

Melinda C. Miller

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APPOINTMENTS

Virginia Tech: Assistant Professor of Economics, August 2017 –

Core Faculty, David H. Kellogg Center for Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, August 2021 –

University of Michigan: Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, September 2016 – August 2017

United States Naval Academy: Assistant Professor of Economics, August 2008 – August 2016

Yale University: Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, January 2011 – June 2011, August 2012 – July 2013

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, University of Michigan (December 2008)

M.A., Economics, University of Michigan (2005)

B.A., Economics with Honors, Case Western Reserve University (2000)

PUBLICATIONS

Assimilation and Economic Development: The Case of Federal Indian Policy. *Public Choice*, Vol. 199, June 2024.

Race and Agriculture During the Assimilation Era: Evidence from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (joint with Matt Gregg). *Demographic Research*, Vol. 46, Article 37, June 2022.

“*The Righteous and Reasonable Ambition to Become a Landholder:*” *Land and Racial Inequality in the Postbellum South*. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. 102, Issue 2, May 2020.

“*Destroyed by Slavery?: Slavery and African American Family Formation Following Emancipation*.” *Demography*, Vol. 55, Issue 5, October 2018.

Selection and Historical Height Data: Evidence from the 1892 Boas Sample of the Cherokee Nation. *Explorations in Economic History*, Vol. 61, July 2016.

Dawes Cards and Indian Census Data. *Historical Methods: A Journal of Quantitative and Interdisciplinary History*, Vol. 48, Issue 4, 2015.

Land and Racial Wealth Inequality. *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, 101(3): 371–76.

UNDER REVIEW

To Have Land and Turn and Till It: Land and Black Intergenerational Mobility, 1880–1900 (publication recommended with minor revisions at the *Review of Black Political Economy*)

“*No Right of Citizenship:*” *The 1863 Emancipation Acts of the Loyal Cherokee Council* (joint with Rachel Purvis; preparing revision for *Journal of American History*)

Inequality in Rural Settings: Evidence from New Microdata on Eastern Cherokees, 1894–1906 (joint with Matt Gregg; revision submitted to *Journal of Economic History*)

Communal Institutions and the Biological Standard of Living: Evidence from the Amana Colonies (under review at *Social Science History*)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

The Long-Run Distributional Effects from Land Titling: Evidence from American Indian Allotment (joint with Matthew T. Gregg)

The Impact of Place-Based Policies on a Vulnerable Population: Evidence from American Indian Urban Relocation (joint with Matthew T. Gregg)

Solely by Reason of Her Marriage: The Effect of the 1907 Expatriation Act on Marriage Decisions

The Southern Homestead Act and the Racial Gap in Property Ownership

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of “Between Slavery and Capitalism: The Legacy of Emancipation in the American South” (Princeton University Press, 2014) by Martin Ruef. *Journal of Southern History*, Vol. 82, No. 2, May 2016.

Review of “Trail Sisters: Freedwomen in Indian Territory, 1850–1890” (Texas Tech University Press, 2013) by Linda Williams Reese. *History: Reviews of New Books*, Vol. 43, Issue 1, 2015.

Review of “Face Value: The Entwined Histories of Money and Race in America” by Michael O’Malley. *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 73, pp. 885–887.

Review of “Cotton and Race in the Making of America: The Human Costs of Economic Power” by Gene Dattel. eh.net.

POPULAR PRESS

“Cherokee Nation Policies After the Civil War Show That Reparations Work.” *Made by History*, Washington Post, May 24, 2021.

“The Cherokees Free Their Slaves.” *Disunion*, New York Times, February 17, 2013 (joint with Rachel Purvis).

“Doctor, Teacher, Soldier, Spy.” *Disunion*, New York Times, December 18, 2013 (joint with Rachel Purvis).

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Russell Sage Foundation Presidential Authority Grant for “Migration and Economic Mobility: Evidence from the Federal Indian Relocation Act”

Campbell Fellow for Renewing Indigenous Economics, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, 2021–2022

Virginia Tech Institute for Society, Culture and Environment + Policy Fellowship for “Allotment and Individual Bank Accounts: Using Financial Records to Understand Land Dispossession.”

