

MICHAEL K. ROSENOW
Professor
Department of History
University of Central Arkansas

University Contact Information

University of Central Arkansas
Department of History
201 Donaghey Ave.
Conway, Arkansas 72035
Office Phone: (501) 470-7676
Email: mrosenow@uca.edu

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

US History since 1815, Gilded Age and Progressive Era, Labor and Working-Class History, US Immigration History

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

US Cultural and Intellectual History, US Race and Ethnicity, US International Relations

EDUCATION

- PhD, History, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (October 2008)
Concentration: US History since 1815
Dissertation: Injuries to All: The Rituals of Dying and the Politics of Death among United States Workers, 1877-1910
Committee: James R. Barrett (Adviser), David Roediger, Kathryn Oberdeck, Elizabeth Pleck
- MA, History, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (Spring 2003)
- BA, History and Political Science (Summa Cum Laude), University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (Spring 2000)

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2025-Present	Professor of History, University of Central Arkansas
2015-2025	Associate Professor of History, University of Central Arkansas
2008-2015	Assistant Professor of History, University of Central Arkansas
2006-2007	Lecturer, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
2004-2005	Teaching Assistant, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

PUBLICATIONS

Book

- *Death and Dying in the Working Class, 1865-1920* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2015)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- “Defeated by the Big Lie: The Failed Campaign to Repeal Arkansas's Right-to-Work Law in 1976.” Article manuscript under review by the *Journal of Southern History*.
- “[Death and Dying in the Working Class](https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.013.788).” In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History*. Oxford University Press, 2014. Article published December 22, 2021. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.013.788>.
- “Dying with Their Boots On: Illinois Miners and the Pursuit of a Good Death, 1861-1909,” *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* 113, no. 2 (Summer 2020): 7-37.

Blog Posts

- “FYS Fridays,” *Teaching Matters @ UCA*, March 12, 2015.

Encyclopedia Articles

- “Work and Labor—Factory and Industrial Work and Labor” in *Material Culture in America*, ed. Helen Sheumaker and Shirley Wadja (ABC-CLIO, 2007)
- “Undertakers,” in *Encyclopedia of the Great Black Migration*, Steven Reich ed. (Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2006)

Book Reviews

- Review of Lauren Braun-Strumfels, *Partners in Gatekeeping: How Italy Shaped U.S. Immigration Policy Over Ten Pivotal Years, 1891-1901* in *Journal of Southern History* 90, no. 4 (November 2024): 854-855.
- Review of Michael C. Pierce and Calvin White, Jr., *Race, Labor, and Violence in the Delta: Essays to Mark the Centennial of the Elaine Massacre* in *Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies* 54, no. 1 (April 2023): 68-69.
- Review of Jennifer E. Brooks, *Resident Strangers: Immigrant Laborers in New South Alabama* in *Italian American Review* 13, no. 2 (2023): 200-203.
- Review of James P. Kraft, *Havoc and Reform: Workplace Disasters in Modern America* in *Journal of Arizona History* 63, no. 1 (Spring 2022): 90-92.
- Review of Nate Holdren, *Injury Impoverished: Workplace Accidents, Capitalism, and Law in the Progressive Era* in *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 20, no. 3 (July 2021): 469-470.
- Review of Jeffrey Smith, *The Rural Cemetery Movement* in *The Annals of Iowa* 80, no. 1 (Winter 2021): 70-71.
- Review of Matthew Hild, *Arkansas's Gilded Age: The Rise, Decline, and Legacy of Populism and Working Class Protest* in *Journal of Southern History* 85, no. 4 (November 2019): 934-935.
- Review of Griff Stockley, *Black Boys Burning: The 1959 Fire at the Arkansas Negro Boys Industrial School* in *Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies* 50, no. 2 (August 2019): 150-152.

