

RAMYA SWAYAMPRAKASH

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EDUCATION

Michigan State University, Department of History

Doctoral Student, 2016- present (anticipated graduation 2021)

Advanced to candidacy: February 2019

Dissertation Title: Freshwater Frontier: Island Making, Dredging, and Infrastructure in the Detroit River

Advisors: Dr. Lisa Fine and Dr. Michael Stamm

Lawrence Technological University, Southfield MI

Master of Urban Design with Distinction, 2016

Thesis: *Border as Infrastructure: Re-conceiving the US Canada border along the Detroit River*

Advisor: Dr. Anirban Adhya

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

Master of Philosophy, Center for Studies in Science Policy, 2012

Thesis: *Technology and Hydropolitics: A Study of the Central Water Commission in India 2006-08*

Master of Arts, Center for Political Studies, 2008

University of Mumbai, India

Bachelor of Mass Media (specialization: Journalism), Wilson College, 2005

OTHER TRAINING

Humanities Intensive Learning and Teaching (HILT), a Digital Humanities Summer School at the University of Pennsylvania, Digital Methods for Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies, 2018

Indian Law Institute

Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental Law, 2008

PUBLICATIONS

Under Review

"Floatsam: Garbage Dumping, pollution, and legal tensions in the Detroit River"

In Press

"Sedimentality: Sediment Landscapes, Socio-politics, and the environment in the Lower Detroit River," *Water History*

Refereed

"Dredge a River, make a nation great: Shipping, commerce and territoriality in the Detroit River, 1870-1905," Michigan Historical Review "Pure Michigan": Environmental Histories of the Great Lakes State special edition. Spring 2019

"Exportable Engineering Expertise for 'Development': A Story of Large Dams in Post Independence India." *Water History* 6 Issue 2 (June 2014) pp 153-165. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12685-013-0086-y>

Book reviews

[Review](#) of Hartig, John H., *Waterfront Porch: Reclaiming Detroit's Industrial Waterfront as a Gathering Place for All*. H-Environment, H-Net Reviews. August 2020.

[Review](#) of Abbott, Carl, *Imagined Frontiers: Contemporary America and Beyond*. H-Borderlands, H-Net Reviews. October 2019

The Rise of the City: Spatial Dynamics in the Urban Century (New Horizons in Regional Science Series), edited by Karima Kourtit, Peter Nijkamp and Roger R. Stough. *Science and Public Policy* 44:3 (2017) 429-431. <https://doi.org/10.1093/scipol/scw060>

Blog Posts (invited)

Co-author, "[Alumni Involvement in Graduate Education](#)," *Perspectives Daily*, August 7, 2020.

"[Problems of Place: When A Place Chooses You](#)," *Environmental History Now: A Platform on Representation, Engagement, and Community*, September 20, 2019

TEACHING

Michigan State University

ISS 335: *Gender, Sex, and Science*, Assistant Instructor, Summer 2019 and Summer 2020

HST 420: *History of Sexuality since the 18th Century*, Assistant Instructor, Summer 2018

ISS 220: *Time, Space, and Change in Human Society*, Teaching Assistant, Dr. Joshua Cochran, Spring 2018

HST 213: *U.S. Business and Economic History*, Teaching Assistant. Dr. Michael Stamm, Fall 2017

HST 202: *Survey of American History to 1876*, Assistant Instructor, Summer 2017

Lawrence Technological University

Tutor: English and Writing. Academic Achievement Center, Fall 2015 and Spring 2016

University of Mumbai, Wilson College

Visiting Adjunct Faculty: Political Concepts and the Indian Political System, Spring 2014

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Modern U.S. History (post 1865), Canadian history, environmental history, infrastructural studies, borderlands history, urban history, history of science and technology, critical discards studies, history of capitalism, natural history, science and technology studies, public history, landscape studies, non-human studies

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

2020 Research Scholars Award, MSU Graduate School

2020 Corey Endowment Award, MSU Graduate School.

2020 Equity Graduate Student Fellowship, American Society for Environmental History

2020 Milton E. and Kathleen D. Muelder Scholarship, MSU Safe Place, MSU

2019-20 Graduate Writing Fellowship, College of Social Science, MSU

2019-20 Cultural Heritage Informatics Senior Fellowship (by invitation) MSU State University

2019 Mark C. Stevens Traveling Fellowship, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan

2018 Fellow, Career Diversity Implementation Grant, Part of the Career Diversity for Historians Initiative by the American Historical Association

2018 Sinclair and S. Suzanne Powell Scholarship in Transportation History, Department of History, MSU

- 2017 ESPP Urban Environment Summer Research Fellowship, ESPP, MSU
- 2017 Madison Kuhn Award for best pre-dissertation project, Department of History, MSU
- 2016-17 Cultural Heritage Informatics Fellowship, Department of Anthropology, MSU
- 2012 Fox International Fellow, Yale University
- 2012 International Scholar, The Society for the History of Technology (SHOT)

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

Co-organizer, Workshop on the History of the Environment, Agriculture, Technology, and Science (WHEATS) 2019.

Organizing Committee, “*Migration Without(out) Boundaries Conference*”– an interdisciplinary graduate student conference on migration at Michigan State University, 2016 and 2017

CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED

“Baking in Career Diversity into Graduate Education: Reflections from the Field.” A Roundtable organized at the American Historical Association Annual Meeting, 2020.

