

MARGARET O'MARA
University of Washington
Department of History
315 Smith Hall - Box 353560
Seattle, WA 98195-3560
PH (206) 685-2928 – FAX (206) 543-9451
momara@u.washington.edu

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2007 to Present **University of Washington**
Associate Professor (tenured), Department of History (2011-)
Assistant Professor, Department of History (2009-2011)
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History (2007-2009)
- 2002 to 2007 **Stanford University**
Acting Assistant Professor, Department of History (2004-2006)
Associate Director, Bill Lane Center for the West (2004-2007)
Postdoctoral Fellow in the Study of the North American West (2002-2004)
- 1997 to 2002 **University of Pennsylvania**
Instructor, Urban Studies Program
Research Fellow, Program on Non-Profits, Universities, Communities, and
Schools (funded by the Kellogg Foundation)
Teaching Assistant, Department of History
Graduate Assistant, Urban Studies Program

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 1998 and 1999 **The Brookings Institution**
Guest Scholar, Urban and Metropolitan Policy
- Research on metropolitan growth management; urban economic development; regional governance; economic equity and spatial mismatch; welfare reform and the welfare-to-work transition.
- 1996 to 1997 **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**
Special Assistant, Administration for Children and Families
- Policy specialist handling institutional change after welfare reform; applicability of labor laws to welfare recipients; privatization; tribal welfare reform.
- 1995 to 1996 **The White House**
Domestic Policy Analyst
- Policy specialist handling Empowerment Zones; community and regional economic development.
- 1993 to 1995 **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**
Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist
- Collaborated with state and local governments in Medicaid and AFDC reform; worked on health care and welfare reform legislation; child and family policy.

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania

Ph.D., History, May 2002

Dissertation: "Cities of Knowledge: Cold War Politics and the Suburbanization of Science, 1945-1970" *Winner, 2002 Best Dissertation in Urban History (without geographic restriction), Urban History Association*

Northwestern University

B.A., History and English, June 1992

PUBLICATIONS

Book:

Cities of Knowledge: Cold War Science and the Search for the Next Silicon Valley. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2005.

Book Chapters, Articles, and Essays:

"Knowledge Architectures and the Metropolis," (invited contribution) *Companion to American Urbanism*, ed. Joseph Heathcott. Routledge, forthcoming.

"High-Technology Landscapes and Eco-City Dreams, 1950-2012," (invited contribution) *The Next Eco-City*, eds. Jeffrey Hou and Thaisa Way. Routledge, forthcoming.

"The Uses of the Foreign Student," *Social Science History* [special issue on Clark Kerr's *The Uses of the University*, ed. Michael Bernstein], December 2012.

"Cities and Suburbs" (invited; conceptual essay), *The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Social History*, ed. Lynn Dumenil. Oxford University Press, 2012.

"The influence of foreign direct investment on land use changes and regional planning in developing-world megacities: a Bangalore case study," with Karen C. Seto, in *Megacities: Action Models and Strategic Solutions*, ed. Frauke Kraas, Günter Dill, Günther Mertins and Ulrich Nitschke (Routledge, 2012).

"Silicon Valleys," *Boom: A Journal of California* 1:2 (June 2011).

"Beyond Town and Gown: University Economic Development and the Legacy of the Urban Crisis," *The Journal of Technology Transfer* [special issue on the university and economic development, ed. Maryann Feldman and Shiri Breznitz], August 2010.

"From Bangalore to the Bay Area: Comparing Transportation and Activity Accessibility as Drivers of Urban Growth," with Michael K. Reilly and Karen C. Seto, *Landscape and Urban Planning* 92 (2009), 24-33.

"Landscapes of Knowledge: History and the Evolving Geography of High Technology," [special issue on "The Future Metropolitan Landscape," ed. Peter Bosselman] *Places* 19:1 (Spring 2007).

"Cold War Politics and Scientific Communities: The Case of Silicon Valley," *Interdisciplinary Science*

Reviews, May 2006.

“Uncovering the City in the Suburb,” in *The New Suburban History*, edited by Kevin Kruse and Thomas J. Sugrue. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, May 2006.

“Suburbia Reconsidered: Race, Politics, and Property in the Twentieth-Century Metropolis,” *Journal of Social History* (September 2005).

Book Reviews:

“Pastoral Capitalism: A History of Suburban Corporate Landscapes,” *Vernacular Architecture*, December 2012.

“Making Sense of American Liberalism,” *Journal of American History*, December 2012.