- Review of Michael J. Piore and Andrew Schrank, *Root-Cause Regulation: Protecting Work and Workers in the Twenty-First Century* in *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History* 16, no. 2 (May 2019): 165-167.
- Review of Mark A. Lause, *Free Labor: The Civil War and the Making of an American Working Class* in *Civil War Book Review* (Fall 2016), www.cwbr.com/index.php?q=6343&field=ID&browse=yes&record=full&searching=yes&Submit=Search
- Review of Leon Fink, *The Long Gilded Age: American Capitalism and the Lessons of a New World Order* in *Labour/Le Travail* 78 (Fall 2016): 352-354.
- Review of Peter G. Vellon, *A Great Conspiracy against Our Race: Italian Immigrant Newspapers and the Construction of Whiteness in the Early Twentieth Century* in *Italian American Review* 6:1 (Winter 2016): 132-134.
- Review of Nelson Lichtenstein and Elizabeth Tandy Shermer, *The Right and Labor in America: Politics, Ideology, and Imagination* in *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 72:2 (Summer 2013): 186-188.
- Review of Marcella Bencivenni, *Italian Immigrant Radical Culture: The Idealism of the Sovversivi in the United States, 1890-1940* in *H-SHGAPE* March 9, 2012 (<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=33340>).
- Review of Jarod Roll, *Spirit of Rebellion: Labor and Religion in the New Cotton South* in *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 70 (Spring 2011): 87-88.
- Review of Edward Slavishak, *Bodies of Work: Civic Display and Labor in Industrial Pittsburgh* in *Labour/Le Travail* 65 (Spring 2010): 222-224.
- Review of Stephen Lassonde, *Learning to Forget: Schooling and Family Life in New Haven's Working Class, 1870-1940* in *The Journal of Social History* 41:1 (Fall 2007): 194-196.
- Review of Carl Weinberg, *Labor, Loyalty, and Rebellion: Southwestern Illinois Coal Miners and World War I* in *Journal of the State Historical Society of Illinois* 99:2 (Summer 2006): 143-145.
- Review of Thomas Guglielmo, *White on Arrival: Italians, Race, Color, and Power in Chicago, 1890-1945* in *Journal of the State Historical Society of Illinois* 94:4 (Winter 2003-2004): 411-413.

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

2026

- Presentation, "The Rights of Labor versus the Right to Work: The 1976 Campaign to Repeal Arkansas's Right-to-Work Law," presented at the Arkansas Historical Association, Monticello, Arkansas, April 11, 2026.

2025

- Presentation, "'Good for Arkansas and Good for You': The 1976 Campaign to Repeal Arkansas's Right-to-Work Law," presented at the Association of Arkansas College History Teachers, Little Rock, Arkansas, September 25-26, 2025.

2011

- Presentation, "The Power of the Dead's Place: Chicago's Cemeteries and Social Conflict, 1873-1913," presented at the Association of Arkansas College History Teachers, Little Rock, Arkansas, October 6-7, 2011.
- Commentator, "Race and Ethnicity," at the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference, Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, Arkansas, March 12, 2011.

2010

- Presentation, "The Marks of Capital: The Accident Crisis and Cultures of Industrialization in the United States, 1865-1920," presented at the Association of Arkansas College History Teachers, Little Rock, Arkansas, September 30-October 1, 2010.
- Commentator, "The African-American Experience," at the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference, Arkadelphia, Arkansas, March 13, 2010

2007

- Presentation, "Re-Working That Body: The Accident Crisis and Cultural Constructions of the Industrial Worker, 1877-1914," presented at the 29th Annual North American Labor History Conference, Detroit, Michigan, October 17-19, 2007.
- Presentation, "'Cheaper Than Shingles': Human Worth, Workers' Bodies, and Industrial Culture, 1877-1910," presented at the Midwest Labor and Working Class History Colloquium, Iowa City, Iowa, April 6-8, 2007.
- Presentation, "'Every New Grave Brings a Thousand Members': The Rituals of Dying and the Politics of Death in Southern Illinois Coal Communities, 1894-1924," presented at the 29th Meeting of the Social Science History Association, Chicago, Illinois, November 18-21, 2004; presented at the Blackburn College Labor Studies Symposium, Carlinville, Illinois, March 4-5, 2005; presented at the Southern Labor Studies Conference, Durham, North Carolina, May 2007.

2006

- Presentation, "The War of Work: Metaphors of War and Casualties of Industrialization, 1877-1910," presented at the Thirty-First Annual Great Lakes History Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 20-21, 2006.
- Presentation, "'That the Lives and Limbs of Wage-Workers Shall be Regarded as Sacred': The Industrial Accident Crisis and Workers' (Re) Assessment of Human Worth in Industrial Society," presented at the Eighth Annual Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities Conference, Urbana, Illinois, March 31, 2006.

2005

- Presentation, "'Deprived the Luxury of Grief': Death, Paternalism, and the Politics of Performance in Steel Communities, 1892-1910," presented at the 27th Annual North American Labor History Conference, Detroit, Michigan, October 21-23, 2005.

2003

- Presentation, "Radicals in the Public Imagination: The Making of American Identity and the Great Steel Strike of 1919," presented at the 25th Annual North American Labor History Conference, Detroit, Michigan, October 16-18, 2003.

