

Jared Farmer

College Hall 208
Philadelphia, PA 19104
jaredfarmer@sas.upenn.edu

Position

- Professor and Chair of Graduate Studies, Department of History, University of Pennsylvania, 2020–

Prior employment

- Professor, Department of History, Stony Brook University (SBU), 2017–19
- Associate Professor, Department of History, SBU, 2012–17
- Assistant Professor, Department of History, SBU, 2007–12
- Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Southern California (USC), 2005–07

Education

- Ph.D. in history, Stanford University, 2005 (advisor: Richard White)
- M.A. in history, University of Montana, 1999 (advisor: Dan Flores)
- B.A. in history with honors, Utah State University (USU), 1996 (advisor: Clyde Milner)

Books

- *Survival of the Oldest: Ancient Trees in Modern Times* (forthcoming, Basic Books)
- *Trees in Paradise: A California History* (Norton, 2013)
- *On Zion's Mount: Mormons, Indians, and the American Landscape* (Harvard, 2008)
- *Glen Canyon Dammed: Inventing Lake Powell and the Canyon Country* (Univ. of Arizona, 1999)

Writing awards

- Ray Allen Billington Prize, Organization of American Historians, 2015
- Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Award, Forest History Society, 2014
- John Brinckerhoff Jackson Book Prize, Foundation for Landscape Studies, 2014
- Finalist, Spur Award, Nonfiction Contemporary, Western Writers of America, 2014
- Clarence Dixon Taylor Award, Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, 2013
- Francis Parkman Prize, Society of American Historians, 2009
- Caroline Bancroft History Honor Book Prize, Denver Public Library, 2009
- Francis Armstrong Madsen Award, Utah State Historical Society, 2009
- Award of Merit, American Association of State and Local History, 2009
- Elizabeth Spilman Rosenfield Prize, Stanford, 2005

Research awards

- Public Understanding of Science Program, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, 2017–20
- Andrew Carnegie Fellows Program, Carnegie Corporation of New York, 2017–19
- Public Scholar Program, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2016–17
- Hiett Prize in the Humanities, Dallas Institute, 2014
- American Council of Learned Societies, 2009–10
- Research and Interdisciplinary Initiatives Individual Grant, SBU, 2008, 2011, 2013
- United University Professions Individual Development Award, SBU, 2009
- Historical Society of Southern California/Haynes Foundation grant, 2006
- Bertha Morton Scholarship, University of Montana, 1998
- Preston Nibley Scholarship, Utah State University, 1995

Residencies

- American Academy in Berlin, spring 2019
- Rachel Carson Center, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU), fall 2018
- Tanner Humanities Center, University of Utah, 2013–14
- Grey Towers, U.S. Forest Service, Jan. 2012
- National Humanities Center, 2009–10
- Stanford Humanities Center, 2003–04

Other honors

- Featured profile, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 2018
- Portfolio of art photography, *Carnegie Reporter*, 2018
- Art piece *Extinct Device* displayed in special exhibition “Welcome to the Anthropocene: The Earth in Our Hands,” Deutsches Museum, 2014–16; and subsequently discussed in *Theory, Culture & Society* and *Surveying the Anthropocene: Environmental Photography Now*
- Distinguished Speaker, Western History Association, 2013–16
- Distinguished Alumni Award, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, USU, 2011
- Inducted member, Society of American Historians, 2010

Teaching

- *Undergraduate lectures*: “The American West” (2007, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017); “United States since the Civil War” (2015, 2016); “Animals in the Modern World” (2011, 2012, 2015); “Plants, Animals, and Pathogens in American History” (2008, 2009)
- *Undergraduate seminars*: “Petrosylvania” (2020); “American Landscapes” (2008, 2016); “Brooklyn as America” (2019); “Family Histories” (2019); “Food Histories” (2012); “The Politics and Practice of History” (2012); U.S.–Mexico Borderlands” (2011); “The Uses and Abuses of History” (2008); “Environmental History of the Twentieth-century U.S. West”

(2007); “Historiography of the American West” (2006); “Approaches to History” (2005, 2006); “California Dreaming” (2005); “California Indians Meet America” (2003)

• *Graduate seminars*: “Making of Modern America (2021); “Dissertation Prospectus” (2016); “Reconstruction to Reagan” (2009, 2015); “Science, Technology, and Planetary History” (2013); “New World Habitats and Borderlands” (2011)

Invited talks

• Distinguished lecturer series, Humanities Center, University of Rochester (postponed due to Covid-19): “Subnational to Planetary: Environmental Lessons from the History of Homeland Protection”

