

# Michael B. Kahan

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in History, University of Pennsylvania	2002
Dissertation: "Pedestrian Matters: The Contested Meanings and Uses of Philadelphia's Streets, 1850s-1920s." Adviser: Michael B. Katz	
B.A. in History, summa cum laude, Yale University	1990

## EXPERIENCE

Program on Urban Studies, Stanford University	
Co-Director and Senior Lecturer	2017 - present
Acting Director and Senior Lecturer	2016 - 2017
Associate Director and Senior Lecturer	2015 - 2016
Associate Director and Lecturer	2004 - 2015
Assistant Director and Lecturer	2003 - 2004

### Administration and Oversight

- Set and implement policies for 20 to 40 undergraduate majors.
- Conceive and enact significant new elements of program, including community-based internship, senior research or synthesis project, senior seminar, student colloquium, annual lecture series, and summer community-service fellowship.
- Collaborate with faculty director to obtain competitive funding, and win Faculty Senate re-authorization of program.
- Assist teaching staff in managing transition to remote learning, 2020-2021.
- Oversee honors program and direct Summer Honors College (in selected years) for seniors undertaking independent research projects.
- Select and supervise peer advisers.
- Supervise Assistant Director for Community-Based Learning to implement new initiatives in service learning and support student internships.
- Recruit standing faculty for affiliation with program, and adjunct faculty for lecturer positions.

### Advising

- Mentor a research assistant as part of the Urban Studies Summer Research Program, Summer of 2020. Projects include an oral history of artists' live-work housing in San Francisco, and an oral history of the Urban Studies program at Stanford.
- Advise majors and prospective majors, and reach out to prospective majors through special events and public presentations.
- Work with students, alumni, community professionals, and BEAM (Career Development Center) to support career education and networking.

- Advise theses:
  - 2023: Sol Martinez, BA in American Studies; Pamela Beltran, BA in CSRE
  - 2019: Erica Knox, MS in Earth Systems, “Homes for Schools: The Community Land Trust as a Teacher Housing Tool in Santa Clara County” (second reader)
- Dissertation committee:
  - 2022: Rohan Aras, Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering.

### **University Service**

- Haas Center, Executive Director “Winnowing” (Selection Assistance) Committee (2022-23)
- Haas Center, Ad-Hoc Group on Supporting Student Activism (2020-2021)
- Haas Center, Senior Program for Engaged Scholarship search committee (2018)
- Stanford in New York Review Committee Member (2017 – 2018)
- Convener, Creative Cities Working Group, Stanford Arts Institute (2016 – 2020)
- Haas Center Faculty Steering Committee Member (2016 – present)
- Urban Summer Fellowship selection committee (2004 – present)
- Stanford Arts Institute Fellowship Selection Committee (2015 – 2018)
- Stanford in Government faculty mentor (2015 - present)
- Stanford in New York City planning committee (2013 – 2014)
- Feminist Studies Associate Director search committee (2013)
- Sustainable Urban Systems program planning committee (2013 – 2016)
- Student Initiated Courses committee (2003 – 2008)

### **Communication**

- Oversee comprehensive reorganization and redesign of web site, including thorough revision of all content.
- Prepare newsletter for faculty, students, and alumni.

### **Teaching**

- Teach seminar and lecture courses at introductory and advanced levels, including:
  - Introduction to Urban Studies
  - Walking and Writing New York City (taught at Stanford in New York, Autumn 2022)
  - St. Petersburg: Imagining a City, Building a City
  - American Urban History 1920-Present
  - Gentrification (Community-Engaged Learning course)
  - From Gold Rush to Google Bus: History of San Francisco (Community-Engaged Learning course)
  - East Palo Alto: Reading Urban Change (Community-Engaged Learning course)
  - The Origins of the Modern American City, 1865-1920 (Introductory Seminar)
  - Preparation for Senior Research

- Senior Seminar in Urban Studies
  - History of Urban Politics in America
  - Honors College
- Recipient of Senior Class Distinguished Teaching Award in Urban Studies, Multiple occasions.

Department of History, University of Pennsylvania  
Teaching Assistant and Instructor                      Selected semesters, 1993 - 2003  
Investor Responsibility Research Center, Washington DC  
Research Associate    1990 - 1992

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

Stanford Historical Society, Susan W. Schofield Oral History Award, 2022  
Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Departmental Research Grant, 2019-22  
Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning, Innovation Grant, 2018  
Haas Center for Public Service, Friend of Haas Award, 2017  
Haas Center for Public Service, Haas Center Faculty Fellow, 2017  
Senior Class Distinguished Teaching Award in Urban Studies, Multiple occasions  
Haas Center for Public Service, Service-Learning Initiative Funds, 2011-2020  
Stanford Arts, Arts Catalyst Grant, 2011-2012, 2017, 2019  
School of Humanities and Sciences, Community Engagement Grant for Faculty in the  
Arts and Humanities, 2012  
Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Curricular Innovation Engaging the Arts,  
2011-2012