- Commentator, “Dressing the Part: Performing Gender, Class and Ethnicity,” at the 5th Annual Graduate Symposium on Women’s and Gender History, March 11–13, 2004, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.
- Commentator, “Forging Gender in the Industrial Workplace,” at the 4th Annual Graduate Symposium on Women’s and Gender History, March 13-15, 2003, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT

2008-Present University of Central Arkansas

- History 2301: The Making of America: US History to 1877
- History 2302: America in the Modern Era: US History since 1877
- History 2390: The Historian’s Craft
- History 4300: Research Seminar
- History 4333/5333: U.S. Immigration and Ethnic History
- History 4335/5335: Diplomatic History of the United States
- History 4336/5336: Work, Wealth, and Power in United States History
- History 4340/5340: Emergence of Modern America, 1877-1920. Updated course title in 2023 to Robber Barons, Radicals, and Reformers.
- History 6300: Historiography and Methods
- History 6303: The Gilded Age and Progressive Era
- History 6325: Twentieth-Century America

2004-2007 University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- History 172: U.S. History since 1877 (teaching assistant)
- History 273: Illinois History
- History 498: Research and Writing Seminar

GUEST LECTURES AND INVITED TALKS

2026

- “Dreams from the Heartland during the Age of Lincoln, 1865-1886,” presented at the Intercultural Montessori School, Chicago, Illinois, August 27, 2026.

2024

- “Border Control and Cages: The 1880s Origins of the Contemporary Immigration Debate.” First United Methodist Forum. Invited talk. June 30, 2024.
- “Workers’ Rights as Human Rights.” Human Rights Symposium, Pulaski Academy Amnesty International Club. Invited talk. February 24, 2024.

2023

- “Explaining the Industrial Accident Crisis, 1865-1920.” Guest lecture. Hist 1375: FYS Diversity in World Cultures. November 28, 2023.
- Early Career Coaching Circle, Invited Panelist. Center for Excellence in Teaching and Academic Leadership, Conway Arkansas. February 7, 2023.

2021

- “Navigating Historical Research: An Introduction to Finding Sources,” Arkansas National History Day. Invited talk. July 19, 2021.
 - “Asia and the Wilsonian Moment,” Arkansas Chapter of the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia. Invited talk. June 8, 2021.
- 2019**
- “To Be American: The Immigration Debate in Dvořák’s America, 1882-1924.” Invited talk. Conway Symphony Orchestra, Conway, Arkansas. February 16, 2019.
- 2017**
- “This Land Is ‘Our’ Land: Patterns of Nativism and Pluralism in United States Immigration History,” Immigration in Arkansas Outreach Series, UCA Downtown, Conway, Arkansas. September 26, 2017.
- 2016**
- “Taking a Stand and Making History.” Guest Lecture, History Day Arkansas Workshop, July 12, 2016. Fort Smith, Arkansas.
 - “Doing History: Using the Internet to Find Primary Sources.” Guest Lecture, History Day Arkansas Workshop, July 12, 2016. Fort Smith, Arkansas.
- 2015**
- “Exploring the History of Work, Wealth, and Power: Exchanges and Encounters in the United States, 1820-1940,” Guest lecture History 6310: Advanced Social Studies Instructional Methods, July 14, 2015.
- 2014**
- “Navigating Historical Research,” Guest lecture, History 6310: Advanced Social Studies Instructional Methods, July 15, 2014.
- 2013**
- Invited Speaker, History Day Arkansas Workshop, Conway, Arkansas, July 11, 2013.
- 2010**
- Keynote Speaker, American History Teachers Collaborative, Urbana, Illinois, September 25, 2010.
 - Keynote Speaker, Midwest Labor and Working Class History Colloquium, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, April 16-17, 2010.
- 2008**
- “Black Gold: Coal Mining in Illinois, 1880-1910,” Guest lecture in Illinois History, Summer 2008.
 - “The Great American Protest: African Migration, 1910-1930,” Guest lecture in Introduction to Historical Methods, Summer 2008.
 - “The Power of Protest: Student Activism and Social Change during the Vietnam War,” Guest lecture Political Sociology, February 2008.
- 2007**
- “Visions of the Great Society: The Vietnam War and Student Protest at the University of Illinois,” Guest lecture in Political Sociology, October 2007.
 - “Dying for Work.” Guest lecture in Social History of Industrial America to 1918, June 2007.

