

NICOLE BELOLAN, PH.D.
Curriculum vitae

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

University of Delaware

2017 Ph.D., History of American Civilization
Dissertation: “Navigating the World: The Material Culture of
Physical Mobility Impairment in the Early American North, 1728-1861”

2012 M.A., History

2009 M.A., Winterthur Program in American Material Culture

The Pennsylvania State University

2007 B.A., American Studies, French Minor

EMPLOYMENT

2018-Present 2018-Present, Public Historian, Co-Editor (The Public Historian), Digital
Media Editor (National Council on Public History), and Director,
Continuing Education Program in Historic Preservation, Mid-Atlantic
Regional Center for the Humanities, Rutgers University-Camden,
Camden, NJ

2017-2018 Program Coordinator and Postdoctoral Fellow-in-Residence,
Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine,
Philadelphia, PA

2016-2017 Megan Giordano Fellow in Public History, Rowan University, and
Curator, Red Bank Battlefield, Gloucester County, NJ

2012-2016 Resident Caretaker and Historical Consultant, Cooch’s Bridge Historic
Trust, Newark, DE

2013-2014 Graduate Assistant for IMLS-funded Sustaining Places, University of
Delaware Museum Studies Program, Newark, DE

2011 Post-Graduate Fellow in Historical Interpretation, Newport Historical
Society, Newport, RI

2009-2010 Cataloguing Assistant, IMLS Furnishing Textile Cataloguing Project and
Lunger Cataloguing Project, Winterthur Museum, Wilmington, DE

TEACHING

University of Delaware

History/Museums Behind the Scenes (Summer 2017 and Winter 2018)

World History from 1400-Present (Summer 2014)

Rowan University

American Material Culture Studies (Spring 2017)

Introduction to Public History (Fall 2016)

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2015 “An ‘effort to bring this little handicapped army in personal touch with beauty’: Democratizing Art for Crippled Children at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1919-1934,” *New York History* 96, 1 (Winter 2015): 38-66.
- 2011 “From the Collection: ‘The Blood of Murdered Time’: Ann Warder’s Berlin Work Collection at Winterthur, 1840-1865,” *Winterthur Portfolio* 45, 4 (Winter 2011): 321-352.
- 2010 “Challenges in Cataloging and Researching Nineteenth-Century French Candy Wrappers,” *Art Documentation* 29, 1 (Spring 2010): 16-22.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2017 Catherine E. Kelly, *Republic of Taste: Art, Politics, and Everyday Life in Early America*, in *The William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 74, No. 3 (July 2017): 577-581.
- 2014 Francis Cape, *We Sit Together: Utopian Benches from the Shakers to the Separatists of Zoar*, in *American Furniture* (2014): 257-259.

POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

- 2017 “‘Confined to Crutches’: James Logan and the Material Culture of Disability in Early America,” *Pennsylvania Legacies*, Vol. 17, No. 2 (Fall 2017): 6-11.
- 2016 “We Will All be Phony Colonies,” *ALHFAM Bulletin* XLV, No. 4 (Winter 2016): 25-27.
- 2006 “Success Stories: Preserving Pennsylvania’s Schools,” *PSBA* (Pennsylvania School Board Association) *Bulletin*, (August 2006): 32-36.

SELECTED DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS

- 2018 “Over-the-Hill Canes and Ideal Bodies: teaching disability history as public history,” *History@Work*, National Council on Public History Blog, February 7, 2018, <http://ncph.org/history-at-work/teaching-disability-history-as-public-history/>.
- 2013 “Collecting Disability History,” UK Disability History Month 2013 series, Disability and Industrial Society: A Comparative Cultural History of British Coalfields 1780-1948, November 25, 2013, <http://bit.ly/2jwJogU>.
- 2013 “Object Lesson: Desire Tripp and Her Arm’s Gravestone,” *Common-Place*, 13, 3 (Spring 2013): <http://bit.ly/2wA3iOL>.

PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS

“Everyday Design in Early America: The Case of Gout,” in Elizabeth Guffey and Bess Williamson, eds., *Making Disability Modern: Design Histories* (Bloomsbury, 2019) (*forthcoming*)

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018 NEH Summer Institute, Global Histories of Disability
- 2015-2016 University of Delaware Dissertation Fellowship
- 2015-2016 Winterthur Library Dissertation Fellowship

- 2015 American Antiquarian Society Center for Historic American Visual Culture Fellowship
- 2015 General Society of Colonial Wars Caesar Rodney Fellowship
- 2015 Philadelphia Area Center for History of Science (now Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine) Research Fellowship
- 2015 Winterthur Library Short-term Research Fellowship
- 2013-2014 Delaware Public Humanities Institute Fellowship (DELPHI), Center for Material Culture Studies, University of Delaware

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2018 “What William Birch Left Out: The Visual Culture of Disability in Early America,” William Birch and the Complexities of American Visual Culture: A Symposium Celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of the Visual Culture Program at the Library Company of Philadelphia, Library Company of Philadelphia, October 5
- 2016 “The Material Culture of Gout and Physical Disability in Early America,” Making Modern Disabilities, Hagley Museum and Library, October 28
- 2014 “A Bed in the Parlor: James Logan and Navigating Disability in Early America,” James Logan and the Networks of Atlantic Culture and Politics, 1699-1751, Philadelphia, PA, September 20
- 2014 “Shawnee Captive, Unhealthy Sister, and Infirm Shaker: Constructing Histories about People with Disabilities through the Things they Used at Home,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Meeting (SHEAR), July 19
- 2013 “About Something of for Someone? Curatorial Ethics and Curatorial Debts,” roundtable participant, speaking re Metropolitan Museum of Art programming for children with mobility impairments in the early twentieth century, Beyond a Logic of Debt, Toward an Ethics of Public Dissent, 2013 American Studies Association annual meeting, Washington, D.C., November 22
- 2013 “Aunt Patty’s Furniture: Adult Cradles and the History of Physical Mobility Impairment in Early America,” New Thoughts on Old Things: Four Centuries of Furnishing the Northeast, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA, October 4
- 2011 “‘The Blood of Murdered Time’: Interpreting Yesterday’s and Today’s Ideas of Berlin Needlework as Craft and Kitsch,” Craft and Community: Negotiating Objects Across Time and Place, Material Culture Institute, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, May 20-21
- 2010 “‘I shall take pleasure in wearing it being thy work’: Ann Warder’s Needlework Gifting Habits within Quaker Philadelphia Networks, 1840-1866,” presentation on panel titled “Between Friends: Quaker Gift-Giving and Exchange in Early Philadelphia,” Conference of Quaker Historians and Archivists, Wilmington College, Wilmington, OH, June 25-27
- 2010 “‘while on thy couch reclining’: Ann Warder’s Berlin Wool Work and Chronic Illness in Mid-nineteenth-century Philadelphia,” Pennsylvania Hospital History of Women’s Health Conference, Philadelphia, April 7

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2008 “The Close Stool: A Toilet for a Society of Propriety,” Gordon Seminar of the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts Conference for American Material Culture, Winston-Salem, NC., October 10

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Public Scholar

2017-present Public Scholar’s Project Speaker, “Disabilities Then, Disabilities Now,” New Jersey Council for the Humanities

Talks

2017 “The Material Culture of Living with Physical Disability at Home, 1700-1900,” Tuesday Talk, DAR Museum, Washington, DC, April 11

2017 “Gamaliel’s Artificial Leg and Elizabeth’s Invalid Furniture: Disability and Bradford Family History,” Reclaiming a House’s History, Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, Duxbury, MA, March 25

2015 “A Bed in the Parlor: James Logan and Navigating Disability in Early America,” Hale-Byrnes House, Newark, DE, October

2015 “Berlin Needlework: Victorian Craft or Kitsch?,” National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, Wilmington, Delaware, March

2011 “‘The Blood of Murdered Time’: Connoisseurship and Context of Ann Warder’s Berlin Work Collection,” Winterthur Needlework Conference, October 22

2011 “Dismembered Memory: Desire Tripp and Her Arm’s Gravestone,” Newport Historical Society Annual Meeting Keynote Address, Newport, RI, September 22

Panels

2017 Panelist for post-performance audience discussion about disability and *The Elephant Man*, by Bernard Pomerance, performed by the Resident Ensemble Players (REP), University of Delaware, March 16

Museums

2017-present Volunteer Tour Guide, Historic Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, PA