“Desert Visions and the Making of Phoenix,” *American Historical Review*, July 2012.

“Techno-Cities of the Twentieth Century,” *The Journal of Urban Technology*, May 2010.

“How Cities Won the West,” *Southern California Quarterly* 91:3 (Fall 2009).

“Technology in Postwar America,” *The Journal of American History*, July 2008.

“Making Silicon Valley: Innovation and the Growth of High Tech, 1930-1970” *The Journal of American History*. 93:3 (2006), 942.

“Inventing Los Alamos: The Growth of an Atomic Community,” *Urban History* 33 (2006), 171-172.

“Silicon Valley, Women, and the California Dream,” *Pacific Historical Review*. 74:2 (2005), 300-302.

“Building High-Tech Clusters: Silicon Valley and Beyond,” *The Journal of Economic History* 64:3 (2004), 919-921.

“Golden State, Golden Youth: The California Image in Popular Culture,” H-West (www.h-net.org) 7 November 2002.

“Place Matters: Metropolitics for the Twenty-First Century,” H-Urban (www.h-net.org) 12 October 2001.

Policy Publications:

“Creativity, Community, Innovation: The University District and the University of Washington,” Seattle, December 2011.

“Cities in a Global Innovation Economy,” International Regions Benchmarking Consortium White Paper, Seattle, May 2008.

“Meeting the Global Challenge: The University of Washington and the State of Washington,” University of Washington, 2006.

“Learning from History: How State and Local Policy Choices Have Shaped Philadelphia’s Growth.”

Greater Philadelphia Regional Review, March 2002.

“Fight or Flight: Metropolitan Philadelphia and its Future,” Metropolitan Philadelphia Policy Center, 2001.

“Moving Beyond Sprawl: The Challenge for Metropolitan Atlanta.” Washington: The Brookings Institution, 2000.

“Barriers to Work: the Spatial Divide between Jobs and Welfare Recipients in Metropolitan Areas.” Washington: The Brookings Institution, 1998.

Commentary:

“Don’t Try this at Home,” *Foreign Policy*, September/October 2010.

“Not So Fast: Some Presidents Overcome Their Midterm Slump,” *Seattle Times*, 21 June 2010.

“Welfare as We Knew It,” BlackPast.org (www.blackpast.org), September 2009.

Contributor, *Crosscut* (www.crosscut.com): “We are Not the ‘Next Silicon Valley’” (18 February 2008); “Seattle’s Transportation Malaise is Nothing Special” (3 January 2008); “Amazon Joins the Parade of Tech to the Urban Core” (20 December 2008).

“Schwarzenegger: The Newest Progressive,” with Jon Christensen, *High Country News*, March 2005.

“Terrorists May Alter the Face of Urban America,” *Public Affairs Report*, October 2001.

TEACHING

Interests: cities and suburbs; politics and policy; America in the world; technology; higher education; economic globalization; the US West

Graduate Fields: American History
Urban History (U.S.; Comparative World)
American Political History

Courses:

University of Washington
HSTAA 303 Modern American Civilization From 1877
HSTAA 208 The City: People, Places, Environments
HIST 494/388 Left, Right, and Center: Party Politics in Modern America
HIST 498 Suburbia
HSTAA 522 American History since 1870
HSTAA 508 American Urban History
HIST 590/PBAF 598 Welfare States
GEN ST 197 Freshman Seminar: The American City
Undergraduate Independent Study
Graduate Independent Study

Stanford University
The U.S. in the Progressive Era (Graduate Core Colloquium in US History)
California and the West in National Politics

Readings in Environmental History
Readings in Urban History
Cities in the North American West
Building Silicon Valley
The Suburban West
Senior Honors Thesis

University of Pennsylvania
Can Cities Survive?
The Science of Politics: Who Gets Elected and Why
Urban Studies Fieldwork Seminar

ADVISING

Graduate committee member:

University of Washington
Steven Beda
Joseph Bernardo
Travis Currit
Holly George (Ph.D., 2011)
Mary Ann Henderson (committee chair)
Jessica Lee (Ph.D., 2010)
Marty Manor
Kevin McKenna
Devon McCurdy
Michael Reagan
Kayla Schott-Bresler
William B. Piggot (Ph.D., 2009)
Kirsten Pochop

Senior honors thesis advisor:

University of Washington
Carl Herman
Claire Palay

Stanford University
Ellen Crisham
Augustus Winkes
Michael Zakaras

Undergraduate honors mentor:

