

# Caitlin Sackrison, Ph.D.

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## EDUCATION AND HONORS

**Brandeis University, Ph.D. in History**, Waltham, MA August 2023

- Dissertation Title: “Practice and Partnership, Ownership and Inheritance: Norwegian Women Homesteaders in Brown County, Minnesota, 1850-1900”
  - Advising Committee: Karen V. Hansen (primary advisor; Brandeis University), Michael Willrich (Brandeis University), and Lynn Johnson (Boston College)
  - Key themes: immigration and migration history, white settler colonialism, Dakota resistance and dispossession, gender history, women’s rights, Norwegian history, and Minnesota history
- Comprehensive Exams in Modern European History (1685 - present), American Immigration History, and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- Awards for Dissertation Work:
  - Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies (SASS), *Einar and Eva Haugen Scholarship* (March 2022)
  - Brandeis University, *Provost Dissertation Award* (March 2022)
  - Volda University College Honorarium Award (March 2022)
  - Coalition for Western Women’s Historians: *Ledesma Prize* (September 2020)
  - Mellon Foundation: *Connected Ph.D. Funding* (April 2021; October 2021)
  - Brandeis University: *Crown Fellowship* (August 2017 – May 2022)
- Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality (Fall 2019)
  - Selected to participate in a semester-long course sponsored by MIT and Harvard on Gender and Women Studies for humanities and social science students

**University of Alabama, Master of Library and Information Studies**, Tuscaloosa, AL December 2026

**Brandeis University, Master of Arts in History**, Waltham, MA May 2019

- Master’s Thesis: “The Impact of World War I on Depictions of Femininity: The Evidence from Fashion Magazines, 1918-1923”
  - Advisor: Paul Jankowski

**Colgate University, Bachelor of Arts**, History Major, Hamilton, NY May 2015

## PUBLICATIONS

- “Works in Progress: The Field of Norwegian-American Studies” in *Norwegian-American Studies* set to be published in Fall/Winter 2025 issue. Co-contributors include Anna Peterson (editor), Odd Lovoll, Lori Ann Lahlum, Terje Mikael Hasle Joranger, and Inger Marie Okkenhaug.
- “Practice and Partnership, Ownership and Inheritance: Norwegian Women Homesteaders in Brown County, Minnesota, 1850-1900” (dissertation) by ProQuest Publishers, August 12, 2023 (embargoed until 2025).
- “Works in Progress: Norwegian-American Women Homesteaders in Brown County, Minnesota” University of Minnesota Press, Norwegian-American Historical Association, Aug 15, 2023.
- “Review of Rasmussen, Anders Bo, Civil War Settlers: Scandinavians, Citizenship, and American Empire, 1848–1870,” Swedish-American Historical Quarterly, Sep 10, 2023.
- “The Impact of World War I on Depictions of Femininity: The Evidence from Fashion Magazines, 1918-1923” (Master’s Thesis) by ProQuest Publishers, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

## CONFERENCE AND HONORARIUM PRESENTATIONS

- "Roundtable: State of the Field: Norwegian American History" with Lori Ann Lahlum (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Anna Peterson (Luther College), Brianna Rose DeValk (University of Nebraska at Lincoln), Daron Olson (East Indiana University), at the Northern Great Plains History Conference, September 20th, 2025.
- "Proving' Their Worth: The History of Norwegian Women Homesteaders in Brown County, Minnesota" at Crossings and Connections 2025.
- "Norwegian Migration, Past and Present, in Post-Secondary Course Design" Roundtable at Crossings and Connections 2025 with Melissa Gjellstad, Ida Moen Johnson, Tanya Thresher, and Ingrid Urberg, June 19th, 2025.
- "Norwegian-American Women Homesteaders in Minnesota: The intersection of immigration, homesteading, and settler colonialism" at Mindekirken on June 3rd, 2025.
- "Locating Scandinavian Women Homesteaders in the Archive" Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies (SASS), April 25th, 2025.
- "Southern Minnesota as a Borderland: The intersection of immigration, homesteading, and war in 1862" St. Olaf College, November 7th, 2024. (Honorarium Awarded)
- "Spaces of Belonging: The Significance of Land for Norwegian-American Women" The Norwegian-American Historical Association, Norway (NAHA-Norge), June 2022.
- "Drawing Lines and Forming Bonds in a Borderland: Cross-Cultural Communication between Dakota and Scandinavian Women in Brown County, Minnesota, surrounding the US-Dakota War of 1862" Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies (SASS), April 28th, 2022.
- "Creating Boundaries and Forming Bonds in a Borderland: Examining Contact, Communication, and Kinship between Dakota and Immigrant Women in Minnesota surrounding the US-Dakota War of 1862" LSU History Conference, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- "Norwegian-American Women 1850-1920, sources and literature" Volda University College, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. (Honorarium Awarded)
- "Laying Claim in a North American Borderland: Examining Norwegian Women's Land Claims in Brown County, Minnesota in the mid-to-late 19th century" Histories: Colgate University History Alumni Talk About Their Work, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.
- "Minnesota's Borderlands in the mid-19th century: From Dakota Homeland to Scandinavian-American Frontier" Pacific Coast American Historical Association, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- "Space of Belonging: The History of Land Rights for Norwegian-American Women in Southern Minnesota" Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies (SASS), May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- "Dakota Territory to Scandinavian-American Frontier: A Brief History of Land Dispossession, Scandinavian Settlement, and Women's Property Rights in Southern Minnesota in the 19th Century" 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Brian Bertoti History Conference, Virginia Tech University, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and Graduate History Conference, Louisiana State University, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