• Keynote, Graduate School of North American Studies Conference, John F. Kennedy Institute, Freie Universität Berlin (May 2019): “Tree-rings and Empire in the Late Holocene”

• Anna-Maria Kellen Lecture, American Academy in Berlin: (May 2019) “Monuments of Nature from Berlin to the Americas”

• Forest History Society Luncheon, American Society of Environmental Historians Conference (Mar. 2018): “Science, Narrative, and Grief in a Climate of Uncertainty”

• Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, University of Arizona (Sept. 2017): “The Botanical Conquest of California”

• Stanford-to-the-Sea Hike, Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford (May 2017): “Anthropogenic and Philanthropic Landscapes”

• C. G. Jung Institute (Berkeley) symposium on Olivier Messiaen’s *Des Canyons aux étoiles* (Dec. 2015): “Seeing the Canyon Country through Sound”

• International Colloquium on American Studies, Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic (May 2015): “American Trees and American Temporality”

• Banquet, California Native Plant Society Conference (Jan. 2015): “Blue Gum Blues; or, the Poetics of Non-nativeness”

• Hiatt Prize Luncheon, George W. Bush Presidential Center (Nov. 2014): “Environmental History and the Future of the Humanities”

• California Historical Society (Nov. 2014): “Yosemite’s Big Trees, Past and Future”

• Eric Quezada Center for Culture and Politics series *Shaping San Francisco* (Nov. 2014): “Immigrant Trees in the City”

• Aquarium of the Pacific (Oct. 2014): “Green Screen: How Trees Made California Modern”

• Rancho Los Alamitos series *Conversations in Place* (Oct. 2014): “Urban Nature Isn’t What You Think”

• Department of History, University of California at Riverside (Oct. 2014): “Green Screen: How Trees Made California Modern”

• Keynote, California Urban and Community Forests Conference, San Diego (June 2014): “Trees in Paradise”

- Keynote, Great Salt Lake Issues Forum, University of Utah (May 2014): “Restoring Greatness to a Salt Lake”
- *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books (Apr. 2014): “The Golden State”
- Keynote, Symposium on Environmental Ethics, Utah Valley University (Apr. 2014): “This Was the Place: Environmental Memory in the Great Basin”
- Department of History, Weber State University (Mar. 2013): “The Making and Unmaking of Utah”
- Tanner Humanities Center, University of Utah (Feb. 2013): “Trees in Time: History and Mortality among Sequoias”
- Clarence Dixon Taylor Lecture, Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, Brigham Young University (Feb. 2014): “The Making and Unmaking of Utah”
- Haynes Foundation Lecture, The Huntington Library (Oct. 2013): “Green Screen: How Trees Made California Modern”
- Keynote, Utah State History Conference (Sept. 2013): “The Making and Unmaking of Utah”
- American West Center and the Environmental Humanities Graduate Program, University of Utah (Feb. 2013): “This Was the Place: Environmental Memory in the Great Basin”
- Emeritus Faculty Association, SBU (Dec. 2011): “History from the Canopy”
- Walk the Farm, Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford (Apr. 2011): “El Palo Alto and Other Out-of-Place Flora”
- Distinguished Alumni Lecture, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, USU (Mar. 2011): “Possessed by the Past”
- Rembert W. Patrick Lecture, Guilford College (Mar. 2010): “Speak for the Trees”
- Program in Heritage Studies, Arkansas State University (Mar. 2010): “The Global in the Local”
- Humanities Institute, SBU (Feb. 2009): “The Immigration and Naturalization of Eucalypts to California”
- Utah Humanities Council Book Festival (Oct. 2008): “Utah History from the Outside”
- Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, Brigham Young University (Apr. 2008): “On Zion’s Mount”
- Department of History, USU (Apr. 2008): “On Zion’s Mount”
- O. C. Tanner Symposium, USU (Nov. 2004): “Historicizing Memory and Sacred Geography”
- Stanford Humanities Center (Mar. 2004): “The Rise and Fall of a Lover’s Leap”
- Environmental Policy Program, USU (Feb. 2000): “Why Does Lake Powell Matter?”

