

Sam Lebovic

History and Art History Department, GMU, 4400 University Drive 3G1, Fairfax, VA 22030
slebovic@gmu.edu • 773.308.4717

Academic Appointments

George Mason University, Fairfax, VA	
Associate Professor of History	2018-Present
Director, History Ph.D. Program	2017-Present
Associate Editor, <i>Journal of Social History</i>	2016-Present
Assistant Professor of History	2013-2018
New York University, New York, NY	
Postdoctoral Fellow, Frederic Ewen Academic Freedom Center	Spring 2013
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ	
Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Cultural Analysis	2011-2012

Education

Ph.D.	University of Chicago, History, awarded with distinction, 2011
MA	University of Chicago, History, 2005
BA (Hons)	University of Sydney, Majors in History (First Class Honours) and Government, 2003

Books

A Righteous Smokescreen: Postwar America and the Politics of Cultural Globalization (University of Chicago Press; forthcoming January 2022)

Free Speech and Unfree News: The Paradox of Press Freedom in America (Harvard University Press, 2016)

Awarded 2017 Ellis W. Hawley Prize, Organization of American Historians (for best book on the history of political economy, politics, or institutions of the U.S. from the Civil War to the present)

Finalist, 2017 Frank Luther Mott Award, Kappa Tau Alpha (for best research-based book on journalism or mass communication)

Awarded 2012 Paul Murphy Prize in the History of Civil Liberties, American Society for Legal History (in support of book completion)

Reviewed in: *American Historical Review*, *American Journalism*, *Historical Journal*, *International Journal of Press/Politics*, *Journal of American Studies*, *Journal of Communication*, *Journal of Social History*, *Journalism and Mass Communications Quarterly*, *Journalism History*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *New York Review of Books*, *Reviews in American History*

Books in Progress

Spirit of the Security State: The Secret History of the Espionage Act

A narrative history of the Espionage Act, providing a new account of censorship and national security politics in the U.S. from 1917 to the present. Under contract with Basic Books; expected 2023.

The End of Mass Media: A History

A transnational and comparative history of the public sphere in Australia, the UK and the U.S. from the 1970s to 2000, that will explore the ways that the diversification of the media in the age of satellite, cable, and the internet changed political and cultural life in all three democracies. In early research phase.

Edited Volumes

Editor, "Social Histories of the Security State," Special Issue of *Journal of Social History*, forthcoming

Editor, "Social Histories of Neoliberalism," Special Issue of *Journal of Social History*, Fall 2019

Journal Articles (Peer-reviewed)

"The Conservative Press and the Interwar Origins of First Amendment Lochnerism," *Law and History Review* (forthcoming)

"The Politics of Pluralism: Debating Media Diversity in Australia, c.1976," *Australian Historical Studies* 51, no.4 (October 2020): 401-419

"No Right to Leave the Nation: The Politics of Passport Denial and the Rise of the National Security State," *Studies in American Political Development* 34, no.1 (April 2020): 170-193

"Here, There, and Everywhere: The Beatles, America, and Cultural Globalization, 1964-1968," *Journal of American Studies* 51, no.1 (February 2017): 43-65

"'A Breath from Home': Soldier Entertainment and the Nationalist Politics of Pop Culture During World War II," *Journal of Social History* 47, no.2 (December 2013): 263-296

"From War Junk to Educational Exchange: The WWII Origins of the Fulbright Program and the Foundations of American Cultural Globalism, 1945-1950" *Diplomatic History* 37, no.2 (April 2013): 280-312

Book Chapters (Peer-reviewed)

(with Matt Karush) "Mass Culture," for edited volume *The Interwar World* eds. Heidi Tworek and Andrew Denning (currently researching)

"Anti-Monopoly in the Media Industries: A History," for edited volume *Anti-Monopoly and American Democracy*, organized by the Tobin Project, and edited by Dan Crane and Bill Novak (out for review)

"From Censorship to Classification: The Evolution of the Espionage Act," in *Whistleblowing Nation: The History of National Security Disclosures and the Cult of State Secrecy* eds. Kaeten Mistry and Hannah Gurman (Columbia University Press, 2020)

"The Meaning of Educational Exchange: The Nationalist Exceptionalism of Fulbright's Liberal Internationalism," in *The Legacy of J. William Fulbright: Ideology, Power, and Policy* eds. Alessandro Brogi, Giles Scott-Smith and David Snyder (University Press of Kentucky, 2019)

