

# **Sarah E. McLennan**

## Curriculum Vitae

Department of History & Philosophy, Virginia State University  
1 Hayden Drive, Virginia State University, VA 23806

### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D. American History, College of William & Mary, 2015  
M.A. American History, College of William & Mary  
B.A. History and English (High Honors), Michigan State University

### **PRIMARY RESEARCH FIELDS**

20<sup>th</sup> century U.S. history, public history, history of technology

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

#### **Teaching**

Assistant Professor, History, Virginia State University, 2016-present  
Adjunct Instructor, History of Technology, University of New Hampshire, Summer 2022  
Adjunct Lecturer, Public History (NIAHD Program), College of William & Mary, 2015-2016  
Adjunct Instructor, History and Women's Studies, College of William & Mary, 2010-2014

#### **Public History and Related**

Reader- US History AP Exam, Educational Testing Services, Summers 2013-2020  
Lead Instructor, National Institute for American History & Democracy Pre-College (NIAHD) Program,  
Summer 2017  
Graduate Fellow- Oral History and Community Outreach. The Lemon Project: A Journey of  
Reconciliation, William & Mary, 2012-2013  
Oral History Project Manager- Women in Computing, NASA Langley Cultural Resources Program,  
Hampton VA, 2011

### **GRANT PROJECTS**

Co-Project Director, NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Foundations Projects Grant:  
*Dangerous Harbor: Finding Escaped Unfree Laborers in the 17th Century Chesapeake*, 2023-2024  
The planning phase of a collaborative project between Virginia Tech & Virginia State University  
that aims to make accessible seventeenth-century county court accounts of escape attempts of the  
Chesapeake Bay's unfree people through digitization, guiding documents, transcriptions, a  
database, and a plan for expansion and broad, long-term accessibility and outreach.

Faculty Participant, VSU Innovation Award Project: Building VSU VR/AR Experience: *Augmented  
Reality Campus History Tour (ARCH)* component, 2023-2024

Faculty Participant, NEH HBCU/Tribal Institution Grant: *HER-Stories: Revisioning Central Virginia Foremothers through Narrative*, 2020-2021

### **SELECTED CONFERENCE AND RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

Dangerous Harbor: Collaborative and Student-Centered Primary Research and Digital Preservation, Digital Archives in the Commonwealth Annual Meeting, Richmond, VA, November 2024  
 Invited Speaker, Memory and Public History in the United States (via Zoom), Department of North American Studies, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, November 2024  
 Panelist, *Dangerous Harbor: Finding Escaped Unfree Laborers in the 17th Century Chesapeake* project webinar (via Zoom), Virginia Tech History Department, Blacksburg, VA, August 12, 2024  
 Guest Speaker for History on Film: *Hidden Figures*, Civil Rights, and the 1960s Space Race (via Zoom), SUNY-Suffolk County Community College, Selden, New York, December 2023  
 Guest Speaker for Science on Screen grant series: *Hidden Figures: When the Computer Wore A Skirt – Women in Computing and Space*, Byrd Theater, Richmond, VA, May 17, 2022  
 Invited Speaker, Gender and Computer Programming, Legacies of Gender and Technology Digital Humanities Symposium, College of William & Mary, November 2018  
 Panel Commentator, Women in Computing: Building Careers, Innovating Technologies, Challenging Misogyny, Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Hofstra University, NY, June 2017  
 Computing and the Color Line: Race, Gender, and Opportunity in Early Computing at NASA, Society for the History of Technology Conference, Albuquerque, NM, October 2015  
 “I was a Computer when the Computer Wore a Skirt:” Gender, Science, and Human Computing, Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Toronto, Canada, May 2014  
 Urban Encounters in San Francisco’s “Chinatown by Night” Tours, 19<sup>th</sup> Century Studies Association Conference, Chicago, IL, March 2014  
 Speaking of the Past: Oral Histories of African Americans at the College of William & Mary, Lemon Project Spring Symposium, Williamsburg, VA, April 2013  
 “Shaping the Character and Destiny of the American People:” Virginia History as National Heritage at the 1957 Jamestown Festival, Virginia Forum, Farmville, VA, April 2009  
 Historical Reality? Representations of the Past in PBS’s Genre of Historic Reality TV, Film & History Conference: The Documentary Tradition, Dallas, TX, November 2006

### **SELECTED CERTIFICATIONS, HONORS AND AWARDS**

Quality Matters Online Instruction certification, Summer 2020  
 Virginia State University Excellence in Online Teaching Award, Spring 2017  
 Joan Cahalin Robinson Prize, Society for the History of Technology, 2015  
 Women in Technological History Conference Travel Grant, Fall 2015  
 Provost Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2014-2015  
 Virginia Space Grant Consortium Graduate Research Internship, Spring 2011  
 Virginia Historical Society Mellon Research Fellowship, Summer 2008

## **ONLINE DATABASE PROJECT**

*Women in Computing at Langley 1935-1970*, for the NASA Langley Cultural Resources Database, 2011

## **PUBLICATIONS**

“A History of Women and Computing,” *A Different Point of View*, National Women’s History Museum Quarterly Magazine, (Winter 2016)

### **Selected Book Reviews**

Review of *Selling the Sights: The Invention of the Tourist in American Culture* by Will B. Mackintosh for *Journal of Arizona History* (Fall 2019)

Review of *Women in Space: 23 Stories of First Flights, Scientific Missions, and Gravity-Breaking Adventures*, by Karen Bush Gibson for *Isis: Journal of the History of Science Society* (Summer 2017)

### **Online**

“Jamestown 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1957” in *Encyclopedia Virginia* ([encyclopediavirginia.org](http://encyclopediavirginia.org)), Editor: Matthew Gibson, 2008

## **ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS**

National Council on Public History  
Society for the History of Technology  
Berkshire Conference of Women Historians  
American Historical Association  
Phi Beta Kappa