Workshop and conference presentations

- *World War II and the West It Wrought* book launch webinar, Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford University (May 2019)

- The Art of Judgment Workshop, Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte (May 2019): “Trees, Longevity, and Time”
- Lunchtime Colloquium, Rachel Carson Center, LMU (Nov. 2018): “Long-term Thinking with Trees”
- *The Era of Reconstruction in Mormon America* symposium, Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, Brigham Young University (June 2017): “The Mormon Cause, Lost and Found”
- *World War II and the West It Wrought* symposium, Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford University (May 2017): “Executive Domain: Military Land Withdrawals in the Wartime West”
- Seminar in Environmental and Agricultural History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Sept. 2015): “Historic Trees and Historicized Tree-rings”
- *Anthropocene Objects and Environmental Futures* workshop, Rachel Carson Center, LMU (July 2015): “Future Fossil”
- Modern America Workshop, Department of History, Princeton (Feb. 2016): “Taking Liberties with Historic Trees”
- Panelist, New Perspectives in Environmental History Conference, Yale (Apr. 2015): “Recent Trends in Environmental History”
- *Anthropocene Cabinet of Curiosities Slam*, Center for Culture, History, and Environment, University of Wisconsin, Madison (Nov. 2014): “Extinct Device”
- Commenter, American West Center Symposium, University of Utah (Sept. 2014): “The Great Basin”
- Co-organizer, chair, and commenter, American Society of Environmental Historians Conference (Mar. 2014): “The Roots of Nature’s Nation: Trees and Culture in the Long-Nineteenth-Century United States”
- *Race, Place, and Nature* conference, Rutgers (Mar. 2013): “By Their Fruits Ye Shall Know Them: The Horticultural Conquest of California”
- Commenter, Western History Association Conference (Oct. 2012): “The Politics of the Colorado River”
- Western History Workshop, Autry National Center (Jan. 2012): “Metropolitan Fronds: Street Palms and the Fashioning of Los Angeles”
- New York Metro Seminar in Environmental History (Dec. 2011): “Sequoias and the Measurement of Mortality”
- National Humanities Center (Apr. 2010): “The State of Environmental Humanities”
- American Religious History Seminar, Yale (Feb. 2010): “Integrating Mormon History”
- Western Historians in the New England Region Conference (May 2009): “Memory Studies and the American West”
- American Society of Environmental Historians Conference (Feb. 2009): “Sequoias, Time, and Mortality”
- Western History Workshop, Autry National Center (Dec. 2006): “The Immigration and Naturalization of Eucalypts to California”

- North American Environments Working Group, Huntington Library: (Dec. 2005): “Land-marking and Place-making in America”
- Western History Association Conference (Oct. 2002): “Legendary Peaks: Indian Play Meets Alpine Play”

Television

- *Lost L.A.*, Nonetheless Productions for KCETLink, 2017: Consultant and “talking head” for Episode 2.2 (“Wild West”) and Episode 2.3 (“Building a Metropolis”)

Radio interviews

- KQED (San Francisco) *Bay Curious* podcast, 2018
- *99% Invisible* podcast, 2015
- KERA (Dallas), 2014
- KQED, 2014
- KBOO (Portland), 2014
- KPFA (Berkeley), 2014
- Utah Public Radio (KUSU, Logan), 2014
- KBOO, 2013
- KNEW (San Francisco), 2013
- KVON (Napa), 2013
- Valley Public Radio (KVPR, Fresno), 2013
- Northeast Public Radio (WAMC, Albany), 2013
- BYU Radio (KBYU, Provo, UT), 2013 (twice)
- Utah Public Radio, 2011
- BYU Radio, 2008
- Utah Public Radio 2008
- KPCW (Park City, UT), 1999
- Utah Public Radio, 1999

Print interviews and profiles

- “Meet the Tree Guy,” *Carnegie Reporter*, 8 April 2019
- “Engaging Imaginations, Making History,” *Carnegie Reporter*, Summer 2018
- “The Tree Whisperer: Jared Farmer Wants to Change the Way We Think about Climate Change,” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 4 Feb. 2018
- “Q&A: Geohumanist Jared Farmer,” *Dallas Morning News*, 14 Nov. 2014
- “Who Says Eucalypts Are Invasive? A Conversation with an Author,” *High Country News* blog, 30 Oct. 2013
- “How Did L.A. Become a City of Palms? And Other Questions About California’s Trees,” *L.A. as Subject* online syndicate hosted by KCET, 23 Jan. 2014

- “Scholarly Inquiry: Jared Farmer,” interview on Mormon history blog *Juvenile Instructor*, 21 Sept. 2012
- “Mormon Sacred Space: An Interview with the Author of *On Zion’s Mount*,” *Religion Dispatches* online magazine, 21 May 2010