University of Washington
Emily Cernak

Stanford University
Larissa Conte

Undergraduate research supervisor:

University of Washington
Paul Fleurdelys
Samuel Garfield
Carl Herman
Jessica Salo

Stanford University
Kathryn Kilner
Nithya Rajagopalan

INVITED TALKS

“Only in America: U.S. Higher Education and the Global Knowledge Economy,” American Association of Colleges & Universities Annual Meeting (keynote speaker), January 2013

“Pivotal Tuesdays: Four Presidential Elections That Made History,” UW History Lecture Series, October 2012 (also broadcast as an original series on UWTV)

“Transnational Suburbia,” U.S.-China Seminar, University of Washington, October 2012

“Inventing Postindustrial Politics,” Miller Center Seminar, University of Virginia, September 2012

“Landscapes of Wealth: Instant Cities and Global Suburbs in China and Beyond,” Columbia University Seminar on the City, October 2011

“Landscapes of Wealth and White-Collar Wonderlands,” Chicago Urban History Seminar, April 2011

“Poverty and Suburbs,” West Coast Poverty Center, University of Washington, May 2009

“Landscapes of Wealth,” Center for History, Society, and Culture, University of California at Davis, April 2009

“Landscapes of Wealth,” Built Environment Seminar, College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Washington, November 2008

“Sustainable Urban Policy as Environmental Policy,” Stanford University Environmental Forum, Woods Institute for the Environment, Stanford University, September 2008

“The Innovative Region,” First Annual Meeting of the International Regions Benchmarking Consortium (Barcelona, Daejeon, Dublin, Fukuoka, Helsinki, Melbourne, Munich, Seattle, Stockholm), June 2008

“The History of High-Tech Places,” Emerging Research Agendas Seminar, College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Washington, April 2008

“The Next Silicon Valley,” Tsinghua University, Shenzhen University Town, Shenzhen, Guangdong, China, December 2007

“Landscapes of Knowledge,” University of Michigan Seminar on Metropolitan History, September 2007

“From Bangalore to the Bay Area,” Knight Professional Journalism Program, Stanford University, October 2006

“The Geography of Knowledge Work,” College of Environmental Design, University of California at Berkeley, May 2005

“Cities of Knowledge,” Miller Center Forum on Public Affairs, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, March 2005

“Cities of Knowledge,” The University of Pennsylvania Urban Research Institute, Philadelphia PA, March 2005

“Cities of Knowledge,” Public Policy Institute of California, San Francisco CA, November 2004

“Silicon Valley and the Environment,” Stanford Law School Environmental Policy Seminar, May 2004

“The Suburbanization of Science” The Johns Hopkins University Seminar on the History of Technology, Baltimore MD, March 2004

“Uncovering the City in the Suburb,” Shelby Cullum Davis Center for Historical Studies, Princeton University, February 2004

“The 21st-Century City and What Silicon Valley Has To Do With It,” Speakers’ Series on *Cities: Past, Present, and Future*, Urban Studies Program, Stanford University, January 2004

“Is Your Plant a Target?” Cold War Civil Defense and the Rise of the High-Tech Suburb,” Newberry Library Seminar in Technology, Politics, & Culture, Chicago IL, November 2003

“Industrial Dispersion Policy,” Commercialization of Knowledge Workshop, Stanford University, November 2002

“Cold War Politics and the Suburbanization of Science,” Social Science History Institute, Economic Policy Research Center, Stanford University, October 2002

“The City as a Target: Cold War Dispersion Policy and the Suburbanization of Science,” Center for Globalization and Information Technology, University of California at Berkeley, October 2001

CONFERENCES

“Deep Maps and Spatial Narrative: Urban Environmental Histories in a Digital World,” Urban History Association, New York NY, October 2012 (panel organizer and roundtable participant)

“The Economic Uses of the University,” Conference on Policy History, Richmond VA, June 2012 (presenter)

“The Fortification of the Urban University, 1970-2000,” panel on Anchor Institutions in the Modern Metropolis, Urban History Association Biennial Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, October 2010 (presenter)

“Beyond Urban History: Suburbs and Small Towns in Postwar America,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Seattle WA, April 2009 (commentator)

“The Global University: Public Policy and the Internationalization of American Higher Education Since 1950,” Policy History Conference, St Louis MO, May 2008 (panel organizer and presenter)

“Plenary Session: The University and the City,” Urban History Association Biennial Conference, Tempe AZ, October 2006 (plenary session organizer and commentator)