"Freedom of the Press" *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History*, 2019

"Leaking about Donald Trump in the Age of Fake News," in *Chaos in the Liberal Order: The Trump Presidency and International Politics in the Twenty-First Century* eds. Robert Jervis, Francis J. Gavin, Joshua Rovner and Diane Labrosse (Columbia University Press, 2018)

"How Administrative Opposition Shaped Freedom of Information," in *Troubling Transparency: The Freedom of Information Act and Beyond* eds. David Pozen and Michael Schudson (Columbia University Press, 2018)

"When the 'Mainstream Media' was Conservative: Media Criticism in the Age of Reform," in *Media Nation: The Political History of News in Modern America*, eds. Bruce J. Schulman and Julian Zelizer (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017)

"Limited War in the Age of Total Media" in *Understanding the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan*, eds. Beth Bailey and Richard Immerman (New York University Press, 2015)

Popular Media Essays and Interviews

“Why is America the World’s Police?” *Boston Review*, October 19 2020

“Early Cold War Politics and Economics,” recorded class for Lectures in American History, C-SPAN, May 2020

Interview, *Historiography in Mass Communication*, Volume 4(6), 2018, 45-51

“The Inadequacy of American Press Freedom,” *American Historian*, August 2018, 20-27

Interview, *New Books in Intellectual History Podcast*, May 2018

“Want to End the War on Whistleblowers? Revise the Espionage Act,” *Washington Post (Made by History Blog)*, August 1 2017

“How Journalists Should Really Confront Trumpism,” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, April 30 2017

“Leaking about Donald Trump in the Age of False News,” *H-DIPLO/International Security Studies Forum*, March 21 2017

(with J.D. Evans) “This is Not a Market,” *Dissent*, August 5 2016

“The Surprisingly Short History of American Secrecy,” *AHA Today*, July 5 2016

“The Backstory of Gannett’s Bid to Buy the Tribune,” *Columbia Journalism Review*, April 29 2016

Radio Interview, “Oh My Government!” *WPFW*, April 5 2016

“The Forgotten 1957 Trial That Explains Our Country’s Bizarre Whistleblower Laws,” *Politico Magazine*, March 27 2016

Radio Interview, *The Source*, Texas Public Radio, March 17 2016

“The Fulbright, History’s Greatest War-Surplus Program,” *Boston Globe*, August 11 2013

Book Reviews

The Idealist: Wendell Willkie’s Wartime Quest to Build One World, by Samuel Zipp, *Journal of American History* (forthcoming)

An Aristocracy of Critics: Luce, Hutchins, Niebuhr and the Committee that Redefined Freedom of the press by Stephen Bates, *Mass Communication and Society* (forthcoming)

Newsprint Metropolis: City Papers and the Making of Modern Americans, by Julia Guarneri, *Journal of American History*, March 2019

Uncle Sam’s Policemen: The Pursuit of Fugitives across Borders, by Katherine Unterman, *Journal of Social History*, Spring 2017

Trotskyists on Trial: Free Speech and Political Persecution since the Age of FDR by Donna Haverty-Stacke, *Law and History Review*, February 2017

Wars, States, and Contention: A Comparative Historical Study, by Sidney Tarrow, *H-Diplo*, January 2016

Advertising at War: Business, Consumers and the Government, by Inger L. Stole, *The Journal of American Studies*, April 2014

Buffalo Bill in Bologna: The Americanization of the World, 1869-1922, by Rob Kroes and Robert W. Rydell, *The Australasian Journal of American Studies*, December 2007

Select Awards, Fellowships, Grants

CHSS Faculty Research and Development Award, GMU	Summer, 2021
Faculty Fellow, Center for Humanities Research, GMU	Spring 2021
Summer Term Residential Research Fellowship, LMU-Munich Centre for Global History	2020
National Library of Australia Residential Research Fellowship	2019
Ellis W. Hawley Prize, Organization of American Historians	2017
Nancy Weiss-Malkiel Junior Faculty Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation	2016
Mathy Junior Faculty Fellowship, George Mason University	2016
Paul Murphy Prize in the History of Civil Liberties, American Society for Legal History	2012
Moody Research Grant, LBJ Foundation	2012
Truman Institute Dissertation Year Fellowship	2010-2011
FDR Institute Research Grant	2010
Truman Institute Research Grant	2009
George C. Marshall/Baruch Fellowship	2009
NYU Center for the U.S. and the Cold War Dissertation Fellowship	2008