## PUBLICATIONS

- “The Right to the Creative City” (co-editor with Peggy Phelan), a Colloquy on the  
Arcade website. <https://arcade.stanford.edu/colloquies/right-creative-city> .  
2021.
- “Art / History: How South of Market became SOMA,” video presentation, with  
photographer Janet Delaney. In “The Right to the Creative City,” ed. Michael  
Kahan and Peggy Phelan. <https://arcade.stanford.edu/content/arthistory-how-south-market-became-soma> . 2021.
- “Jewish Girls’ Street Peddling in Gilded Age Philadelphia: Ethnic Niche, Family Strategy,  
and Sexual Danger,” *Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth* 12:3 (Fall 2019):  
374-392. DOI: [10.1353/hcy.2019.0041](https://doi.org/10.1353/hcy.2019.0041)
- “Urban America,” invited “keynote chapter” for *A Companion to the Gilded Age and  
Progressive Era*, ed. Nancy Unger and Christopher McKnight (Wiley-Blackwell),  
2017.
- “Reading Whiskey Gulch: The Meanings of Space and Urban Redevelopment in East  
Palo Alto,” *Occasion*, vol. 8 (August 2015), special issue on Race, Space, and Scale,  
ed. Wendy Cheng and Rashad Shabazz.  
[http://arcade.stanford.edu/occasion\\_issue/race-space-scale](http://arcade.stanford.edu/occasion_issue/race-space-scale)
- “The Risk of Cholera and the Reform of Urban Space: Philadelphia, 1893,” *Geographical  
Review* 103:4 (2013): 517-536.
- “City Nature,” Co-Principal Investigator (with Jon Christensen).  
<http://citynature.stanford.edu>, 2013.

- “There are Plenty of Women on the Street”: The Landscape of Commercial Sex in Progressive-Era Philadelphia,” *Historical Geography* 40 (2012): 39-60.
- “Mapping Vice in Early Twentieth-Century Philadelphia,” Spatial History Project, Stanford University. 2010.  
<http://web.stanford.edu/group/spatialhistory/static/projects/project1017.html>
- “Rights of Passage’: The Integration of Philadelphia's Streetcars and Contested Definitions of Public Space, 1857-1867,” in *“We Shall Independent Be”: African American Place-Making and the Struggle to Claim Space in the United States*, ed. Angel Nieves and Leslie Alexander (University of Colorado Press, 2008).
- “Urban Poverty,” entry in *Poverty and Social Welfare: An Encyclopedia*, ed. Gwendolyn Mink and Alice O'Connor (ABC-CLIO, 2004).
- Review of Mark Wild, *Street Meeting: Multiethnic Neighborhoods in Early Twentieth-Century Los Angeles* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005) for *Journal of Social History*, 2007.
- Review of John Henry Hepp IV, *The Middle-Class City: Transforming Space and Time in Philadelphia, 1876-1926* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003), for *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*, 2006.
- Review of Peter C. Baldwin, *Domesticating the Street: The Reform of Public Space in Hartford, 1850-1930* (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1999) for H-Urban listserv, H-Net Reviews, January 2000
- Review of Frederick Binder and David Reimers, *All the Nations Under Heaven: An Ethnic and Racial History of New York City* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1995) for *History Reviews On-Line*, Winter 1995

## PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

- “Race and Housing in Mountain View, CA” (with Nicholas Perry), History in Community Conference, Stanford University, May 2022
- “Creativity, Collective Memory, and Environmental Justice in East Palo Alto,” Creative Cities Conference, Stanford Humanities Center, May 2018
- “St. Petersburg Cartography: The City in Maps, The City as Map,” Creative Cities Working Group at Stanford, “How to Do Things with Maps” session, April 2018
- “Art/History: Two Perspectives on South of Market,” joint presentation with photographer Janet Delaney, Creative Cities Working Group at Stanford, January 2018.
- “The Rise and Fall of Artists’ Live-Work Housing in San Francisco,” Society for American City, Regional, and Planning History, Cleveland, October 2017.
- “Rural Space, Urban Space,” Salinas History Project Launch, April 2017.
- Roundtable participant, “Economies in the Countryside,” Rethinking the Rural-Urban Divide in the Modern West, Stanford University, April 2014.
- “Redevelopment in East Palo Alto and the Transformation of Space as Social Imagination,” Society for American City, Regional, and Planning History, Toronto, October 2013.
- “Learning from the History of San Francisco and the Bay Area: Lessons for Urban Planning and Policy,” invited lecture, Global Educational Consulting, Stanford University, August 2013.

