

Nora Ellen Carleson

Curriculum vitae

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Education

University of Delaware Newark, DE	Ph.D. History of American Civilization Dissertation Director: Zara Anishanslin Committee: Dr. Rebecca Davis Dr. Catharine Dann Roeber Dr. Kimberly Chrisman Campbell	May, 2023
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Dissertation: *From Paul Revere to Plains Indians: The Politics of Progressive Era Fashion in America, 1893-1920*

Qualifying Exams (Fall 2019)

Major Field: Cultural History and Theory of Dress & Fashion

Dr. Zara Anishanslin, chair and examiner

Minor Field 1: American Religion, 1870-1950

Dr. Rebecca Davis, examiner

Minor Field 2: History and Theory of Material Culture

Dr. Catharine Dann Roeber, examiner

University of Delaware Newark, DE	Museum Studies Certificate	2020
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University of Delaware Newark, DE	M.A. History	2019
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George Mason University & The Smithsonian Institution Washington, D.C.	M.A. History of Decorative Arts Thesis: <i>Harry Collins and the American Art of Dress: 1884-1980</i> Director: Dr. Jennifer Van Horn	2013
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Monmouth College Monmouth, IL	B.A. History, Summa Cum Laude Minors: Classics, Studio Art Honors Program	2011
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Employment

Historic New England	Curator of Fashion & Decorative Arts Associate Curator of Collections	2025-present 2023-2025
“This is Probably A Really Weird Question...” Podcast	Associate Producer, Web and graphic designer / social media manager	2024-present 2022-present
“Thing 4 Things” podcast	Associate Producer / Marketing	2022-present
Dr. Zara Anishanslin	Research Assistant (dress legislature, athleisure, history of political dress codes)	2022
<i>Alice + Freda Forever</i> Film Production Alexis Coe & Jennifer Kent	Historical Consultant, Production Department	2021 *production put on hold*
Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library	Collections Department Graduate Assistant	2020-2021
Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library	Registration Department Graduate Assistant	2018-2019
Quinn’s Auction Galleries Falls Church, VA	Decorative Arts Specialist, Internship Supervisor, and Social Media Manager	2014-2017
Hillwood Estate, Museum, and Gardens Washington, D.C.	Project Assistant for the publication: <i>Ingénue to Icon: 70 Years of Fashion from the Collection of Marjorie Merriweather Post</i>	2014
Smithsonian Associates Art Collectors Program Washington, D.C.	Graduate Research Assistant, Digital Project Assistant, and Social Media Manager	2012-2014
Smithsonian American Art Museum Libraries Washington, D.C.	Graduate Research Assistant	2011-2012

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Monmouth College Monmouth, IL	Student Archivist for the Monmouth College Archives & Material Culture Collection	2008-2011
Monmouth College Monmouth, IL	James Christie Shield Collection Curatorial Assistant	2008-2010
Bishop Hill State Historic Sites Bishop Hill, IL	Costumed Interpreter (Third person), Museum Site Tour Guide, and Visitor's Service	2009
Outsider Gallery Bishop Hill, IL	Gallery Assistant and Public Relations / Marketing Manager	2007-2011

Teaching Experience

Guest Lecture / Project Manager Inclusive Language Descriptions at Historic New England's Cogswell's Grant, University of Massachusetts-Boston, HIST 625-Interpreting History in Public: Approaches to Public History Practice, Jane Becker, (Spring 2025)

“Introduction to HNE's Inclusive Descriptions Project”

“Collecting and Museums—Limits, Possibilities, and Challenges”

“Feedback and Workshop on Inclusive Labels”

Guest Lecture “Black Dressmaking: Material and Cultural History,” Communication, Representation, and Cultural History, Hope Bibens, John Dee Bright College at Drake University, Des Moines, IA, (virtual) September 2023

University of Delaware, History Department Teaching Assistant 2017-2021

World History II, Dr. John Davies, (Fall 2017)

The Jewish Holocaust (Jewish Studies Program),

Dr. Polly Zavadivker, (Spring 2018)

Guest Lecture: “The Rescue of Jews by Non-Jews

During the Holocaust,” April 25, 2018

U.S. History Since 1865, Dr. Jonathan Russ, (Spring 2020-Sections)

Section Lecturer

Planning a Course of Instruction, Dr. Barry Joyce, (Fall 2021)

Guest Lecture: Teaching Economics with Material Culture

October 20, 2021

Peer Reviewed Publications

Carleson, Nora Ellen. "Harry Collins and the Birth of American Fashion, 1910–1950." *The Journal of Dress History* 2, no. 2 (Summer 2018): 2-14.