Invited Presentations

“Fear of Foreign Influence: Some Lessons from the History of the Fulbright Program”

- “Educational and Cultural Exchanges and Peace in the Disinformation Era,” Turkish Fulbright Commission, Istanbul, April 2020 (COVID-19 delay, held online January 2021)

“The Marketplace of Ideas: A Brief (and Unhappy) History of the Press Clause”

- University of Texas at Austin, March 2020 (given as 2020 First Amendment Visiting Scholar)

“The End of Mass Media (Starring Rupert Murdoch)”

- National Library of Australia, August 2019

Roundtable Participant, “Debating U.S. National Security Whistleblowing: A Discussion with Whistleblowers, Advocates and Historians”

- New York University, October 2018

“The Forgotten Problem of Educational Reconstruction: The Birth of UNESCO and the Limits of Internationalism in America’s 1940s”

- Vanderbilt University, September 2017

“The Marketplace of Ideas: A Brief and Unhappy History”

- From the New Liberalism to Neoliberalism, Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, University of Chicago, May 2017

“Free Speech and Unfree News: The Paradox of Press Freedom in America”

- Hamilton College, October 2017
- Constitution Day Address, Oklahoma State University, September 2017
- Center for Study of Force and Diplomacy, Temple University, March 2017
- Washington History Seminar, National History Center and Woodrow Wilson Center, April 2016
- National Archives, Washington, D.C., April 2016
- Communications Colloquium, Columbia School of Journalism, February 2016

Invited Presentations (cont.)

“Freedom of Information and the Administration circa 1966, or, What FOIA Did and Didn’t Do”

- FOIA at Fifty Conference, Columbia Journalism School and Columbia Law School, June 2016

“From Censorship to Classification: How World War II Remade American Press Freedom”

- Legal History Forum, Yale Law School, March 2015

“The Problem of Press Freedom and the Limits of the New Deal”

- 10th Annual International Conference in American Political History, American Political History Institute, Boston University, March 2015

“The Origins of the Fulbright Program”

- Presentation to Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, State Department, January 2014

“Media, the Military and the Government”

- Symposium on U.S. Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Center for the Study of Force and Diplomacy, Temple University, October 2013

“The National Secrecy State: The Politics of Information in America’s Cold War”

- Lees History Seminar, Rutgers-Camden, April 2013

“A New Deal for the Press? The First Amendment and the Corporate News Media”

- Rutgers Institute for Information Policy and Law, Rutgers-Camden Law School, February 2013

Conference and Workshop Presentations

Participant in Roundtable “Whistleblowing, Leaking, and the Challenge of Disclosure: New Directions in the History of National Security Secrecy”

- Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., April 2020 (COVID-19 delay, held online April 2021)

“National Security and the Right to Know: Strange Bedfellows in a Globalizing World”

- “The Role of Sharing and Denying Knowledge in International Relations since World War I,” Georgetown University, March 2020 (invited participant) (Cancelled due to COVID-19)

“Antitrust in the Media Industries: A History”

- Antimonopoly and American Democracy: A Tobin Project Initiative on American Democracy, Boston, October 2019 (invited participant)

“Satellites of Love: Simultaneity, Globality, and the Audiovisual in Sixties Counterculture”

- “Beyond the Counterculture: The Lost Alternatives of 1968,” Princeton, September 2019

“Passports, Visas and the Politics of International Travel in the Globalizing 1940s”

- American Cultures Workshop, University of Sydney, August 2019

Comment, “Journalism and the Making of the Cold War Order”

- Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, April 2019

Invited participant “Roundtable on Responding to the Fake News Challenge”

- Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington DC, March 2019

Conference and Workshop Presentations (cont.)

