

**THOMAS M. MESSERSMITH**  
Curriculum Vitae

**EDUCATION:**

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- 2024 PhD, History, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland  
Dissertation: “‘God Rather Than Men’: Austrian Catholic Theology and the Origins of the Christian Social Party, 1848-1897.”  
Advisor: Marsha L. Rozenblit
- 2013 MA, History, Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, Illinois  
Thesis: “Still Catholic: Austrian Catholic Responses to the German *Kulturkampf*.”  
Advisor: Nancy M. Wingfield
- 2011 BA, History (German Minor), Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama  
Advisor: Cathleen M. Giustino

**PUBLICATIONS:**

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**Refereed Journal Articles:**

- 2019 Di Cicco, Rae, Rosabel Rosalind Kurth-Sofer, and Thomas M. Messersmith. “The Canaries of Democracy: Imagining the Wandering Jew with Artist Rosabel Rosalind Kurth-Sofer.” *Contemporaneity: Historical Presence in Visual Culture*, 8 (Fall 2019): 57-79. <https://doi.org/10.5195/contemp.2019.286>.

**Other Publications:**

- 2020 “The COVID Cliff: Underfunded Graduate Workers in Crisis.” *The Activist History Review*. March 23, 2020. <https://activisthistory.com/2020/03/23/the-covid-cliff-underfunded-graduate-workers-in-crisis/>
- 2018 “Judging the Spirit: Vatican Economic Teaching and the Basis of Doctrinal Development.” *The Activist History Review*. July 27, 2018. <https://activisthistory.com/2018/07/27/judging-the-spirit-vatican-economic-teaching-and-the-basis-of-doctrinal-development/>
- 2017 “‘In Our Own Interests’: The Destructive History of Nationalism and What It Means for White Nationalists.” *The Activist History Review*. July 21, 2017. <https://activisthistory.com/2017/07/21/in-our-own-interests-the-destructive-history-of-nationalism-in-the-habsburg-monarchy-and-what-it-means-for-white-nationalists/>
- 2016 “Donald Trump and the End of History – As We Knew It.” *The Hill*. October 23, 2016. <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/presidential-campaign/302361-donald-trump-and-the-end-of-history-as-we-knew-it>.

**GRANTS/HONORS:**

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- 2018 Fulbright-Mach Study Award for Doctoral Candidates, Austria.
- 2018 Central European History Society Travel Grant.
- 2016 University of Maryland Prospectus Development Grant.
- 2012 Hayter and Young Graduate History Endowment.
- 2010 Delta Phi Alpha, National German Honor Society.
- 2009 Phi Alpha Theta, National History Honor Society.

## **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION:**

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- 2019 “God Rather than Men,” Fulbright Austria Seminar in American Studies, Strobl, Austria, May 2-4.
- 2013 “Still Catholic: The Austrian Catholic Response to the German *Kulturkampf*,” Central Michigan University International Graduate Historical Studies Conference, Mt. Pleasant, MI, April 5-6.
- 2012 “Expelled: West Germany and Human Rights Talk in the Wake of the *Vertreibung*,” Fifth Annual Northern Illinois Graduate History Conference, DeKalb, IL, October 26.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

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### **Instructor – Wallace State Community College**

Hanceville, AL  
Fall 2023 – Spring 2025

### **History Teacher – Katz Yeshiva High School of South Florida**

Boca Raton, FL  
Fall 2020 – Spring 2023

### **Instructor – University of Maryland**

College Park, MD  
Fall 2019 – Spring 2020

### **Graduate Teaching Assistant – University of Maryland**

College Park, MD  
Spring 2014 – Spring 2017

### **Graduate Teaching Assistant – Northern Illinois University**

DeKalb, IL  
Fall 2011 – Spring 2013

## **DEPARTMENTAL TALKS:**

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- 2024 “Mustering the Troops: Confronting Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education,” Presentation from the Artificial Intelligence Task Force, Wallace State Community College, March 2024.
- 2022 “Controlling Classrooms Through Intentional Protocols and SOPs: The Case of the MUERF,” Spring In-Service Presentation, Katz Yeshiva High School of South Florida, May 2022.
- 2019 “Designing Your Own Course: A Panel on Teaching HIST208,” History Graduate Teaching Colloquium, University of Maryland, September 2019.
- 2017 “Graduate School: To Go or Not to Go?” History Undergraduate Association, University of Maryland, April 2017.

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**RESEARCH LANGUAGES:**

French  
German  
Italian  
Latin

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**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:**

2018- Austria, September 2018-June 2019, Fulbright-Mach:  
2019 Archiv der Erzdiözese Salzburg  
Diözesanarchiv Graz-Seckau  
Diözesanarchiv Gurk  
Diözesanarchiv Linz  
Diözesanarchiv St. Pölten  
Diözesanarchiv Wien  
Karl von Vogelsang Institut in Vienna  
Oberösterreichisches Landesarchiv  
Österreichisches Staatsarchiv  
Österreichische Nationalbibliothek  
Wiener Stadt- und Landesarchiv  
2016 Vienna, Austria, July-August, 2016, University of Maryland Prospectus Development:  
Archiv des Vereins für Geschichte der Arbeiterbewegung in Vienna  
Diözesanarchiv Wien  
Karl von Vogelsang Institut in Vienna  
Österreichisches Staatsarchiv  
Österreichische Nationalbibliothek

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**SERVICE AT WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE:**

Master Teacher, 2024-2025.  
Artificial Intelligence Taskforce, 2024-2025.  
Transfer Summit Committee, 2023-2025.  
Instructional Materials (Library) Committee, 2023-2025.  
Teaching and Learning Academy, 2023-2024.

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**SERVICE AT KATZ YESHIVA HIGH SCHOOL OF SOUTH FLORIDA:**

Debate Team Coach, 2021-2023.  
History Brown-Bag Colloquium Committee, 2021-2023.  
Safety Committee, 2020-2023.

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**SERVICE AT UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND:**

History Graduate Teaching Colloquium, 2019-Present.  
History Graduate Student Association Conference Committee, 2014-Present.  
Chairperson, 2015-2017.  
Logistics Sub-Committee Chair, 2014-2015.  
Graduate Representative, Dean's Comprehensive History Chair Review Committee, 2016.  
President, History Graduate Student Association, 2014-2015.  
Graduate Representative, History Department Executive Committee, 2014-2016.

**SERVICE AT NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY:**

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Graduate History Conference Committee, 2011-2013.  
History Colloquium Committee, 2011-2012.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:**

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Reacting Consortium.  
Society for Austrian and Habsburg History.  
Central European History Society.  
Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies.  
German Studies Association.  
American Historical Association.