Publications

Book Chapters:

Carleson, Nora, "Fashion "Taste" as Eugenic Design in Early Twentieth-Century Home Economics." In *The Material Histories of Home Economics*. Edited by Sarah Anne Carter, Marina Moskowitz, and Center for Design and Material Culture Research, University of Wisconsin-Madison. University of Delaware Press (Forthcoming)

Anishanslin, Zara, Nora Carleson, Miles Koniver, Barbara Palmer, Elizabeth S. Smith, "Power Dressing: Dress Codes in State Legislatures," in *The Palgrave Handbook of Fashion and Politics* (London and New York, Palgrave Macmillan Cham, 2024), p. 79-94.

Catalog Essays:

Carleson, Nora Ellen, "Harry Collins," Biographical Essay, *Goddess in the Machine*, Michelle Finamore, FIT, (Forthcoming-2026).

Carleson, Nora Ellen. "Lottie Barton, Nineteenth-Century Baltimore's Premier Modiste and Fashion Smuggler" in Maryland Historical Society. *Spectrum of Fashion*. (Baltimore, MD, Maryland Historical Society, 2019), p. 25-40.

Contributor:

Historic New England Magazine

"It's What's Inside That Counts," Spring 2024.

"Shoe Stories," Winter 2023.

Kurtz, Howard Vincent. *Ingenue to Icon: 70 Years of Fashion from the Collection of Marjorie Merriweather Post*. Edited by Trish Donnally. London: Giles, 2015.

Book Reviews

Carleson, Nora Ellen. Review for *In American Fashion: Ruth Finley's Fashion Calendar* by Natalie Nudell. *Dress* (Forthcoming).

Carleson, Nora Ellen. Review of *Novels, Needleworks, and Empire: Material Entanglements in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World* by Chloe Wigston Smith. *American Historical Review* (Forthcoming).

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Carleson, Nora Ellen. Review of *Like a Fiery Meteor: The Life and Times of Joseph F. Smith* by Stephen C. Taysom. *Mormon Studies Review* 12 (2025): 136–141.

<https://doi.org/10.5406/21568030.12.19>

Carleson, Nora Ellen. Review of *Borrowing from Our Foremothers: Reexamining the Women's Movement through Material Culture, 1848-2017*, by Amy Helene Forss. *Indiana Magazine of History* 120, no. 1 (2024): 79-80. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2979/imh.00007>.

Carleson, Nora Ellen, “Denouncing Fashion as Frivolous to Twentieth-Century Feminism,” Review of Rabinovitch-Fox, Einav. *Dressed for Freedom: The Fashionable Politics of American Feminism*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2021, *Journal of the Gilded and Progressive Era* 22 (2023): 224-239.

Selected Exhibitions

Co-Curator. *Shoe Stories: Past, Present, Future*. Historic New England. Historic New England Center for Preservation and Collections, Haverhill, MA. (Forthcoming-Spring 2026).

Collection Department Curatorial Assistant. *Bearing Witness*. Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library, Winterthur, DE. February 5, 2021-current.

Contributor. *Spectrum of Fashion*. Maryland Center for History and Culture (formerly Maryland Historical Society), Baltimore, MD. October 2019-March 2021.

Contributor. *Open for Business: Photography, Trade, and Self-Image, 1870–1950*. Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library, Winterthur, DE. September 10, 2019-January 5, 2020.

Registration. *Costuming THE CROWN*. Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library, Winterthur, DE. March 3, 2019-January 5, 2020.

Contributor. *Ingenu to Icon: 70 Years of Fashion from the Collection of Marjorie Merriweather Post*. Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens. Washington, D.C. June 6, 2015-January 10, 2016.

Contributor. *19th-Century Fire Pumper*. National Museum of American History. Washington, D.C. 2013.

Academic Conference Papers and Panels

“The Needlewomen of Boylston Chambers: 1903-1920,” Costume Society of American Annual Symposium, Los Angeles, CA. (Forthcoming).

“What Could be More Truly American? Appropriation of Native American Design by the New York Women's Fashion Industry, 1913-1927,” Mid-Atlantic/Southeastern Regional Symposium

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of the Costume Society of America. Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA. November, 2022. (Jim Liles Student Award Winner, Southeastern Region.)