“Fluid yet solid: River borders, infrastructure and state making.” Association for Borderlands Studies Second World Conference, 2018

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (selected)

“Connecting Cities Across Borders: Transit, Transportation and the Urban Environment in Windsor and Detroit,” Canadian Historical Association, Annual Meeting, London ON, May June 1-3, 2020. [Conference cancelled due to COVID 19]

Workshop co-organizer, The Power of Hidden River Histories, River Rally, St. Antonio TX, May 15-18, 2020 [Virtual rally due to COVID-19]

Panel participant, Problems of Place: A Conversation on Representation, Engagement, and Community, American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting, Ottawa ON, March 25-28, 2020 [Conference cancelled due to COVID 19]

“Flotsam: Garbage Dumping, pollution, and legal tensions in the Detroit River,” American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting, Ottawa ON, March 25-28, 2020 [Conference cancelled due to COVID 19]

Panel participant, “Baking in Career Diversity into Graduate Education: Reflections from the Field,” A Roundtable organized at the American Historical Association Annual Meeting, 2020.

“Sedimentality: The Social Life of Sediment Landscapes in the Lower Detroit River,” The Social Life of the Sediment Balance: Combining Social and Geomorphic Approaches to River Systems and Deltas, University of California-Berkeley River Lab, May 29-30, 2019

“Borderlands as Infrastructurescapes: Rethinking Political Borders,” ON EDGE: Mediating Cultural Borders, University of Windsor, May 23, 2019

“Borderlandia: Amusement Parks, Public Lands, and the story of emptiness in the Detroit River,” Society for the History of Technology Annual Meeting, St. Louis MO, October 11-14, 2018

Panel participant, “The Humanities Ecosystem and Graduate Education,” National Humanities Conference, New Orleans, LA, November 10, 2018.

“Dredge a River, Make a Nation Great: Shipping, Commerce and Territoriality in the Detroit River,” Association for Borderlands Studies World Conference, Vienna and Budapest, July 10-14, 2018.

“Country roads, border crossings: Transit, transportation and the urban environment in Detroit and Windsor,” Urban Environment: Sustainable Solutions for the Future Research Symposium, Michigan State University, East Lansing MI, October 27, 2017

“DredgeChannel: Re-making the Detroit River for shipping”, Water History Conference of International Water History Association, Grand Rapids MI, June 15-17, 2017

“Wet Blanket: Water Pollution, the International Joint Commission and the U.S.- Canada border along the Detroit River”, Association of Borderland Studies Annual Meeting, San Francisco CA, April 12-17, 2017

“Drawing a line on water: The Administrative Legacy of the Detroit River border”, Borders and Administrative Legacy Conference, Institute of Contemporary History, Ljubljana, Slovenia, November 23-26, 2016

“Border as Infrastructure: Reconciving the political border”, Association of Borderland Studies Annual Meeting, Reno NV, April 13-17, 2016

“Border as Infrastructure: The US Canada Border along the Detroit River”, Poster Presentation at the Michigan Association of Planning’s Student (SMAP), Conference, Detroit MI, February 2016

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer Review

Common Ground Publishing

Departmental

President, Graduate History Association, Department of History, Michigan State University, 2017-18

Other

Member and President, Graduate Student Caucus, American Society for Environmental History
Review Editor, H-Midwest

INTERNSHIPS AND RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

Michigan History Museum (Department of Natural Resources), February 2018- May 2019

Conducting archival research for the Michigan State Parks Centennial Project as well as collaborating on interpreting and visualizing research output into panels and exhibition material.

Research Assistant for Dr. Sara Fingal (formerly at MSU) Michigan State University, August 2016

Worked on collecting archival material on pollution debates in the state of Michigan in the 1960s at the Archives of Michigan as well as the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan.

OTHER SELECT WORK EXPERIENCE

2013-14 Program Associate, Communications and Marketing, **WRI India (formerly EMBARQ India)**

2010 Green Life Magazine, Copyeditor/ features writer

2009 Program Associate, **Initiative for Transportation and Development Program (ITDP India)**

2008-09 Research Associate, River Pollution Unit, **Centre for Science and Environment**, New Delhi, India

2006-07 Good Housekeeping, Freelance columnist
2005 'Your Life'- Mid Day, Reporter/ copy editor
2004 Free Press Journal, Mumbai, Independent Columnist

LANGUAGES

English (native) | Tamil (native) | Hindi (advanced) | Marathi (advanced) | French (beginner)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association | American Society for Environmental History | Graduate History Association,
Michigan State University

SOFTWARE SKILLS

Design: Adobe InDesign, Illustrator and Photoshop (intermediate proficiency)
CAD: AutoCAD (intermediate proficiency)
Web languages: HTML & CSS (intermediate proficiency); JavaScript (basic proficiency)

REFEREES

Dr. Lisa M. Fine
Professor and Chair, Department of History, Michigan State University,
506 E Circle Dr., Room 256, Old Horticulture,
East Lansing MI 48823
fine@msu.edu
(517) 884-4963

Dr. Michael Stamm
Professor, Department of History, Michigan State University,
506 E Circle Dr., Room 256, Old Horticulture,
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Dr. Helen Veit
Associate Professor, Department of History, Michigan State University,
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