

Last update: June 5, 2024

Jacob Anbinder

450 McGraw Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853
ja844@cornell.edu | JacobAnbinder.com

Academic Specialties	Twentieth-century U.S. history, political history, urban history, environmental history, history of race and public policy, history of city and regional planning, infrastructure history.
Employment	Klarman Postdoctoral Fellow, Cornell University, 2023–.
Education	<p>Harvard University, Ph.D. in history, November 2023. Dissertation: <i>Cities of Amber: Antigrowth Politics and the Making of Modern Liberalism</i>, a history of the metropolitan “growth revolt,” its role in the Democratic Party’s ideological realignment of the late twentieth century, and the origins of the modern urban housing crisis. Committee: Lisa McGirr (advisor), Lizabeth Cohen, Elizabeth Hinton.</p> <p>Harvard University, M.A. in history, May 2018.</p> <p>Yale University, B.A. in history, May 2014. <i>Cum laude</i> with distinction in the major.</p>
Honors	<p>History Prize Instructorship, History Department, Harvard University, Spring 2023.</p> <p>Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize for excellence in the art of teaching (2x), Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University, 2022 and 2023.</p> <p>Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University, Spring 2021.</p> <p>Raymond J. Cunningham Prize, American Historical Association, for best article published in an undergraduate history journal, awarded to “The South Shall Ride Again: The Origins of MARTA and the Making of the Urban South,” 2014.</p> <p>Writing Contest Winner, Yale University Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning, for a model essay in the discipline of history, awarded to “In the Fold of America: Immigration Politics in the Alien and Sedition Era,” 2013.</p>
Refereed Publications	“Selling the World: Public Relations and the Global Expansion of General Motors, 1922–1940.” <i>Business History Review</i> 92 (Fall 2018): 483–507.

- Other Academic Publications**
- “‘Power to the Neighborhoods!’: New York City Growth Politics, Neighborhood Liberalism, and the Origins of the Modern Housing Crisis.” Meyer Fellowship Paper. Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University. 2024.
- “Locking the Gates: Yale University and Police Power in the Postindustrial City, 1959–1976.” In *Cops on Campus: Critical Perspectives on Policing in Higher Education*. Edited by Yalile Suriel, Grace Watkins, Jude Paul Matias Dizon, and John Joseph Sloan III. Seattle: Univ. of Washington Press, 2024.
- “The South Shall Ride Again: Mass Transit and the Making of Modern Atlanta.” In *Urban Infrastructure: Historical and Social Dimensions of an Interconnected World*. Edited by Joseph Heathcott, Jonathan Soffer, and Rae Zimmerman. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2022.
- Review of *Historicizing Infrastructure* by Andreas Marklund and Mogens Rüdiger, eds. *Technology and Culture* 59 (July 2018): 791–792.
- Review of *Jim Crow Terminals: The Desegregation of American Airports* by Anke Ortlepp. *Atlanta Studies* (November 2017), online.
- “The South Shall Ride Again: The Origins of MARTA and the Making of the Urban South.” *Yale Historical Review* 2 (Spring 2013): 37–57.
- Teaching Experience**
- HIST 15J, “Suburban Wars: The American Suburb in the Twentieth Century”
Spring 2023, Harvard University (as instructor of record)
- HIST 97H, “What Is Urban History?”
Spring 2021, Harvard University
Instructor of record: Prof. Lizabeth Cohen
- HIST 97H, “What Is Urban History?”
Spring 2019, Harvard University
Instructor of record: Prof. Elizabeth Hinton
- HIST 600, “American Indian History in Four Acts”
Fall 2018, Harvard University
Instructor of record: Prof. Philip J. Deloria
- Conference Papers and Invited Talks**
- “[Beyond NIMBY: Antigrowth Politics, Political Ideology, and the Origins of the Housing Shortage](#),” City and Regional Futures Colloquium, College of Architecture, Art, and Planning, Cornell University, March 2024.

**Conference
Papers and
Invited Talks
(cont.)**

“Building Ecotopia: Environmentalism, Liberalism, and the Making of Antigrowth Political Culture in California, 1950–1990,” Berkeley Housing Politics and Policy Conference, Univ. of California, Berkeley, October 2023.

“Community Control or Controlling the Community? The Neighborhood Growth Revolt and the New Urban Liberalism, 1960–1990,” Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., September 2022.

“Cities of Tenants: Renters’ Rights and Urban Citizenship in California, 1968–1986,” European Association for Urban History, Antwerp, Belgium, September 2020. (canceled due to pandemic)

“Fighting ‘the Ideology of the Cancer Cell’: Tenants’ Rights and the Urban Growth Revolt in Coastal California, 1971–1990,” American Political History Institute, Boston University, March 2020. (canceled due to pandemic)

“Renters’ Rights in ‘Reagan’s Backyard’: Housing Policy and the Politics of Urban Growth in Coastal California,” Annual Urban Planning Conference, Alabama A&M University, Normal, Ala., February 2020.

“Renters’ Rights in ‘Reagan’s Backyard’: Housing Policy and the Politics of Urban Growth in Coastal California,” American Historical Association, New York, N.Y., January 2020.

“Locking the Gates: Campus Police and the Postindustrial City,” Urban History Association, Columbia, S.C., October 2018.

“The South Shall Ride Again: Mass Transit and Modern Atlanta,” Interdisciplinary Conference on Infrastructure History and the Social Sciences, New York University, Paris, France, May 2017.

“Too Busy to Hate? Hartsfield Airport, Delta Air Lines, and the Making of Modern Atlanta,” American Political History Institute, Boston University, Boston, Mass., April 2017.

“The South Shall Ride Again: The Origins of MARTA,” Atlanta Studies Symposium, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Geo., April 2014.

**Selected
Non-Academic
Publications**

“A Few Luxury Condos Are Not the Source of Our Area’s Housing Woes,” [letter to the editor], *Boston Globe*, Nov. 12, 2023.

“What Preservation Is Doing to American Cities,” *The Atlantic*, May 2, 2022.

**Selected
Non-Academic
Publications
(cont.)**

“The Pandemic Disproved Urban Progressives’ Theory About Gentrification,”
The Atlantic, Jan. 2, 2021.

“The Post-Planning Pandemic,”
Democracy: A Journal of Ideas, Jul. 2, 2020.

“Politics Is Failing Mass Transit,”
Democracy: A Journal of Ideas, Jan. 29, 2018.

“Charlotte’s Transit Among Nation’s Worst,”
Charlotte Observer, May 4, 2016.

“How a Major in History Gives You the Intangible Edge,”
AHA Today, Mar. 28, 2016.

“Why Are Oregonians Driving Less?”
Newsweek, Jun. 19, 2015.

“Is a Streetcar Still Something to Desire?” [letter to the editor],
New York Times, Mar. 20, 2015.

“Fool for the City: How We’re Over-Hyping America’s Urban Comeback,”
The Week, Mar. 5, 2015.

“President Obama’s New Infrastructure Plan: Right Idea, Wrong Play Call,”
Real Clear Policy, Feb. 3, 2015.

“Detroit’s Road to Transit Ruin,”
U.S. News & World Report, Jan. 29, 2015.

“Will Low Gas Prices Hurt Mass Transit?”
The Week, Jan. 23, 2015.

“How Public Transportation Can Adapt to Suburban Sprawl,”
The Week, Jan. 8, 2015.

“Trade Short-Haul Air for High Speed Rail and Help the Climate”
(with Neil Bhatiya), *The Fiscal Times*, Aug. 10, 2014,
named one of the Aspen Institute’s “Five Best Ideas of the Day.”

“Tunnel Plan Is a Road Map to Bloc’s Woes,”
Wall Street Journal, Aug. 10, 2012.

**Selected
Media
Appearances**

Justin Davidson, “Where NIMBYs Got Their Veto Power,”
Curbed, Apr. 24, 2024.

“New York’s Fundamental Need: New Housing of Every ‘Shape, Size and
Price,” *Cornell Arts & Sciences*, Mar. 14, 2024.

Kate Blackwood, “How Did Our Housing Get So Expensive? Klarman Fellow
Dives into the History,” *Cornell Chronicle*, Feb. 8, 2024.

Jerusalem Demsas, “The Culture War Tearing American Environmentalism
Apart,” *The Atlantic*, Jan. 18, 2024.

Cameron Sperance, “Historic Battles,” *Boston Sunday Globe*, Nov. 19, 2023.

Daniel Marans, “Why Rival Sides in the Housing Crisis Plaguing Major U.S.
Cities Are Considering Peace,” *Huffington Post*, Feb. 6, 2023.

Aaron Gordon, “Thank You for Your Feedback,” *Vice*, Nov. 14, 2022.

Jonathan Shaw, “Origins of the Urban Housing Crisis,”
Harvard Magazine, Sep./Oct. 2022.

Conor Dougherty, “Not in Her Backyard,” *New York Times*, Jun. 5, 2022.

Jerusalem Demsas, “The People Who Hate People,”
The Atlantic, May 24, 2022.

Noah Y. Kim, “Are We Even Talking About the Same ‘Housing Crisis’?”
Mother Jones, Mar./Apr. 2022.

Jerusalem Demsas, “In Defense of the ‘Gentrification Building,’”
Vox, Sep. 10, 2021.

Henry Grabar, “‘Good Design’ Is Making Bad Cities, but It Doesn’t Have To,”
Slate, Apr. 12, 2021.

Grants

2022

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard GSAS

Research Grant, Harvard Division of Social Sciences Fund

Graduate Seed Grant, Center for American Political Studies

Summer Travel Grant, Harvard University History Department

**Grants
(cont.)**

2021

Meyer Dissertation Fellowship, Joint Center for Housing Studies
Urban Research Grant, Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative
Emergency Pandemic Support Grant, Harvard GSAS
Graduate Seed Grant, Center for American Political Studies
Summer Travel Grant, Harvard University History Department

2020

Dissertation Research Grant, Charles Warren Center
Summer Travel Grant, Harvard University History Department

2019

Fellowship for the Study of the American Republic,
Harvard Center for American Political Studies
Summer Travel Grant, Charles Warren Center
Real Estate Research Grant, Harvard Graduate School of Design
Student Research Support Grant, Joint Center for Housing Studies
Summer Travel Grant, Harvard University History Department

2018

Albert J. Beveridge Grant, American Historical Association
Summer Travel Grant, Harvard University History Department

**Research
Experience**

Research assistant for Prof. Walter Johnson for *The Broken Heart of America: St. Louis and the Violent History of the United States* (Basic Books, 2020).

**University
Service**

- Undergraduate senior thesis advisor, Harvard University, 2021–23
- Undergraduate senior thesis grader, Harvard University, 2021–23
- Guest critic, Harvard Graduate School of Design, 2022
- Grant application evaluator, Center for American Political Studies, 2021

**Employment
Prior to Ph.D.**

TransitCenter, New York, N.Y.
Communications Assistant, 2015–2016

The Century Foundation, New York, N.Y.
Infrastructure Policy Associate, 2014–2015
(named an NYU Rudin Center “Emerging Leader in Transportation,” 2015)

Languages

French (moderate proficiency), Italian (basic)

References

Lisa McGirr

Charles Warren Professor of American History, Harvard University
lmcgirr@fas.harvard.edu | (617) 496-0213

Lizabeth Cohen

Howard Mumford Jones Professor of American Studies, Harvard University
cohen3@fas.harvard.edu | (617) 496-0880

Elizabeth Hinton

Associate Professor of History and African-American Studies, Yale University
elizabeth.hinton@yale.edu | (203) 432-1366

Walter Johnson

Winthrop Professor of History, Harvard University
johnson2@fas.harvard.edu | (617) 495-4527

Glenda Gilmore

Peter V. and C. Vann Woodward Professor Emerita of History, Yale University
glenda.gilmore@yale.edu | (203) 432-1398