIST 778, graduate course)
- 2019-present The Origins of Capitalism in Europe (HIST 370)
- 2018-present Modern European History (HIST 102)
- 2017-present Topics in History Research [graduate seminar] (HIST 800)
- 2015-present Business in Historical Perspective (HIST 377)
- 2024 History and Theory (HIST 783, graduate course)
- 2023 The History of Money and Monetary Policy (SCHC 325)

- 2022- Modern German History (HIST 338)
- 2016-present Digital History (alt. HIST 492, 599, and 700)
- 2014 Research Methods in Digital Humanities, co-taught with Stan Dubinsky (instructor of record) and Bill Davies
- 2011 Prosperity and Poverty: The History, Ethics and Economics of National Wealth and Resources (Brown University)
- 2010 The Emergence of Capitalism in Early Modern Europe (Brown University)
- 2009 Law, Liberty and Property in European History (University of Chicago)
- 2008 Renaissance and Reformation (European Civ. I) (University of Chicago)

Other Teaching Experience

- 2025 Friedrich List and Economic Nationalism. Seminar (by invitation), Cambridge, Massachusetts, September 26-27.
- 2025 Civics and Humanities Summer Seminars on Friedrich Hayek and Edmund Burke.
- 2003-2004 Fulbright Austrian-American Teacher Exchange: Bundesgymnasium Perchtoldsdorf, and Handelsakademie Mödling, both in Vienna, Austria.
- 1999-2002 Cardinal Hayes High School, Bronx, New York
- 1999-2001 Excel Center, Chinatown, New York City (part time; middle school students)

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

- 1998-1999 Lionheart Group. Microcap Value Investment Fund (hedge fund), New York, NY: Assistant Trader and Analyst
- 1997-1998 Hunton & Williams. Law firm, New York, NY: Paralegal

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

This list excludes committee service within the History Department. Like most department faculty, I have served on many of the internal committees over the years, including twice in leadership or sole-agent roles.

- 2026 forward Carolina Core Committee, University of South Carolina
- 2025 forward Faculty Advisory Committee on Career Readiness, Univ. of South Carolina
- 2025 forward Campus Advisory Board, Center for American Civic Leadership and Public Discourse, University of South Carolina
- 2017 forward Affiliate, Walker Institute, University of South Carolina
- 2017-2018 Advisory Board, *Early Modern Digital Review*
- 2016-2018 Advisory Board, Digitorium: Annual Digital Humanities Conference of the University of Alabama (<https://apps.lib.ua.edu/blogs/digitorium>)
- 2015 forward Affiliate, Rule of Law Collaborative, University of South Carolina

- 2015 forward Affiliate, German Studies Program, University of South Carolina
 2015-2021 Affiliate Fellow, “Reassembling the Republic of Letters, 1500–1800” (COST
 Action IS1310, <http://www.republicofletters.net/>)
 2015-2018 Advisory Board, Renaissance Knowledge Network (ReKN,
<http://rekn.itercommunity.org/>)
 2015-2018 Advisory Board, Digital U. S. South Initiative (digitalsouth.org)
 2014-2019 Founding Director, Digital Humanities Track, Sixteenth Century Society
 and Conference. General liaison for digital research in early modern studies
 for the SCSC scholarly community. Coordinate panels and sessions, serve as
 contact and matchmaker for Digital Humanities research, publication, and
 other collaborations among the scholarly community of Renaissance and
 Reformation scholars.
 2014, 2018 ASPIRE I grant proposals review committee, University of South Carolina
 2013-2014 Humanities Research Computing Committee, College of Arts and Sciences,
 University of South Carolina
 2013-2020 Technical Director and Board Member, Victorian Lives and Letters
 Consortium
 2012-2015 Coordinator of “Future Knowledge” series of lectures and workshops at the
 Center for Digital Humanities at the University of South Carolina (with
 David Miller)
 2008-2009 Graduate Student Organizer, Chicago History and Human Rights
 Symposium, University of Chicago

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Academic Freedom Alliance
 Alliance for Civics in the Academy
 American Historical Association
 Sixteenth Century Studies Conference

LANGUAGES

German, French, Latin

PROGRAMMING, MARKUP AND DATABASE LANGUAGES

Facility: Python, UNIX command line
 Basics ability or past training: C++, Java, LISP, SQL, TEI, XSLT