Media mentions

- Alex Ross, “The Past and the Future of the Earth’s Oldest Trees,” *The New Yorker*, 13 Jan. 2020
- “The Long and Tangled History of California’s Eucalyptus Trees,” *The Economist*, 18 Dec. 2019
- “Why Are There Palm Trees in Los Angeles?” *Atlas Obscura*, 6 July 2018
- “Palmer ved reisens slutt,” *D2* (weekly magazine of *Dagens Næringsliv*, Oslo), 8 June 2018
- “Is Glen Canyon Dam a Tombstone or Giver of New Life?” *St. George Spectrum*, 25 Feb. 2018
- “Eucalyptus: How California’s Most Hated Tree Took Root,” *KQED News*, 1 Feb. 2018
- “L.A.’s Palm Trees Are Dying and It’s Changing the City’s Famous Skyline,” *Los Angeles Times*, 22 Sept. 2017

Opinion pieces

- “Slow Trees and Climate Change,” *Los Angeles Times*, 13 Oct. 2017
- “A Dream of Humility,” contribution to roundtable discussion “What Is the California Dream Now?” Zócalo Public Square online syndicate, 12 Jan. 2015
- “Going Out on a Limb to Defend Eucalyptus,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 10 Jan. 2014
- “The Rise and Fall of the Gum Tree: How California Came to Love—then Disown—Eucalyptus,” Zócalo Public Square online syndicate, 3 Jan. 2014
- “Why *The Book of Mormon* (the Musical) Is Awesomely Lame,” *Religion Dispatches* online magazine, 13 June 2011
- “Restore Glen Canyon? Let’s Restore Lake Powell,” *Arizona Daily Star*, 7 Oct. 1999
- “Dam Debate Must Weigh Ecology, Politics,” *Writers on the Range* news syndicate, Nov. 1999

Blog posts

- “In America, Trees Symbolize both Freedom and Unfreedom,” OUP blog, 26 Apr. 2019
- “Utah, I Loved Thee,” *Juvenile Instructor*, 6 Sept. 2018
- “Old-growth Infrastructure: Redwood in Los Angeles,” KCET blog, 24 Oct. 2017

Magazine features

- “Blossom as the Fig: How My Father, a California Transplant, Adapted to Utah,” *High Country News*, 15 Sept. 2014
- “Reclaiming the Low Country,” *High Country News*, 9 Sept. 2008 (cover story)

Non-refereed research pieces

- “Secular Sacred Groves: Ancient Trees in Modern Times,” *Berlin Journal* (Fall 2018)
- “Flora,” curated photographic essay for “Form and Landscape: Southern California Edison and the Los Angeles Basin, 1940–1990,” a Huntington Library online project funded by The Getty’s initiative *Pacific Standard Time Presents: Modern Architecture in L.A.* (May 2013)
- “Glen Canyon Dam,” *Encyclopedia of American Environmental History* (Facts on File, 2010)
- “Extralocal History,” *American Scholar* (Summer 2009)
- “Displaced from Zion: Mormons and Indians in the Nineteenth Century,” *Historically Speaking* (Jan. 2009)
- “Gone Native: California’s Love-Hate Relationship with Eucalyptus Trees,” *Huntington Frontiers* (Spring–Summer 2007)

E-books (self-published)

- *Restoring Greatness to Utah* (2014)
- *The Image of Mormons: A Sourcebook for Teachers and Students* (2013)
- *Mormons in the Media, 1830–2012* (2012)

Peer-reviewed articles and chapters

- “The Place,” in *Utah: A New History* ed. David R. Lewis (USU Press, forthcoming)
- “Executive Domain: Military Reservations in the Wartime West,” in *World War II and the West It Wrought* ed. Mark Brilliant and David M. Kennedy (Stanford, 2020)
- “The Mormon Cause, Lost and Found,” in *Reconstruction and Mormon America* ed. Clyde A. Milner II and Brian Q. Cannon (Univ. of Oklahoma, 2019)
- “Taking Liberties with Historic Trees,” *Journal of American History* (Mar. 2019)
- “American Champion Trees and the Wye Oak of Maryland,” *Arcadia* (Spring 2019)
- “Technofossil,” in *Future Remains: A Cabinet of Curiosities for the Anthropocene* ed. Gregg Mitman (Univ. of Chicago, 2018)
- “Crossroads of the West,” 50th anniversary special issue of *Journal of Mormon History* (Winter 2015)
- “This Was the Place: The Making and Unmaking of Utah,” *Utah Historical Quarterly* (Summer 2014), including expanded online version
- “Witness to a Hanging: California’s Haunted Trees,” *Boom: A Journal of California* (Mar. 2013)
- “On Emblematic Megaflora,” *Environmental History* (July 2010)
- “Desert Solitaire and the Literary Memory of an Imagined Place,” *Western American Literature* (Summer 2003)
- “Glen Canyon and the Persistence of Wilderness,” *Western Historical Quarterly* (Summer 1996); reprinted in *The Glen Canyon Reader* ed. Matthew Barrett Gross (Univ. of Arizona, 2003)