- “The Ethnic Economy and Moral Geography of Child Begging in Late-Nineteenth-Century Philadelphia,” Society for the History of Childhood and Youth conference, Nottingham, England, June 2013.
- Convener of Undergraduate and Masters’ Student Poster Session, Society for American City and Regional Planning History Conference, Oakland, October 2009.
- “Mapping Commercial Sex in Philadelphia, 1910-1920,” Urban History Association Conference, Phoenix, October 2006.
- “‘There are Plenty of Women on the Street’: Commercial Sex in Philadelphia, 1910-1920,” Historical Society of Pennsylvania Symposium, Philadelphia, November 2005.
- “Rights of Passage: The Introduction of Street Railways in Philadelphia, 1857-1867,” American Studies Association Conference, Atlanta, November 2004.
- Society for the History of Technology Conference, San Jose, October 2001
- Organization of American Historians Conference, Los Angeles, April 2001
- “Teaching Citizenship on Street and Playground in Progressive-Era America,” Designing Modern Childhoods Conference, Berkeley, May 2002
- “Dangerous Boys and Endangered Girls: Gender and the Prohibition of Child Begging in Late-Nineteenth-Century Philadelphia,” Eighth Biennial Conference on American Planning History, Washington D.C., November 1999
- “Echoes of the Nineteenth Century: Unemployment, Survival, and Urban Citizenship Past and Present,” Poster Presentation, Rights to the City: Citizenship, Democracy and Cities in a Global Age Conference, Toronto, June 1998
- “Philadelphia’s Streets and the ‘Great Railway Strike’ of 1895,” Pennsylvania History Association Conference, Philadelphia, November 1997
- “‘Mobs Held the Streets’: Trolleys, Strikers, and Public Space in Late-Nineteenth-Century Philadelphia,” Social Science History Association Conference, Washington D.C., October 1997

## **PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP**

- Historical Consultant, “Understanding the History of Housing in Mountain View: Stories of Racism, Anti-Discrimination and Movement Towards Inclusion,” Public event sponsored by the Mountain View Human Relations Commission, and held in Mountain View, CA, July 26, 2022. Content from this event is available at [https://www.mountainview.gov/depts/manager/history\\_of\\_housing.asp](https://www.mountainview.gov/depts/manager/history_of_housing.asp) . Press coverage at <https://www.mv-voice.com/news/2022/07/28/taking-a-closer-look-at-how-a-history-of-racism-shaped-mountain-views-housing>
- Featured Guest, “Found in Philadelphia” Podcast, Episode 9, 2022, “A Guide to Why Streets Matter.” <https://foundinphiladelphia.com/episode-no-9-a-guide-to-why-streets-matter-plus-phillys-early-streets/> . And Episode 15, 2023, “Streetcars Seize the Streets.” <https://foundinphiladelphia.com/episode-no-15-streetcars-seize-the-streets/> .
- Moderator, “In the Shadow of the Ivory Tower: How Universities are Plundering Our Cities, a Conversation with Author Davarian Baldwin.” Public conversation sponsored by Stanford University and Trinity College as part of a series of book talks, “Academic Innovation for the Public Good.” January 26, 2022.
- Member, editorial committee, “Post-Colonial Spatialities,” a Colloquy on the Arcade website. <https://arcade.stanford.edu/colloquies/postcolonial-spatialities>

Principal Investigator, “Artists’ Live-Work Housing in San Francisco Oral History Project,” a collection of 11 oral histories with artists, policy makers, and others involved in the development, regulation, and culture of live-work housing for artists (and others) in San Francisco from the 1970s through the 2020s.  
<https://searchworks.stanford.edu/view/14019409>

Principal Investigator, “Urban Studies at 50,” a collection of 10 oral histories with founding faculty and students in the Urban Studies program at Stanford.  
<https://historicalsociety.stanford.edu/discover-history/oral-history/projects/urban-studies-50>; recipient of the Susan W. Schofield Oral History Award, Stanford Historical Society

“Donald Trump, Tom Means, and Local Rent Control,” *Mountain View Voice*, November 10, 2017, p. 13.

“Angel Island’s Dark History,” KQED Perspectives, February 1, 2017,  
<https://ww2.kqed.org/perspectives/2017/01/31/angel-islands-dark-history/>

“Why You Can Live Anywhere You Want...Almost: The Fight Against Housing Discrimination in Mountain View, Los Altos Hills, and throughout California,” Los Altos High School History Week, Invited Presentation, February 2015.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Member, graduate student essay prize selection committee, Society for the History of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, 2021-22.

Peer reviewer for *Social Service Review*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, *Public Culture*, and Austrian Science Fund (FWF)

Member, Program Committee and Local Arrangements Committee, Society for American City and Regional Planning History Conference, Oakland, October 2009

## SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS

**Languages:** Good French, some German, Hebrew, Russian, Spanish, and Yiddish

**Computer:** MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint; Adobe Contribute (website editing)

**Compliance:** CITI Certification for Human Subjects Research Protections  
American Heart Association First Aid/CPR/AED/EpiPen Certification