

# CHARLES PETERSEN

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## EMPLOYMENT

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2024-	Stanford University Harold C. Hohbach Historian, Silicon Valley Archives
Fall 2023	Cornell University Visiting Assistant Professor, History Department
Summer 2023	Deep Springs College Visiting Professor
2020-2023	Cornell University Klarman Postdoctoral Fellow, History Department Member, Society of Fellows

## EDUCATION

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2020	Harvard University Ph.D., American Studies  Dissertation: "Meritocracy in America, 1885-2007" • Committee: Walter Johnson (chair), Samuel Moyn, Lisa McGirr, Betsy Blackmar, Jonathan Levy • Leo P. Ribuffo Dissertation Prize, Society for US Intellectual History • Biennial Dissertation Prize, Forum for the History of Human Science
2016	Harvard University M.A., History
2005	Carleton College B.A. <i>magna cum laude</i> , English, with honors and distinction in the major

## PUBLISHED AND FORTHCOMING

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### PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

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"Meritocracy in America, 1932-1978," revise and resubmit, *American Historical Review*

### SELECTED ARTICLES

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2020	"Serfs of Academe," review essay on eleven books about the academy, <i>New York Review of Books</i> , 67 (4), March 12.
2017	"On the Trail," review essay on two environmental history books, <i>New York Review of Books</i> , 64 (13), August 17.
2016	"State of Suspended Animation," review of <i>Liberty and Coercion</i> by Gary Gerstle, <i>Bookforum</i> , Feb/Mar.

- 2010 "Unsettled," review essay on eight books about the environmental and social history of the American West, *The Nation*, 291 (14), October 4.
- "Google and Money!," review essay on the political economy of search engines, *New York Review of Books*, 57 (19), December 9.
- "In the World of Facebook," review essay on the political economy of social networks, *New York Review of Books*, 57 (3), February 25.

## SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

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- 2022 Forum for the History of Human Science, Dissertation Prize (best dissertation in the history of the human sciences)
- Business History Conference, Martha Moore Trescott Award (best paper at the intersection of business history and the history of technology)
- 2021 Society for US Intellectual History, Leo P. Ribuffo Prize (best dissertation in US intellectual history)
- Hagley Museum and Library, Exploratory Research Grant
- 2019 Jefferson Scholars Foundation (formerly Miller Center), University of Virginia, National Fellowship
- 2018 Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University, Dissertation Fellowship
- University of Southern California, Wallis Annenberg Research Grant
- Hoover Institution, Silas Palmer Research Fellowship
- Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin, Dissertation Fellowship
- 2017 Ash Center Democracy Program, Harvard University, Dissertation Fellowship
- American Council of Learned Societies, Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship (*declined*)
- German Historical Institute, Dissertation Fellowship (*declined*)
- Huntington Library, Frank Hideo Kono Fellowship
- Charles Babbage Institute, University of Minnesota, Norberg Travel Grant
- 2005 Carleton College, Curran Prize (best essay in any discipline)

## TEACHING AND ADVISING

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- 2023 "Disassembling Silicon Valley: A People's History of High-Tech America across Race, Gender, and Empire," Cornell University, History Department
- "Meritocracy in America?: From Slavery to Student Debt," Cornell University, History Department
- "Capitalism: Theory and Practice in the Modern Atlantic World," Deep Springs College, Summer Session

2019-2020	Thesis Advisor, Social Studies honors program, Margot Dionne, "Dr. Wang Can Save This City: How One Man's Computer Company Became a Symbol of Hope in Postindustrial Lowell, Massachusetts."
2016-2017	Thesis Advisor, Social Studies honors program, Matthew Browne, "The Experience Economy and the US Commercial Music Festival, 1999-Present."
2015	Head Teaching Fellow for Samuel Moyn, "The History of Human Rights," Harvard University, General Education
2014	Teaching Fellow for Heidi Tworek, "The History of International Organizations," Harvard University, Department of History

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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2022	"Genealogy of the Techbro," Rochester Institute of Technology, History Department
	"Looking in the Mirror: Exploring the Racial History of the Western Academy," University of California at Davis, History Department and Law School
2017	"Making America Safe for Meritocracy: The Rise of Selective Admissions at Stanford University," University of Southern California, History Department

## PRESENTATIONS

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2023	"Writing US Business History in the Neoliberal Era," American History Association Annual Meeting
2022	"Flexible Accumulation, Flexible Organization, Flexible Masculinity: Silicon Valley and the Birth of a New Subjectivity, 1957-1998," Newberry Library History of Capitalism Seminar
	"How to 'Help Free Enterprise Help Itself': The Liberal and Antitrust Origins of Modern Venture Capital," American Political History Conference
	"Flexible Accumulation, Flexible Organization, Flexible Masculinity: Silicon Valley and the Birth of a New Subjectivity, 1957-1998," Business History Conference
2021	"The 100x Road to Neoliberalism: Engineers, Meritocracy, and Economic Inequality, 1950-2000," Society for the History of Technology Annual Meeting
	"Executive Stock Options and the Mid-Century Origins of the Neoliberal Age, 1945-1969," Social Science History Association Conference
	"How Should Human Capital Be Paid?: Executive Compensation, Silicon Valley, and Stock Options, 1937-2004," Inventing Human Capital Conference, University of California–Santa Barbara
2019	"The Meritocratic State: Jerry Brown, Silicon Valley, and the California School of Neoliberalism, 1974-1984," Society for US Intellectual History
	"'Brain-Intensive Industry': Silicon Valley, Stock Options, and the Subjectivity of Human Capital, 1958-1982," Frontiers of Accumulation Conference, University of Copenhagen

## ACADEMIC AND PUBLIC SERVICE

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2021-	Selection Committee, Work-in-Progress Grants, Robert B. Silvers Foundation
2018-2019	Co-organizer, 20th Century US History Workshop, Harvard University

## SELECTED PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

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2023	"Everything We Know about the History of Diversity Is Wrong," March 19, <i>Making History</i> , Substack Newsletter
2021	"How I Discovered Stanford's Jewish Quota," August 8, <i>Making History</i>
2018	"Attraction Pricing," on the history and future of democratic access to New York's Metropolitan Museum, <i>Art in America</i> , 106 (3), March.
2012	"Lions in Winter," on the crisis at the New York Public Library's research division, <i>n+1</i> , 14, Summer.  "Part of a Long-Term Plan to Cut Research," <i>New York Times</i> , May 17.
2011	"Occupy Wall Street: The Politics of the Poor," co-authored with Benjamin Kunkel, <i>n+1</i> , October 31 Translated into: German as "Die Politik der Armen: Die 99 Prozent und der Populismus von links," in <i>Occupy!: Die ersten Wochen in New York, eine Dokumentation</i> . Berlin: Suhrkamp; Italian as "Novantanove per cento," <i>MicroMega</i> , 8.
2009	"In the Line of Fire," review of <i>The Big Burn</i> by Timothy Egan, <i>Wall Street Journal</i> , October 21.

## FORUMS AND INTERVIEWS

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2017	Discussion of education and meritocracy, <i>Radio Open Source</i> , WBUR, Boston, September 21.
2012	"Public Forum on the Central Library Plan," convened and led panel discussion with Anthony Marx, Robert Darnton, Joan W. Scott, Mark Hewitt, and David Nasaw, The New School, May 22.

## EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

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2007–	<i>n+1</i> Senior Editor (2014–); Associate Editor (2010–2014); Assistant Editor (2008–2010); Editorial Assistant (2007–2008)
2008–2009	<i>The New York Review of Books</i> Editorial Assistant

## LANGUAGES

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French (advanced reading), German (advanced reading)