“The Fierce and Remarkably Fashionable First Lady, Florence Harding,” Dress and Body Association Annual Conference, November 5-6, 2022 (virtual).

“What Could be More Truly American? Appropriation of Native American Design by the New York Women's Fashion Industry, 1913-1927,” Brown History Graduate Association, “The Social Life of Things,” Brown University, Providence, RI. October, 2022.

“There is no color line in dressmaking’ Mme. Marybelle Becks: Dressmaker, Inventor, Educator, and Organizer 1900-1925,” Costume Society of America Annual Symposium, Minneapolis, MN. March 28, 2022.

“What Could be More Truly American? Appropriation of Native American Design by the New York Women's Fashion Industry, 1913-1927,” James A. Barnes Graduate History Conference, Philadelphia, PA March 19, 2022

“Dressing America & the Americas: Reconceptualizing the Rise and Boundaries of the American Fashion Industry: 1914-1919,” James A. Barnes Graduate Student History Conference, Philadelphia, PA. March 21, 2020. (Virtual due to COVID-19).

“LuLaRoe and Mommy Bloggers: Athleisure, Lifestyle Marketing, and the Assimilation of the Mormon Culture into Mainstream America through Social Media and Consumption” Communal Studies Conference, Winterthur, DE. October 18, 2019.

“Harry Collins and the Birth of American Fashion: 1884-1950” Association of Dress Historians Symposium. London, England. April 14, 2018.

“Harry Collins and the Birth of American Fashion: 1910-1950” Visual and Material Post-Graduate Cultural Exchange. Queen Mary University of London and The University of Delaware. London, England. January 18, 2018.

“Home Sewers and Professionals in the 1920s” Fashion Now & Then: The Art of Dress Symposium. LIM College, New York, New York. October 22, 2016.

“Harry Collins and the Democratization of American Fashion” The Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association’s National Conference. Seattle, Washington. March 22, 2016.

Panel: “Almost Forgotten Designers of the Twentieth Century: Collins, Headley, and Royce” with Howard Kurtz (Hillwood, Estate, Museum and Gardens / George Mason University) and Leslie A. Wilson (Independent Scholar). The Costume Society of America’s National Symposium. Baltimore, Maryland. May 29, 2014.

“Harry Collins and the American Art of Dress: The Hollywood Years” Fashion & Film: The South East Regional Symposium for the Costume Society of America. Richmond, Virginia. January 11, 2014.

Workshops

Beyond Fashion Workshop and Writing Group. Led by Sarah C. Byrd and Keren Ben-Horin. Fall 2022/Spring 2023.

University of Wisconsin-Madison: Material Histories of Home Economics, A Center for Design and Material Culture Research Workshop. Led by Marina Moskowitz and Sarah Anne Carter. Fall 2021 / Spring 2022. (*Book chapter forthcoming*) <https://cdmc.wisc.edu/material-histories/>

Academic Conference and Workshop Committees

Committee, PR, moderator. *Animaterialities: The Material Culture of Animals (including Humans)* Sixteenth Material Culture Symposium for Emerging Scholars. Originally April 24-25, 2020. University of Delaware. (virtual) April 24, 2021.

Graduate Student Committee and Workshop Co-Chair. *In Search of Global Impact of Asian Aesthetics on American Art and Material Culture--Graduate Student Workshop*. October 12-14, 2018. Winterthur Museum.

Awards and Fellowships

Costume Society of America Southeastern Region: Jim Liles Student Award	2022
C. Allan and Marjorie Braun Fellow	2022-2023
Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens	
San Marino, CA	
University of Delaware Doctoral Fellowship Award	2022-2023
University of Delaware Graduate College, Graduate Student Travel Award	2022
University of Delaware History Department Research Presentation	2022
Travel Grant	
Center for Material Culture Studies Graduate Research	2022
Travel Award, University of Delaware	
Center for Material Culture Studies Graduate Research Presentation	2022
Travel Award, University of Delaware	
Costume Society of America, Betty Kirke Excellence in Research Award Nominee	2022
Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey Societies of the	2021