## PRESS/INTERVIEWS

- "Oles in the News: 'Star Tribune' features faculty expert on Norwegian immigration." *St. Olaf College News*, October 30, 2025, <https://wp.stolaf.edu/news/oles-in-the-news-assistant-professor-caitlin-sackrison-talks-about-norwegian-immigration-with-the-star-tribune>.
- "Rash: Celebrating Minnesota's rich heritage, 200 years after Norwegians first docked in the U.S." by John Rash in the *Star Tribune*, October 18, 2025, <https://www.startribune.com/norway-immigration-bicentennial-crown-prince-haakon/601496027>.

- "Minnesota's Norwegian History: A Primer as the Crown Prince Visits." Interview with Cathy Wurzer. *Morning Edition*, MPR News, October 7, 2025. Web/Radio.  
<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2025/10/07/minnesotas-norwegian-history-a-primer-as-the-crown-prince-visits>
- "Den første gangen jeg hørte noe negativt om det norske samfunnet, var da jeg bodde i Norge." (EN: The first time I heard something negative about Norwegian society was when I lived in Norway.) by Nina Kristiansen and Anders Moen Kaste in *Forskning.no*, October 1, 2025. Web.  
<https://www.forskning.no/historie-innvandring-kulturhistorie/den-forste-gangen-jeg-horte-noe-negativt-om-det-norske-samfunnet-var-da-jeg-bodde-i-norge/2556477>
- "Niels, Margit og de fem barna bodde under en stein i to år." (EN: Niels, Margit and the five children lived under a rock for two years.) by Nina Kristiansen and Anders Moen Kaste in *Forskning.no*, September 27, 2025. Web.  
<https://www.forskning.no/historie-innvandring-usa/niels-margit-og-de-fem-barna-bodde-under-en-stein-i-to-ar/2555608> (Norwegian version)  
<https://www.sciencenorway.no/culture-history-immigration/a-family-of-seven-lived-under-this-rock-for-two-years/2558673> (English version)

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## EMPLOYMENT AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*Visiting Assistant Professor of Norwegian, St. Olaf College*, Northfield, MN      September 2024-Present

*Program Director of Career Foundations, Carleton College*, Northfield, MN      October 2023 - June 2024

*Senior Writing Consultant, Brandeis Writing Center*, Waltham, MA      January 2019 - June 2023

*Instructor and Curriculum Developer, BOLLI (Brandeis University; remote)*      January – June 2022

*Instructor and Curriculum Developer, Brandeis University* (in-person and remote)      January - June 2020

*Teaching Assistant and Remote-Transition Instructor, Brandeis University*      August 2018 - August 2020

## PUBLIC HISTORY AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

*Board Member, Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA)*      October 2024 - Present

*Publications Committee Member, NAHA*, Northfield, MN      October 2024 - Present

*Graduate Public History Intern, Norway House*, Minneapolis, MN      October 2021-March 2022

*Archival Intern, NAHA*, Northfield, MN      April 2021-August 2021

*Volunteer Interpreter, Minnesota Historical Society*, St. Paul, MN      August 2016 - July 2017

*Archival Research Assistant, Colgate Bicentennial Project*, Hamilton, NY      May 2014 - July 2015

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## COURSES TAUGHT

### **St. Olaf College (Northfield, MN)**

NORST 100B: “Nordic Values” (Spring 2025, Fall 2025, Spring 2026)

HIST 214: “Nordic Revolutions” (Spring 2026)

FYS 120A: “Life on the Hill” (Spring 2026)

HIST 188: “Norwegian Immigration to Minnesota” (Fall 2024, Fall 2025)

NORST 264: “Nordic Sexualities and Genders” (Spring 2025)

NORST 219: “Religious (In)Tolerance in Scandinavia” (January Term 2025, Spring 2025)

### **Brandeis University (Waltham, MA)**

BOLLI: “The Making of the Immigrant Nation: Family and the History of US Immigration Policy” (Spring 2022)

UWS 15a: “From Sea to Shining Sea: Immigrant Women in America” (Spring 2020)

### **Teaching Assistant Courses at Brandeis University (Waltham, MA)**

200-level/Intermediate Writing-Intensives:

- Europe in World War II (Spring 2020) (with Paul Jankowski)
- Reformation Europe (1400-1600) (Fall 2019) (with Govind Sreenivasan)

100-Level/Introductory:

- The Civilization of the High and Late Middle Ages (Spring 2019) (with William Kapelle)
- The United States in World War II (Spring 2019) (with David Hackett-Fischer)
- World History to 1960 (Fall 2018) (with Govind Sreenivasan)