“Rethinking the American West,” Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Palo Alto CA, August 2006 (commentator)

Roundtable book session on *Cities of Knowledge*, Social Science History Association, Portland OR, November 2005 (author)

“Silicon Valley and Post-Industrial Political Economy,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, San Jose CA, March 2005 (panel organizer and chair)

“Research Parks, Suburbs, and the Politics of Industrial Design,” Urban History Association Biennial Conference, Milwaukee WI, October 2004 (presenter)

“The Customer Sends Its Business Elsewhere: Place-Based Contracting, From Truman to Clinton,”

Policy History Conference, St Louis MO, May 2004 (panel organizer and presenter)

“Making the ‘Miracle of Palo Alto’: Western Political Culture and the Rise of the High-Tech Suburb,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Boston MA, March 2004 (panel organizer and presenter)

“The Rustbelt Responds: The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and High-Tech Economic Development Since 1950,” Society for the History of Technology Annual Meeting, Atlanta GA, October 2003 (presenter)

“Racial Politics, Civic Boosters, and High-Tech Economic Development: The Case of Metropolitan Atlanta, 1960-80,” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore MD, October 2003 (presenter)

“From Sputnik to the Research Park: The ‘City of Knowledge’ as Economic Development Strategy, 1957-1970,” Policy History Conference, St. Louis MO, May 2002 (presenter)

“The Garden City as ‘Brainsville’: The University as Community Planner, from Palo Alto to Philadelphia,” Ninth National Conference on American Planning History, Philadelphia PA, November 2001 (presenter)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Professional associations

- Fellow, National Forum on the Future of Liberal Education, 2009-2012
- Board Member, Urban History Association, 2008-2011
- Chair, Dissertation Prize Committee, Urban History Association, 2007

University service: University of Washington

- UW History Lecturer, 2012-13
- Chair’s Advisory Committee, Department of History
- Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of History
- Curriculum and Teaching Resources Committee, Department of History
- Faculty Affiliate, West Coast Poverty Center
- Faculty Affiliate, Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies
- West of 15th Steering Committee, Office of the President
- University Representative, Regional Economic Strategy Technical Advisory Group
- Chair, Sustainable Cities Faculty Working Group, Office of the Provost
- Economic Development Working Group, Office of Research
- International Regions Benchmarking Group, Office of External Affairs
- Social Sciences in the College of the Environment, Faculty Working Group

University service: Stanford University

- Postdoctoral Appointment Committee, Bill Lane Center for the West
- Fellowship Selection Committee, Bill Lane Center for the West
- Mentor, Haas Institute for Public Service
- Environmental Faculty Group
- Urban Studies Faculty Group
- Faculty Advisor, Technical Women in Silicon Valley

- Historic Values Index Group, Office of the University Architect

Conference program chair

- Direct Democracy in the West: Historical Roots and Political Realities, Stanford University, March 2005
- Starting West: The Region’s Image and Identity in National Media and Culture, Stanford University, February 2005
- On the Edge: Metropolitan Growth and Western Environments, Stanford University, April 2004
- Land Use Planning Then and Now: Learning from History, Stanford University, May 2003

Manuscript reviewer

- Oxford University Press; Stanford University Press; Georgia University Press; Island Press; University of Chicago Press; Routledge; *Journal of Urban History*; *Pacific Historical Review*; *Enterprise & Society*; *MINERVA*; *Washington History*

Editor

- Electronic Classrooms on “The Cold War” and “Toward the 21st Century,” American Political Development Web Portal, sponsored by the Miller Center for Public Affairs and the American Political History Initiative.
- “Exploring the West” Curricular Web Site for High School Teachers (www.exploringthewest.stanford.edu)

Teacher educator

- Visiting Professor, Era 9, Standard I (Postwar economic transformation of US), Tri-State History Consortium (MT, UT, WA), 2009-2011

ADDITIONAL FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

2011-12	Society of Scholars, Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington
2010-11	John E. Sawyer Seminar in the Study of Comparative Cultures, Mellon Foundation (\$172,000)
2007	UPS Endowment Faculty Research Grant (\$30,000)
2006	Environmental Venture Project Grant for Interdisciplinary Faculty Research, Woods Institute for the Environment (\$150,000)
2002	Visiting Scholar, Institute of Governmental Studies, University of California, Berkeley
2002	Research Merit Award, American Society of Landscape Architects
2001-2002	Miller Center Fellowship in Public Affairs, University of Virginia

Last updated November 2012