National Association of the Colonial Dames of America Award for Graduate Study in American History	
Winterthur Dissertation Fellowship	2020-2021
Delaware Public Humanities Institute Fellow (DELPHI)	2020
James A. Barnes Graduate Student History Conference, Philadelphia, PA. Third Prize in American History	2020
University of Delaware History Department Summer Fellowship	2018
University of Delaware History Department Travel Grant	2018
Association of Dress Historians: Stella Mary Newton Prize	2017
Costume Society of America Southeastern Region: Jim Lile Student Award	2014
F. Garvin Davenport Prize in History, Monmouth College, Monmouth, IL	2011
Honor Key, Alpha Xi Delta Women's Fraternity	2010-2011
Waid Prize for Research and Writing in Global Perspectives, Monmouth College Monmouth, IL	2009
Slay-Maker Kinsey Award, Alpha Xi Delta Women's Fraternity	2008-2009

Selected Digital Publications

"Casey Farm's 'Three Sisters' RainKeep Gets a New Bilingual Label" Historic New England, October 17, 2024. <https://www.historicnewengland.org/casey-farms-three-sisters-rainkeep-gets-a-new-bilingual-label/>

"Lottie Barton: Dressmaker, Importer, Smuggler" The Fashion Archives, The Maryland Historical Society, October 2018. <http://blog.mdhs.org/costumes/lottie-barton-dressmaker-importer-smuggler>

"Jacques Ducet: The Collector in the Collections" The Fashion Archives. The Maryland Historical Society, September 2018. <http://blog.mdhs.org/costumes/jacques-doucet-the-collector-in-the-collections>

"Finding First Lady Frances at the MdHS Fashion Archives" The Fashion Archives. The Maryland Historical Society. August, 2018. <http://blog.mdhs.org/costumes/finding-first-lady-frances-at-the-mdhs-fashion-archives>

"Jeanne Lanvin's Robe de Style: An Alternative to 'All that Jazz' fashion of the 1920's" The Fashion Archives. The Maryland Historical Society. September, 2018. <http://blog.mdhs.org/costumes/jeanne-lanvins-robe-de-style-an-alternative-to-all-that-jazz-fashions-of-the-1920s>

"Art Nouveau Fashion: Giving Dress a Place Among Decorative Arts" The Fashion Archives. The Maryland Historical Society. July, 2018. <http://blog.mdhs.org/costumes/art-nouveau-fashion-giving-dress-a-place-among-decorative-arts>

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"A FAN-tastical Find in the Fashion Archives" The Fashion Archives. The Maryland Historical Society. June, 2018. <http://blog.mdhs.org/costumes/a-fan-tastical-find-in-the-fashion-archives>

"Why Do We Have Such Colorful Civil War Dresses?" The Fashion Archives. The Maryland Historical Society. June, 2018.

<http://blog.mdhs.org/costumes/why-do-we-have-such-colorful-civil-war-dresses>

"La Belle Epoque and Liberty & Co.'s Opulent Fashions" *The Fashion Archives*. The Maryland Historical Society. May, 2018. <http://blog.mdhs.org/costumes/la-belle-epoque-and-the-liberty-co.s-opulent-fashions>

"May Morris and Intersectional Museum Exhibitions" *Material Matters*, Winterthur Program in American Material Culture Blog. May 9, 2018, <http://sites.udel.edu/materialmatters/>

Digital Humanities / Exhibitions

"Bringing the Steam: Sharing the History of Steam Power at The Marshall Steam Museum" DelaWAREs, May 2019 (currently down)

<http://delawares.org/exhibits/show/bringingthesteam-sharingthehis>

"The Roycroft Inn: The Soul of the Roycroft Campus, A place of "Bread, Beauty, and Brotherhood" *UpstateHistorical*, December 2017

<http://www.upstatehistorical.org/items/show/28>.

Selected Public Presentations and Invited Talks

"First Ladies' Fashions: Reflecting & Shaping National Politics & Culture," Tewkesbury Public Library, October 25, 2023.

"Nationalism, Eugenics, and the Politics of American Fashion in the Progressive Era," University of Delaware Graduate Student Seminar Series (virtual) October 20, 2021.

"Puritan, Pilgrim, Indian Princess, and Colonial Woman: Tropes of the American Female and How They Shaped Fashion in Progressive Era America." Winterthur Research Happy Hour, Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library (virtual) June 10, 2021.

"First Ladies Fashions 1920 & 2020: Reflecting and Shaping National Politics and Culture." Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Delaware (virtual) April 21, 2021.