- “Living and Dying in the Progressive Era.” Guest lecture in U.S. History since 1877, September 2005.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2025	Best Paper Award at the 2025 Annual Conference of the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers
2025	Teaching Excellence Award, University of Central Arkansas
2024	Finalist, Teaching Excellence Award, University of Central Arkansas
2020	Nominee, Teaching Excellence Award, University of Central Arkansas
2010	Best Paper Award at the 2010 Annual Conference of the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers
2009	Herbert Gutman Prize for Outstanding Dissertation, Labor and Working Class History Association
2008	LAS Dean’s Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching for Graduate Teaching Assistants
2007	List of Excellent Teachers, Fall Term
2007	List of Excellent Teachers, Summer Term
2006	List of Excellent Teachers
2006	List of Excellent Teachers, Summer Term
2005	List of Excellent Teachers
2004	List of Excellent Teachers
2000	Edmund James Scholar
2000	University Honors, graduating in the top 3% of the LAS college
2000	Martha Belle Barrett Prize Recipient for highest undergraduate GPA in the History Department
2000	Martha Belle Barrett Prize and Highest Distinction Recipient for Best Senior Honors Thesis
1999	Robert H. Bierma Scholarship Recipient for Academic Excellence
1999	Robert W. Johanssen Research Grant Recipient

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2018	University Research Council Grant, University of Central Arkansas
2014	Service-Learning Faculty Fellow, University of Central Arkansas
2010	Summer Stipend, University Research Council, University of Central Arkansas
2007	King V. Hostick Award, Illinois State Historical Society
2006-2007	Center on Democracy in a Multiracial Society Graduate Student Fellowship
2006-2007	William C. Widenor Fellowship
2005-2006	Illinois Program on Research in the Humanities Graduate Student Fellowship
2005-2006	Department of History Fellowship
2005	Labor and Working Class History Association Travel Grant
2004	Pre-Dissertation Travel Grant, Department of History, UIUC
2001-2002	University of Illinois Graduate College Enhancement Fellowship

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

Presenting Labor History Committee, Labor and Working-Class History Association, 2025-Present

Secretary, Hudson Chapter, American Association of University Professionals, 2024-Present

National History Day Arkansas Advisory Board, 2017-Present

Article reviewer for *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History*

Article reviewer for the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*

Book Manuscript reviewer for the University of Illinois Press

Teaching Resources Committee, Labor and Working Class History Association, 2009-2017

Chair, Web Committee, Midwest Labor and Working Class History Colloquium, 2006

Research Assistant, for the documentary *Remember Virden: The Mine Wars of 1898–1900*

Chair, Finance Committee, Midwest Labor and Working Class History Colloquium, 2005

UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

University of Central Arkansas

- Associate Chair, Department of History, 2022-Present
- Curriculum Committee, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, 2023-Present
- Curriculum Committee, Chair, Department of History, 2023-Present
- Teaching Technology Advisory Committee, 2023-Present
- Tenure and Promotion Committee, Department of History, 2014-Present
- Departmental Personnel Action Committee, Department of History, 2014-Present
- Arkansas History Search Committee, Chair, 2024-2025
- Coordinator of Graduate Studies, Department of History, 2012-2024
- History Department Curriculum Ad-Hoc Working Group, Chair, 2022-2023
- BA-BS Redesign Reconciliation Committee, Department of History, 2021
- BA Working Group, Chair, Department of History, 2021
- Tenure and Promotion Committee, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, 2018-2022
- Latin American and Latino Studies Advisory Committee, 2018-2021
- Professional Education Council, 2018-2021
- Faculty Grievance Committee, University of Central Arkansas, 2017-2020
- Graduate Council, 2014-2018
- Graduate Council Policy (Student Appeals) Committee, 2017-2018
- Sponsored Programs Advisory Committee, 2015-2016
- Graduate Committee, Department of History, Chair, 2012-2024
- History Department Assessment Committee, 2012-2024
- United States History Search Committee, Chair, 2015-2016
- University Research Council, 2014-2015
- East Asian History Search Committee, 2014-2015
- Public Service Award Committee, 2012-2013
- Lecturer I Search Committee, 2012-2013
- Dr. Pat Ramsey's Advancement Committee, Chair, 2012
- Arkansas History Search Committee, 2011-2012

- Curriculum and Assessment Committee, College of Liberal Arts, 2009-2012
- Undergraduate Committee, Department of History, 2009-2012
- Faculty Advisor, Phi Alpha Theta, Mu Chapter, 2008-Present

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- Capricious Grading Committee, Department of History, 2006-2007
- Chair, Proceedings Committee, 6th Annual Graduate Symposium on Women's and Gender History, 2005
- Web Committee, 6th Annual Graduate Symposium on Women's and Gender History, 2003-2004
- Proceedings Committee, 5th Annual Graduate Symposium on Women's and Gender History, 2004
- Phi Alpha Theta, Epsilon Chapter, President, 2003-2004
- Phi Alpha Theta, Epsilon Chapter, Vice President, 2002-2003

MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Labor and Working-Class History Association
- Society of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era
- Arkansas Historical Association
- Phi Alpha Theta
- Phi Beta Kappa