“The Evolution of the Espionage Act”

- “Exposing Secrets: the Past, Present and Future of U.S. National Security Whistleblowing and Government Secrecy,” New York University London Campus, London, UK, January 2019 (invited participant)

“The Reconstruction of International Education in the American Century”

- Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Conference, Philadelphia, June 2018

Chair for “Roundtable: The Stuff of Empire: Material Culture and U.S. Foreign Relations after 1945”

- Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Conference, Philadelphia, June 2018

Invited participant, “Roundtable on Media Ethics in the Disinformation Age”

- Alliance for Securing Democracy, German Marshall Fund of the United States, DC, November 2017

Invited participant, “Freedom of the Press and National Security in the Era of Trump”

- Center for Ethics and the Rule of Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School, November 2017

“Free Speech and Unfree News”

- Network for Interdisciplinary Studies of Law, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, June 2017

“100 Years of the Espionage Act”

- Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Conference, Arlington, VA, June 2017

“From Censorship to Secrecy: The Curious Career of the Espionage Act”

- Historians of the Twentieth Century U.S. Annual Conference, Dublin, Ireland, June 2017

“Satellites of Love: Simultaneity, Globality, and the Audiovisual in Sixties Counterculture”

- “Underground Adventures:” Temporal Experimentation in Postwar Countercultures, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, March 2017

“No Right to Leave the Nation: Passport Denial and the State Monopolization of American Internationalism, 1918-1958”

- Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Conference, San Diego, June 2016

“Freedom of Movement Denied: The Nationalist Regulation of Passports in Modern America”

- American Society for Legal History Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., October 2015

“Debating a Global Public Sphere: The U.S., the UN, and Worldwide Freedom of Information, 1944-1984”

- U.S. Intellectual History Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., October 2015

“The Nationalist Exceptionalism of Fulbright’s Liberal Internationalism”

- J. William Fulbright in International Perspective, Blair Center Legacy Conference, University of Arkansas, September 2015

Comment for “American Foreign Relations and International Higher Education in the Cold War: New Comparative Perspectives” Panel

- Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Conference, Lexington, June 2014

“Handouts and Leaks, Secrets and Scoops: Toward a Political History of Press-State Relations”

- Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Atlanta, April 2014

Conference and Workshop Presentations (cont.)

“Freedom of Information in the Age of the National Security State”

- American Society for Legal History Annual Conference, Miami, November 2013

“The Failure of New Deal Press Reform and The Emergence of the Laissez-Faire First Amendment”

- Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Boston, June 2013

“The National Secrecy State: The Politics of Information in America’s Cold War”

- Center for the U.S. and the Cold War, New York University, May 2013

“The Global Politics of Free Information: The Ironies of Liberal Universalism in America’s 1940s”

- American Historical Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, January 2013

“From Liberal Internationalism to Media Imperialism: The Failed Effort to Regulate the Global Exchange of News at the Young UN”

- “Networks of Exchange” Seminar, Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, October 2012

“Beyond the First Amendment: The Problem of Press Freedom in the American Century”

- Media and Journalism Studies Department, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, February 2012

“The Failure of New Deal Press Reform: The First Amendment, The Newspaper Industry and the Contradictions of Modern Press Liberty”

- Center for Cultural Analysis, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, December 2011

“Fighting for Free Information: The American News Media’s Struggle with Totalitarianism and the Remaking of the Liberal Public Sphere, 1930-1950”

- “American Studies in a Global Age,” Nagoya American Studies Summer Seminar, Nanzan University, Nagoya, Japan, July 2011

“Competing with Hitler: Freedom of Information and the Problem of the National Security State through the ‘Good War’”

- American Journalism Historian’s Association Annual Conference, Tucson, October 2010

“Working for a Free Press: The Political Culture of Journalism in an Age of Totalitarianism, 1933-1941”

- Organization of American Historians Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., April 2010
- Center for the U.S. and the Cold War, New York University, November 2008

“The Creation of the Fulbright Program and the International Transmission of American Culture, 1945-1950”

- Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Conference, Arlington, VA, June 2009
- Australia and New Zealand American Studies Association Conference, Sydney, Australia, July 2008
- “Globalizing Political History” Joint Workshop, University of Madison-Wisconsin and University of Chicago, November 2006

Conference and Workshop Organizing

Organizer and Symposium Chair, “Global Media, Global Identities?” Symposium, Potomac Center for the Study of Modernity, University of Maryland, April 2017

Co-coordinator, “Toward a Global Public Sphere?” Conference, Rutgers University, Spring 2012

Courses taught at George Mason

Graduate: Cultural Globalization, History of the U.S. State, Global Migrations, American Internationalism, U.S. National Security State, American Democracy, U.S. in the Pacific World

Undergraduate: History of the American Media, The U.S. and World Power, Cold War America, Introduction to World History; America in a Global Context (three-week summer certificate program for visiting international students; curriculum development and lead instructor, 2014 & 2015)

Graduate Advising (at George Mason unless otherwise noted)

