

# Aaron Cowan

Associate Professor  
Department of History  
Slippery Rock University

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## EDUCATION

2008      Ph.D. University of Cincinnati - U.S. History  
2003      M.A., University of Cincinnati - U.S. History  
2003      Graduate Certificate, University of Cincinnati - Historic Preservation  
1999      B.A., King College - History

## EMPLOYMENT

2014-present      Associate Professor, Slippery Rock University  
                         Co-Director, Stone House Center for Public Humanities  
2008 - 2014      Assistant Professor, Slippery Rock University  
                         Curator, Old Stone House Museum, Slippery Rock, PA  
2007 - 2008      Visiting Assistant Professor, Radford University, Radford, Virginia  
2005 - 2007      Instructor, University of Cincinnati  
2002 - 2004      Technical Specialist, Gray & Pape Cultural Resource Consultants

## COURSES TAUGHT

U.S. History to 1825  
U.S. History 1825-1920

U.S. History Since 1920  
The Historian's Craft  
Introduction to Public History  
Digital History  
Americans and the Environment  
The American City  
Twentieth Century United States (Graduate)  
The American West (Graduate)  
Public History: Theory and Practice (Graduate)  
Historiography (Graduate)

## **GRANTS**

National Endowment for the Humanities, Humanities Access Challenge Grant, \$100,000, 2016 (author and project co-director)

Grable Foundation, grant to support Humanities Ladder initiative, \$45,000, 2017 (co-author and co-director)

PNC Foundation, grant to support Humanities Ladder initiative, \$45,000, 2016 (co-author and co-director)

Butler County Tourism and Convention Bureau Development Grant, 2012

## **HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

President's Award for Scholarly and Creative Achievement, Slippery Rock University, 2017-18

NEH Summer Institute, "Doing Digital History," George Mason University Center for History and New Media, July 2016

Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award, Ohio Academy of History, 2009

Charles Phelps Taft Advanced Graduate Fellowship, University of Cincinnati, 2005-2006

University Research Council Summer Fellowship, University of Cincinnati, Summer 2005

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books**

*A Nice Place to Visit: Tourism and Urban Revitalization in the Postwar Rustbelt* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2016)

### **Journal Articles and Essays in Edited Collections**

"Image, Politics and Place: Tourism and the American City" *Journal of Urban History*, March 2018.

"Tourism and the Development of Naples, Florida" in Mark Souther and Nicholas Dagen Bloom, eds., *American Tourism: Constructing a National Tradition*, (Chicago: Center for American Places, Columbia College Chicago Press, 2012)

"A Whole New Ballgame: Sports Stadiums & Urban Renewal in Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis, 1950-1970." *Ohio Valley History* 5, no. 3 (Fall 2005)

### **Encyclopedia Entries**

"Cincinnati, Ohio" in *Encyclopedia of American Environmental History*, Center for Public History, University of Houston (2010)

"Motels," in *Encyclopedia of American Urban History*, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications (2007).

### **Digital Projects**

Editor, *Butler County Historical* [butlerhistorical.org](http://butlerhistorical.org)

### **Book Reviews**

Bill Conlogue, *Here and There: Reading Pennsylvania's Working Landscapes for H-Pennsylvania* (Fall 2015) <http://tiny.cc/5lzaQy>

Tracy Campbell, *The Gateway Arch: A Biography for Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* (Summer 2014)

Michael Pierce, *Striking with the Ballot: Ohio Labor and the Populist Party*. *Ohio Valley History* (Winter 2011)

Hannes Grandits and Karin Taylor. *Yugoslavia's Sunny Side: A History of Tourism in Socialism (1950s-1980s)*. *East Central Europe* 39 (Summer 2011)

Frank Uekoetter, *The Age of Smoke: Environmental Policy in Germany and the United States, 1880-1970* for *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 134, no. 3, (June 2010)

Timothy Jon Curry, Kent Schwirian, and Rachael A. Woldoff, *High Stakes: Big-Time Sports and Downtown Redevelopment* for *Ohio Valley History* 5, no. 3 (Fall 2005)

## **SELECT ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS & INVITED LECTURES**

"Some of America's Most Historic Ground': Heritage Tourism and Modernist Renewal in Postwar Pittsburgh," XVIIth National Conference of the Society of American City and Regional Planning History, October 26-28, 2017

"History Happened Here': Charles Stotz, Historic Preservation and Modernist Renewal in Postwar Pittsburgh," University of Pittsburgh Center for the Humanities, April 5 2017

"Image-Making and Urban Revitalization in William Donald Schaefer's Baltimore," 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Urban History Association, New York, New York, October 25-28, 2012.

"Tourism and the 'Livable City' in Baltimore's Inner Harbor Redevelopment, 1970-1985" 14th National Conference of the Society of American City and Regional Planning History, November 8-10, 2011.

"Building Western Pennsylvania History: The Influence of Charles Morse Stotz" Middle Atlantic American Studies Association, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, April 9, 2011.

"Making the City of Champions: Three Rivers Stadium and the Utility of Professional Sports in 1970s Pittsburgh" Pittsburgh History Roundtable, Senator John Heinz History Center, February 8, 2011.

"Interns to the Rescue! Public History-University Partnerships in Financial Crisis" Working Group Facilitator, Annual Conference of the National Council on Public History, March 10-14, 2010.

"Tourism and the Transformation of Downtown Cincinnati." National Conference of the Urban History Association, Tempe, Arizona, October 19-21, 2006.

"Safe at Home: Sports Stadiums, Urban Renewal, and Tourism in Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis, 1950-1970." 11th Biennial Conference of the Society of American City and Regional Planning History, Coral Gables, Florida, October 20-23, 2005.

"Small-Town World: Ethnicity, Equality, and the International Community in Josef von Sternberg's *The Town*" XX1st Conference of the International Association for Media and History, Cincinnati, Ohio, July 20-24, 2005.

## **MEDIA APPEARANCES and INTERVIEWS**

Interview with ROROTOKO Digital Literary Magazine, May 10, 2017  
(<https://bit.ly/2JuZtIU>)

"Is bolstering tourism a panacea for Rust Belt cities? Not so fast, says author Aaron Cowan" *St. Louis on the Air*, KWMU 90.7, St. Louis, MO October 11, 2016  
(<https://bit.ly/2yJEB6j>)

## **SERVICE, CONSULTANTSHIPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Review panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities, *Humanities Access Grants*, July 2017

External reviewer, History Department, Beaver County Community College, October 2017.

Invited contributor in development of Heinz History Center's project with Kettering Foundation "Shaping Modern Pittsburgh - A Deliberative Forum" October 2015

Advisor for historical research and exhibit development for 2011 Butler County Jeep Heritage Festival, Butler County Tourism Bureau (2011)

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Society for American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH)

National Council on Public History (NCPH)