2017 Volunteer, First Oval Office and Social Media, Museum of the American Revolution, Philadelphia, PA

2013-2017 Volunteer Small Museum Inventory SWAT Team Participant, Leader, and Adviser, museums in Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey

2014 “Taming Your Treasures: Collections Management for Beginners,” Workshop leader, Sustaining Places, Museum Studies, University of Delaware, September and November

2013 and 2014 “Museum Storage Wars: Designing Creative Collections Storage on a Budget for Your Small Museum,” Workshop leader, Sustaining Places, Museum Studies, University of Delaware, November 2013 and March 2014

Digital

2017-present Social media manager, Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, <https://www.chstm.org/>

2014-present Author, Cultural Heritage Blog, <http://nicolebelolan.org/blog/>

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2013-2015 Contributor, Sustaining Places, <https://sustainingplaces.com/>
2010-present Author, Antiquing, Collecting, and Material Culture Blog, <http://pickingforpleasure.blogspot.com>
2014-present Twitter, [@nicolebelolan](https://twitter.com/nicolebelolan)
2013-2016 Founding editor, History of American Civilization Blog, <http://sites.udel.edu/amciv-blog/>

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

2018 “More than Just Looking: Creative Visitor Engagement with Collections,” You Are Here: Mapping the Future, Small Museum Association Annual Conference, February 18
2017 “SWAT Stories: Lessons from the Collections SWAT Teams and How They Can Help You With Your Collections,” All Hands on Deck, Small Museum Association Annual Conference, February 20
2016 “Accessible Museums, Accessible Objects: Interpreting Material Culture of Disability for Contemporary Audiences,” Crossing Boundaries: Interpreting Institutionalization, Disability Rights, and Public Policy in the Mid-Atlantic Region, Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities (MARCH), November 19
2014 “Museum Storage Wars: Designing Creative Collections Storage on a Budget for Your Small Museum,” Small Museum Association Conference, Ocean City, MD, February 2014

INVITED CAMPUS OR DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

2018 Disability and Material Culture workshop, Science and Disability Working Group, University of Pennsylvania and the Science History Institute (Formerly the Chemical Heritage Foundation), Philadelphia, PA February 26
2015 “‘In Order to Acquire a Proper Habit of Walking’: Disability and Material Culture on the Street in Early America,” History Workshop, Department of History, University of Delaware, November 17
2015 “What Can We Learn about Disability History from Material Culture?,” Workshop for Material Culture Living and Learning Community, University of Delaware February 12
2014 “Gout Cranes, Peg Legs, and Adult Cradles: What was it Like to be Disabled in Early America?,” Objects as Cultural Artifacts lectures series, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Delaware, April 30
2014 “Social Media and Blogging for Academics,” Delaware Institute for the Public Humanities (DELPHI), University of Delaware, June 5
2014 “Interpreting Nineteenth-Century Needlework: Ann Warder and Her Berlin Work,” guest lecture for Jennifer Van Horn’s course on Gilded Age America, Smithsonian-Mason Masters Degree Program in the History of Decorative Arts, October 1
2012 “Researching Women and Mid-Late Nineteenth-Century Material Culture,” guest lecture for Jennifer Van Horn’s course on Gilded Age

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America, Smithsonian-Mason Masters Degree Program in the History of Decorative Arts, June 5
2010 “Berlin Needlework: Victorian Craft of Kitsch?” presentation as part of Center for Material Culture Studies Textile Seminar, University of Delaware, September 19

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2017 Peer-reviewer for *The Public Historian*
2017 Fellowship Selection Committee Member, Winterthur Museum and Library Dissertation and Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program
2009-present Liberal Arts Alumni Mentor for careers in cultural heritage institutions and museums, The Pennsylvania State University
2015 Planning Committee for Disability Studies Minor, University of Delaware
2013-2015 Coordinator and Committee Member, History Workshop and Professional Development Workshops, Department of History, University of Delaware
2009-2014 Board Member at Large (2013-2015) and Mid-Atlantic Representative, American Association of Museum Curators’ Committee (2009-2014)

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Delaware Museum Association
Disability History Association
Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums
National Council on Public History
Small Museum Association
Society of Early Americanists
Society for Historians of the Early American Republic