Dissertation Committee Member

- Sarah Nelson (Vanderbilt University), “Information’s Imperium: The Struggle to Decolonize Global Telecommunications and Make Information Free, 1919-1984”
- Peter Carr Jones, “The Oil Weapon: Developing Petroleum for War in the United States” (History, in progress)
- (Chair) Justin Broubalow, “Restriction and Cooperation: Border Enforcement and the Multilateral Moment of the American Immigration Regime, 1891-1941” (History, in progress)
- Ben Brands, “Natural Genius versus Safe Leadership: The Debate over Professional Military Education in the U.S. Army, 1880-1903” (History, in progress)
- Dan Curry, “Persistence and Property Rights: The Economic and Legal History of Spanish and Mexican Land Grants in California and New Mexico, 1821-1910” (History, defended 2021)
- Claire Pia Love, “Buried in Earth and Among the Stars: Disaster Preparedness and the American Imagination in the 1970s” (History, in progress)
- Steve Rusiecki, “Invasion On: D-Day, the Press, and the Making of An American Memory” (History, defended 2020)
- Melissa Sinclair, “From Our Abundance: The Origins of U.S. Foreign Assistance as Evidenced in the Debates of Congress, 1789-1949” (School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution, defended 2019)
- Ben Schneider, “A Field Where a Thousand Corpses Lie: Murder and the American Soldier, 1942-1945,” (History, defended 2019)
- Anne McDivitt, “We Take Fun Seriously: The Creation of the Video Game Industry in the U.S.” (History, defended 2018)
- Nate Sleeter, “‘Aristocracy of Excellence’: The Rise of the Gifted Child, 1917-1965” (History, defended 2017)
- John W. Lemza, “Tracing American Exceptionalism during the Cold War: American Military Communities in West Germany, 1946-1990” (History, defended 2014)

Ph.D. Field Advising

- U.S. Political Culture (Spring 2021; 1 Student)
- U.S. and the World Minor Field (Spring 2019, 2 students; Spring 2017, 1 student)
- 20th Century U.S. History Major Field (Spring 2016, 2 students; Spring 2017, 1 student; Spring 2018, 2 students; Fall 2020, 3 students)
- 20th Century U.S. Cultural History Minor Field (Fall 2015; Spring 2018)
- Popular Culture and Collective Memory Minor Field (Spring 2014)

M.A. Thesis Committee Member

- John Hahnbeuth, ‘A Fiend about Women:’ Gender Dynamics and American Evangelism in a Micronesian Mission during the High Tide of Pacific Imperialism, 1884-1899” (History, Graduated, Summer 2019)

Other Teaching Experience (sole-instructor)

Rutgers University – New Brunswick

- Development of the U.S. II: Since 1865, History
- Media, Government and Politics, Journalism and Media Studies
- News Media and Government in America, Journalism and Media Studies
- History and Theory of the American Public Sphere, History and English

University of Chicago

- Cultural Globalization: History and Theory, International Studies and History
- Contemporary Global Issues II, International Studies
- America in World Civilization II: Nineteenth Century, Social Sciences Core
- America in World Civilization III: Twentieth Century, Social Sciences Core

Professional Service

Member, SHAFR Advocacy Task Force, 2020-present

Organizer, Modern History Workshop, Department of History and Art History, 2019-present

Chair, Ellis Hawley Prize Committee, Organization of American Historians, 2018-2019

Member, Intellectual Life of the College Committee, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, GMU, 2018-2021 (Chair of Committee, 2020-2021)

Member, Graduate Committee, Department of History and Art History, GMU, 2017-present

Member, SHAFR Graduate Student Grants and Fellowships Committee, 2017-present (Chair, 2021-2022)

Member, SHAFR Taskforce on Advocacy, 2017

Instructor, Session on History of Press Freedom for the 2017 Federal Judicial Center Summer Institute for Teachers

Presentation on U.S. Political Culture for Fulbright Gateway Orientation, September 2015

Co-coordinator, University of Chicago Social History Workshop, 2006-2007

Manuscript Review

Oxford University Press; Columbia University Press; University of Massachusetts Press; University of Chicago Press; John Hopkins University Press; *Peace & Change*; *Left History*; *Journal of American Studies*; *International History Review*; *Modern American History*; *Diplomatic History*; *All-Azimuth: A Journal of Foreign Policy and Peace*

Professional Affiliations

Organization of American Historians

American Historical Association

Society for the Historians of American Foreign Relations

American Society for Legal History (intermittent)