"The Golden Age of Baltimore Dressmaking: 1880-1920." Francis Scott Key Lecture Series, The Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, MD, September 12, 2019.

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“Baltimore Dressmakers-Making the City a Center of Fashion: 1870-1925.” Maryland Historical Society. Baltimore, MD. August 7, 2018.

“A Tale of Two Presses: The Arts and Crafts Movement in England and the United States through period hand press books in the Winterthur Collection”. Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library. Winterthur, DE. February 15, 2018.

Art & Coffee with Nora Carleson: *On the Terrace* by John Henry Twatchman—Representations of Ideal Femininity in the Nineteenth Century Painting. The Luce Center, The Smithsonian American Art Museum. Washington, D.C. January 14, 2014.

Art & Coffee with Nora Carleson: *Necklace* by August F. Rose—The Traditions of Arts and Craft Jewelry in the United States. The Luce Center, The Smithsonian American Art Museum. Washington, D.C. November 16, 2012.

Selected Media

Kelly, Jacques. "A leading force in shaping the sartorial identity of the city': Unraveling the threads of Lottie Barton's life." *The Baltimore Sun* (Baltimore, MD), June 22, 2019, Entertainment.

On The Record. "The Historic Fashions of Maryland." WYPR Baltimore. First broadcast September 4, 2019. Hosted by Sheilah Kast. Produced by Maureen Harvie.

Professional Development

Center for Material Culture Studies Delaware Public Humanities Institute (DELPHI) Fellowship Workshops, University of Delaware, Newark, DE. May 26-June 4, 2020.

British Design History Winter Session Course, The University of Delaware / The Winterthur Program in American Material Culture. Delaware / England. January, 2018.

The Victorian Society of America Newport Summer School. Newport, RI. 2013.

Monmouth College Classics Department Summer Study Abroad. Turkey. 2010.

“Pattern Making for Foundry” with Preston Jackson. Monmouth College, Monmouth, IL. 2009.

Internships

The Maryland Historical Society	Fashion Archives Curatorial and Collections Management Intern	2018
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Hillwood Estate, Museum, and Gardens Washington, D.C.	Costume Department Curatorial and Collections Intern	2013
The Smithsonian National Museum of American History Washington, D.C.	Division of Home and Community Life Collections Management Intern; including Scouts, Firefighters, Fraternal Organizations	2013
Heurich House Museum Washington, D.C.	Archival and Curatorial Intern	2012

Service

Vice President of Grants & Projects, Costume Society of American, 2025-present

Millia Davenport Publication Award, Committee Member. Costume Society of American, 2024-present

Steering Committee, American Civilization Graduate Program. University of Delaware. 2022-2023.

University of Delaware History Department-Graduate Studies Peer Mentor, 2020-2023.

Volunteer and moderator. *The Disability Gaze: Material and Visual Approaches*. Center for Material Culture Studies Third Biennial Conference. April 29-30, 2022. University of Delaware.

University of Delaware History Department-Graduate Studies Peer Mentor Steering Committee, Lead Mentor, and Faculty Liaison, 2021-2022.

Co-Convener for the Methods in Material Culture Working Group with the Center for Material Culture Studies at the University of Delaware, Spring 2020-Spring 2021.

“Sustaining Places, Re-Designed and Updated: A “Crit” Session,” with Brooke Baerman, Katheryn Lawson, and Matthew Monk, Small Museum Association Annual Conference, College Park, Maryland. February 17, 2019.

History Workshop Planning Committee. University of Delaware. Fall 2018-Spring 2019.

Volunteer Work

Greenbank Mills & Philips Farm Wilmington, DE	Exhibition, Grant Writing, Programing Gardens Volunteer	2020-2022
Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library Winterthur, DE	Registration Department Assistant	Nov. 2019-Fall 2020
National History Day Delaware	Judge	March 2018
The Smithsonian National Museum of American History Washington, D.C.	Division of Home and Community Life Clothing and Textiles; Community Groups including Scouts, Firefighters, Fraternal Organization	2013-2014
Warren County Historical Society Monmouth, IL	Collections Management	2009-2011

Current and Past Organization Memberships

The Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era
The Organization of American Historians
The Communal Studies Association
The Small Museum Association
The Association of Dress Historians
The Costume Society of America
The Popular Culture Association / America Culture Association
Alpha Xi Delta Women's Fraternity, Alumnae