Virginia Tech Kellogg Center Fellowship for “Southern Homestead Act and Economic Progress”

Institute for New Economic Thinking Grant for “The Southern Homestead Act and Black Economic Mobility,” 2012–2016

Naval Academy Recognition Grant, 2012, 2013

Economic History Association Arthur H. Cole Grant, 2011

Economic History Association Allen Nevins Prize for the Best Dissertation in U.S. or Canadian Economic History, 2009

Naval Academy Research Council Seed Grant, 2009, 2010, and 2011
National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant in Economics, Award #SES-0619588, 2006, 2007
Economic History Association Dissertation Fellowship, 2007
Economic History Association Exploratory Travel and Data Grant, 2004
Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (SYLFF) Graduate Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007
Olin Fellowship for Law and Economics, University of Michigan, 2003
Phi Beta Kappa, Case Western Reserve University, 2000

INVITED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

- 2026:** Aix-Marseille School of Economics; PPE Graduate Student Workshop at CU Boulder; PPE Society London Conference; Markets and Society Conference
- 2025:** Economic History Association Annual Meetings; David H. Kellogg Center Workshop in Indigenous Economics
- 2024:** UC Merced
- 2023:** World Cliometrics Conference; Binghamton University
- Note: Due to a serious medical condition and recovery period during 2023–25, several scheduled conference presentations and invited seminars were canceled.
- 2022:** Allied Social Science Association (x2); Yale University Economic History Seminar; The Political Economy of American Indian Policy Conference at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University; Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting; Markets and Society Conference
- 2021:** Governance, Liberty, and Prosperity for American Indians Workshop; Campbell Fellows Research on Renewing Indigenous Economies at the Hoover Institution; Economic History Association; American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting Plenary Session
- 2020:** Clemson University; Economic History Society; Indigenous Economics Study Group Brown Bag; University of Pittsburgh; Southern Economic Association
- 2019:** Allied Social Science Association; Economic History Society
- 2018:** Harvard University; Economic History Association
- 2017:** Cleveland State University; Economic History Society; Social Science History Association
- 2016:** Kenyon College; University of Michigan
- 2015:** Economic History Association; Social Science History Association; American University Economics Department; Washington and Lee Economics Department
- 2014:** American Historical Association Annual Meeting; Social Science History Association
- 2013:** Yale University Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition Workshop; Midwest Economic Association Annual Meeting; 7th World Congress of Cliometrics; American Society for Ethnohistory Annual Meeting; Yale University Gilder Lehrman Center Annual International Conference
- 2012:** Harvard University Economic History Workshop; University of California, Merced; Economic History Society Annual Meeting; Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics Summer Workshop; Economic History Association Annual Meetings; Yale University Economic History Workshop

- 2011:** Allied Social Science Association Annual Meetings; Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting; Northwestern University Economic History Seminar; Yale University Law School Legal History Seminar; Social Science History Association Annual Meeting
- 2010:** University of California, Los Angeles Economic History Seminar; George Mason University Public Choice Seminar; Allied Social Science Associations Annual Meeting; University of Michigan Economic History Seminar
- 2009:** Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting; University of Maryland, Baltimore County Economics Seminar; Economic History Association Annual Meeting; National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute (Development of the American Economy); Midwest Economic Association Annual Meetings
- 2008:** Sixth World Congress of Cliometrics; U.S. Naval Academy; Queens College; Boston College; Allegheny College; Denison University; Williams College; Yale University; Brattle Group; University of Utah; University of Maryland, College Park; University of Michigan
- 2007:** Social Science History Association Annual Meeting; University of Michigan Economic History Seminar; SYLFF North and South Americas Regional Forum (Poster Session)
- 2006:** Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting; Economic History Association Annual Meeting (Poster Session); National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute (Development of the American Economy); University of Michigan Economic History Seminar
- 2005:** SYLFF North and South Americas Regional Forum; SYLFF Asia/Pacific Regional Forum; University of Michigan Economic History Seminar

COURSES TAUGHT

Virginia Tech: US Economic History; Introduction to Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE FYE Course); Advanced Topics in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE Capstone); Economic History of Diversity and Inclusion (no prerequisites); Economic History of Diversity and Inclusion (intro econ prerequisite); Analysis of Economic Data

University of Michigan: The History of the American Economy

Yale University: American Economic History (Undergraduate); American Indian Economic History (research seminar); American Economic History (Graduate)

U.S. Naval Academy: Introduction to Economics; Introduction to Economics (Quantitative); Intermediate Microeconomics; Intermediate Microeconomics (Quantitative); American Economic History; Research Seminar in American Economic History (Capstone); Research Seminar in American Indian Economic History (Capstone)

SERVICE AT VIRGINIA TECH

Economics Department: Department Seminar Co-Organizer, 3254 Assessment Committee, Outreach and Honorifics Committee, Newsletter Committee, Visibility Committee, and Point System Assessment Committee. Served on hiring committees for the applied micro position, regulation search, and post-doc on diversity and inclusion.

David H Kellogg Center: Served on the search committee for the PPE assistant professor search, led biweekly book clubs for students, served as a referee for the undergraduate PPE journal, organized the PPE Working Paper Series, and served on the center and director review committee.

University: Served on the search committee for the Center for Civil War Studies.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Referee for Demography, Journal of Economic History, Explorations in Economic History, Review of Economics and Statistics, Social Science History, Quarterly Journal of Economics, and Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization.

Economic History Association Nominating Committee

Cliometrics Society, Board of Trustees, and co-organizer of Annual Cliometrics Conference, 2025 -