- “Naming La Gorce Arch,” *Journal of the Southwest* (Spring 1996)
- “Undiscovered to Undiscoverable: Gregory Natural Bridge,” *Utah Historical Quarterly* (Spring 1995)

Review essays

- “Trans-Mediterranean,” *H-Environment Roundtable Reviews* (April 2018): essay on *Strangers on Familiar Soil: Rediscovering the Chile-California Connection* by Edward Dallam Melillo (Yale, 2015)
- “Bitterest Crop,” *Reviews in American History* (June 2017): state-of-the-field essay on genocide in California
- “Meditations on Conservation,” *Science* (10 June 2016): essay on *The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America’s National Parks* by Terry Tempest Williams (Sarah Crichton Books, 2016)
- “The Art of Longevity,” *Science* (16 May 2014): essay on *The Oldest Living Things in the World* by Rachel Sussman (Univ. of Chicago, 2014)
- “A Working Stiff’s Crawl,” *Reviews in American History* (Mar. 2014): essay on *Here Lies Hugh Glass: A Mountain Man, a Bear, and the Rise of the American Nation* by Jon T. Coleman (Hill & Wang, 2012)
- “What’s Wrong with Synthetic Trees?” *Reviews in American History* (Sept. 2013): essay on *American Canopy: Trees, Forests, and the Making of a Nation* by Eric Rutkow (Scribner, 2012)
- “Americanasana,” *Reviews in American History* (Mar. 2012): state-of-the field essay on yoga in the United States
- “Pangaea Penultima,” *Science* (4 Nov. 2011): essay on *1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created* by Charles C. Mann (Knopf, 2011)
- “Of Birds and Bureaucracy,” *American Scientist* (Jan.–Feb. 2011): essay on *Seeking Refuge: Birds and Landscapes of the Pacific Flyway* by Robert M. Wilson (Univ. of Washington, 2010)
- “Erosion of Trust,” *American Scientist* (July–Aug. 2010): essay on *Dreaming of Sheep in Navajo Country* by Marsha Weisiger (Univ. of Washington, 2009)
- “Hatching a Mongrel Species,” *Science* (2 Apr. 2010): essay on *An Entirely Synthetic Fish: How Rainbow Trout Beguiled America and Overran the World* by Anders Halverson (Yale, 2010)
- “Icons of Early Conservation Biology,” *Science* (15 Jan. 2010): essay on *Nature’s Ghosts: Confronting Extinction from the Age of Jefferson to the Age of Ecology* by Mark V. Barrow, Jr. (Univ. of Chicago, 2009)
- “Borderlands of Brutality,” *Reviews in American History* (Dec. 2009): essay on *War of a Thousand Deserts: Indian Raids and the U.S.-Mexican War* by Brian Delay (Yale, 2008)
- “Unruly Histories,” *History Now* (30 Sept. 2009): essay on *Imperial* by William T. Vollmann (Viking, 2009)
- “Data Drought, Data Flood,” *Science* (23 Jan. 2009): essay on *Dead Pool: Lake Powell, Global Warming, and the Future of Water in the West* by James Lawrence Powell (Univ. of California, 2009)

- “The Great American Pantheist,” *Science* (7 Nov. 2008): essay on *A Passion for Nature: The Life of John Muir* by Donald Worster (OUP, 2008)
- “Violence beneath the Land,” *BYU Studies* 47, no. 3 (2008): essay on *Massacre at Mountain Meadows: An American Tragedy* by Ronald W. Walker et al. (OUP, 2008)

Book reviews

Agricultural History (1), *Environmental History* (4), *High Country News* (1), *Journal of American History* (2), *Journal of Arizona History* (3), *Journal of the West* (1), *Montana The Magazine of Western History* (1), *Nova Religio* (1), *Pacific Historical Review* (2), *Utah Historical Quarterly* (2), *Western American Literature* (1), *Western Historical Quarterly* (7)

Web presence

- jaredfarmer.net
- [instagram.com/geohumanist](https://www.instagram.com/geohumanist)
- [facebook.com/CaliforniaTrees](https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaTrees)