

Louis Hyman

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Appointments

Assistant Professor of History, ILR School, Cornell University
Department of Labor Relations, Law and History

Member: Program in American Studies

Education

2007 Ph.D. in History, Harvard University
1999 B.A. in History and Mathematics with honors, Columbia University

Research Honors, Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

2014 Organization of American Historians, distinguished lecturer
2013 Gilder Lehrman Fellowship
2011 *Choice* Top 25 Outstanding Academic Book of the Year, *Debtor Nation*, American Library Association
2008-2009 Visiting Scholar, American Academy of Arts and Sciences
2008 Krooss Prize for best dissertation in business history, Business History Conference
2008 Harold K. Gross Dissertation Prize for best dissertation in history, Harvard University
2006-2007 Charles Warren Center Dissertation Completion Grant
2004-2005 Dissertation Fellowship in Business and American Culture for Excellence in the Study of the History of American Free Enterprise, Newcomen Society of the United States
2004-2005 Dissertation Fellowship in American Politics, Harvard Center for American Politics
2000-2004 Jacob Javits Scholar, U.S. Department of Education
2000 Andrew W. Mellon fellow, decline
1999-2000 Fulbright Scholar, University of Toronto
1998 Edwin Robbins Prize in History, Columbia University
1996-1999 Class of 1953 Scholarship, Columbia University

Books

Debtor Nation: A History of America in Red Ink, "Politics and Society in the Twentieth Century" series, Princeton University Press, February 2011.

Borrow: The American Way of Debt, Vintage Books/Knopf, January 2012.

Edited Volumes

American Capitalism: A Reader, under contract, Simon & Schuster, 2014.

Shopping for Change: Consumer Activism in North American History, co-edited book of essays, with Joseph Tohill, under contract, ILR Press/Cornell University Press and Between the Lines Press, Toronto, Canada, 2015.

Digital Publications

“American Capitalism: A History,” 153 episode podcast available on iTunes, 2014.

“American Capitalism: A History,” with Edward Baptist, MOOC available through EdX, 2014.

Articles, Chapters, Reviews

Article. “Solving the Debt Question,” *New Labor Forum*, Spring, 2013.

Article. “The Politics of Consumer Debt: U.S. State Policy and the Rise of Investment in Consumer Credit, 1920–2008,” *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, November 2012, 40-49.

Chapter. “Rethinking the Postwar Corporation: Management, Monopolies, and Markets,” in *What's Good for Business: Business and Politics Since World War II*, edited by Julian Zelizer and Kimberly Phillips-Fein, Oxford University Press, 2012.

Review. “Stuart Banner, *American Property: A History of How, Why and What We Own*” (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2011),” *Journal of American Studies*, May 2012, 535-536.

Article. “Ending Discrimination, Legitimizing Debt: The Political Economy of Race, Gender, and Credit Access in the 1960s and 1970s,” *Enterprise & Society* (March 2011).

Chapter. “American Debt, Global Capital: The Policy Origins of Securitization,” in *Shock of the Global: The International History of the 1970s*, edited by Charles Maier, Niall Ferguson, Erez Manela, and Daniel Sargent, Harvard University Press, 2010.

Review. “The Architecture of New Deal Capitalism,” book review, *Reviews in American History* 37 (2009): 93-100.

Manuscripts and Articles in Preparation

Book. *Short-Sighted: The Rise of Flexible Corporations and Temporary Work*, 2015

Book. *Supply-Sided: How the Movement of Ideas, Money, and Products Changed America*, under contract, Simon & Schuster, 2016

Article. “Bad Consumer, Bad Worker: Credit Ratings, Wage Garnishment, and Employment Discrimination, 1920-1970,” under revision.

Academic Book Series

2011- Founding series editor, *Columbia Series in the History of U.S. Capitalism*, Columbia University Press

Academic Workshops and Lecture Series

- 2013- Director, “Economic Workshop for Historians” aka “History of Capitalism Summer Camp” July 15 to July 26, 2013
Grants Einaudi Center for International Studies, Cornell University
Institute for Social Sciences, Cornell University
- Organizer, “History of American Capitalism” Lunch Lecture series, American Studies Program, Cornell University

Opinion Pieces and Journalism

- 2014 Opinion. “Market Values are Not MOOC Values” 2/11/14, *Huffington Post*
- 2013 Opinion. “Why Write the History of Capitalism?” 7/2/2013, *Symposium-magazine.com*
- Opinion. “Why Ports Are The New Factories,” 1/3/13, *Huffington Post*
- 2012 Article. “The Debt Bomb,” *Wilson Quarterly* (Winter 2012): 44-51.
- Article. “Using Debt Wisely,” *Boston Review* (November 2012): 24-25.
- Article. “Freddie Mac’s ‘Omniscient Gnomes’ Led The Company Astray,” 10/30/12, *Bloomberg.com*
- Article. “Ronald Reagan’s Raw Deal for America,” 6/12/12, *TheGlobalist.com*
- Article. “How Consumer Loans Saved the Banking Industry,” 6/6/2012, *Bloomberg.com*
- Article. “Frauds, Swingers, and the Odd Early Days of Credit Cards,” 5/24/2012, *Bloomberg.com*
- Article. “The First Time Mortgage-Backed Securities Failed,” 4/26/12, *Bloomberg.com*
- Opinion. “The House That George Romney Built,” Op-Ed, *New York Times* 2/1/12
- Opinion. “The Powerful Illusion of Thrift,” Op-Ed, *New York Daily News*, 1/29/12
- Article. “A Brief History of Debt,” *Huffington Post*, 1/25/12
- 2011 Article. “How Did World War II End the Great Depression?” 12/16/11, *Bloomberg.com*
- Opinion. “Lay off the Layaway,” 11/21/11, *CNBC.com*
- Opinion. “Laid Flat By Layaway,” Op-Ed, *New York Times*, 10/12/11.
- Article. “Securitizing Cheese: How the Surge in Consumer Lending has Squeezed Small Businesses Dry,” *The Atlantic/National Journal* special issue *The Next Economy*, October, 2011.

Article. "The Making of Debtor Nation," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 3/13/2011

2007 Opinion. "The Original Subprime Crisis," Op-Ed, *New York Times*, 26 December 2007.

Endowed and Invited Lectures

2014 Invited Lecture. "Creation of a Personal Economy," Aspen Ideas Festival, Aspen Institute, June 2014

Invited Paper. "Personal Debt and American Financialization," "Financialization and its Consequences" conference, Juan March Institute, Madrid, Spain, June 2014

Invited Lecture. "Personal Debt and Business Debt," Initiative for America's Economic Future, Markle Foundation, Ossining, NY, February 2014.

2013 Endowed Lecture. "Entrepreneurs of the New Deal," The Paul G. Haaga Jr. Lecture in the History of American Entrepreneurship, Huntington Library, Los Angeles, CA, September 2013.

Invited Lecture. "Personal Debt to Market Debt," Rethinking Mortgage-based Homeownership Symposium, University of Arizona, May, 2013

Invited Public Lecture. "Debt and Inequality," Clinton Global Initiative University and Greater St. Louis Humanities Festival, April 2013.

Invited Lecture. "What is the History of Capitalism?" Historian's Craft seminar, York University, Toronto, Canada, March 2013.

Invited Paper. "Debt and Inequality," Workshop on the Global Economic Crisis, Social Science and Policy Forum, University of Pennsylvania, January 2013.

2012 Invited Keynote. "Indebtedness and Inequality," Financial Education conference, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, November 2012.

Endowed Lecture. "Indebtedness and Inequality," Walter R. Smith Visiting Scholar Series, Corning Community College, October, 2012.

Invited Lecture. "When the Labor Movement Built the American Dream: Occupying in the 1930s and Today," Union Leadership Institute, ILR School, July, 2012.

Invited Public Lecture. "Indebtedness and Inequality in New York History" *Capital of Capital* series, Museum of the City of New York, May 2012.

Invited Public Lecture. "Indebtedness and Inequality" *Asset Building* series, New America Foundation, May 2012.

Invited Public Lecture. "Inequality and Indebtedness: The Hidden Connection," *The Unwritten Bargain: Occupy Wall Street, Free Speech, and Critical Reflection* lecture series, Cornell University, invited public lecture April 2012.

Invited Public Lecture. "Debt: The Long View," with David Graeber and Greta Krippner, Heyman Center for the Humanities, Columbia University, March 2012.

Invited Public Lecture. "The American Way of Debt," Cooper Union, February 2012.

2011 Invited Public Lecture. "American Inequality and the Financial Crisis," Occupy Wall Street film series, Lincoln Center, NYC, December 2011.

Invited Public Lecture. "The Financial Crisis," Chautauqua Institution, July, 2011.

Invited Public Lecture. "The Financial Crisis," Sundance Film Festival, June, 2011.

Invited Lecture. "Investing in Debt: Corporations' Postwar Race For Consumer Debt," Harvard Law School, April 2011.

Conference Papers

2014 Paper. "Bringing the Free Market into the Free Enterprise: The Emergence of Lean Ideology in the 1960s and 1970s" Organization of American Historians conference, 2014.

2013 Paper. "Bad Debt as Good Business: Credit Card "Losses" and Credit Card Growth, 1958–1992," American Studies Association conference, 2014.

Paper. "How Consumer Debt Crowded Out Business Debt: Institutions, Risk, and Policy at the end of the Great Society," LERA conference, June 2013.

Invited Paper. "Income Inequality and Consumer Debt Instruments in the 1970s and 80s," Capitalizing on Finance: New Directions in the History of Capitalism, Huntington Library, Los Angeles, April 2013.

Paper. "The Culture of Personal Austerity: Ideas of Budgets in Postwar America," American Historical Association, January 2013.

2012 Invited Comment. "Creating the Deregulatory State in the 1970s and 1980s," Policy History Conference, June 2012.

Paper. "The History of Credit Discrimination in Hiring," Credit Checks: A New Form of Employment Discrimination? Program, ILR NYC Conference Center, Labor and Employment Law Program, March 9, 2012.

Paper. "Made In Their Own Image: Management Consulting and The Origins Of The Temporary Economy, 1965-1980," Organization of American Historians Conference, 2012.

- 2011 Invited Comment. “Performativity, Discourse and the History of Capitalism: A Response,” The Power and the History of Capitalism Conference, April 2011.
- Invited Paper. “The Politics of Investing in Debt,” The Politics of Consumption conference, University of Wisconsin, Madison, March 2011.
- 2009 Paper. “New Directions in the Historiography of Consumption during the New Deal,” Organization of American Historians Conference, Seattle, March, 2009.
- Paper. “State Policy and Mortgages in the Twentieth Century,” American Historical Association Conference, Roundtable, 2009.
- Paper. “Rethinking the Post-Fordist Transition: Retail and Revolving Credit,” American Historical Association Conference, 2009.
- 2008 Paper. “American Debt, Global Capital: The Global and the Local in the Great Society,” Global 1970s Conference, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, October 2008.
- Paper. “Ending Discrimination, Legitimizing Debt: Race, Gender and the Expansion of Consumer Credit, 1968-1979,” Business History Conference, Sacramento, April 2008.
- 2007 Paper. “Ending Discrimination, Legitimizing Debt: Race, Gender and the Expansion of Consumer Credit, 1968-1979,” Market Cultures Group NYC, New School University, November, 2007.
- Invited Paper. “How Commercial Banks Discovered Consumer Credit: The FHA and Personal Loan Departments, 1934-1938,” Boston University American Political History Seminar, Boston University, January 2007.
- Paper. “Torontonians in the American Federation of Labor: Labor, Nationalism, and Transnational Discourse, 1945-1955,” Crossing Borders conference, University of Toronto, Spring 2000.
- Paper. “The ‘No Beer, No Work’ Movement of 1919: Working-Class Culture and Prohibition Resistance in New York City,” New Frontiers in Graduate History conference, York University, Spring 2000.

Employment History

- 2011- Assistant Professor, ILR School, Cornell University
- 2010 Associate, McKinsey & Co.
- 2008-2009 Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- 2007-2008 Lecturer, Harvard University

Teaching

Lectures	“Introduction to Labor History” “Consumption in the United States: From Wedgwood to Wal-Mart” “Introduction to Management” co-taught with Pam Tolbert and Diane Burton
Seminar	“Labor and Business History: Writing Seminar”
MOOC	“Capitalism: A History” with Edward Baptist, CornellX, EdX
Workshop	“Economic Methods for Historians (History of Capitalism Summer Camp)”
Theses	
2014	“Old Age as Economic Problem: Elderly Poorhouse Inmates in New York, 1880-1910” “Stagflation: An Intellectual History” “Budgeting for Fashion: Capital Budgeting and Technology Investment in Discount Retail, 1975-1990”
2013	“Capitalism without Capital: A History of Capital Valuation and its Impact on Capital Structure” “How it Worked When It Worked: Electrifying Rural America in the New Deal”
2005	“Concord Park: The Creation of an Interracial Postwar Suburb” Hoopes Prize
2004	“Out of My Garage: The Branding of Silicon Valley, 1960-1990”
2003	“Suffragists After Suffrage: The National Woman's Party and the Shaping of Political Feminism in the 1920s”

Research Interests

History of Capitalism, labor and working-class history, business history, history of consumption, policy history, history of economic thought, cultural history, economic history

Professional Membership

American Historical Association
Organization of American Historians
Business History Conference

Professional Service

- 2013- Faculty Fellow, Bethe House
- 2012-2016 Committee Member and Chair (2014), K. Austin Kerr Prize Committee, Business History Conference
- 2012-2013 Introduction to Management Committee
- 2011- Member, ILR School Undergraduate Admissions Committee
- 2008- Peer Review
ILR Review, Enterprise & Society, Business History Review, Oxford University Press

Selected Media

- Film *The Flaw* (dir. David Sington, 2011)
- Wall Street* (China Central Television, 2010)
- Television: Al Jazeera America, Fox Business News, NBC, C-SPAN Book TV, Local stations
- Radio: NPR (Marketplace, All Things Considered, Weekend Edition), Wisconsin Public Radio, Australian Public Radio