

# JONATHAN LEVY

The University of Chicago  
Division of the Social Sciences  
Department of History



## POSITIONS

James Westfall Thompson Professor  
Department of History and Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago (2022-)

Faculty Director, Law, Letters, and Society (2017-)

Professor  
Department of History, University of Chicago (July 2016-)  
Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago (January 2019-)

Associate Professor of History (with tenure), University of Chicago (July 2015-June 2016)

Associate Professor of History (with tenure), Princeton University (July 2014-June 2015)

Assistant Professor of History, Princeton University (July 2009- June 2014)

Visiting Professor (2018)  
Scuola Normale Superiore, Firenze

Visiting Professor (2017)  
L'École des hautes études en sciences sociales

## DEGREES

Ph.D. History, University of Chicago, 2008, with distinction.

M.A. History, University of Chicago, 2003.

B.A. History, Yale University, 2000, with honors.

## PUBLICATIONS

## Books

*The Real Economy: Essays in History and Theory* (Princeton University Press, forthcoming).

*Ages of American Capitalism: A History of the United States* (Random House, 2021).

- Reviews in *The Washington Post*, *The Nation*, *The Boston Review*, *Christian Science Monitor*.

*Freaks of Fortune: The Emerging World of Capitalism and Risk in America* (Harvard University Press, 2012).

- *Chronicle of Higher Education* "Most Influential Books of the Last Twenty Years," (2018).

- Organization of American Historians Book Prizes for 2013  
Frederick Jackson Turner Award, first book on US history  
Avery O. Craven Award, era of Civil War or Reconstruction  
Ellis. W. Hawley Prize, post-Civil War politics or political economy

- American Society for Legal History  
William Nelson Cromwell Book Prize, first book on legal history

- Society for U.S. Intellectual History  
2013 Notable Title

- Excerpt in *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

- Reviews in *The New Republic*, *The Nation*, *Dissent*, *Public Books*, *The Wall Street Journal*.

## Articles and Book Chapters

"The Ethics of Global Capital Mobility," (with Chiara Cordelli), *American Political Science Review* 20 (September 2021), 439-452.

-Winner of the Elizabeth A. Caldwell Prize for best article in ethics, public policy, and leadership.

"Planning in the Post-World War II United States," *Scienza & Politica. Per Una Storia Delle Dottrine* 32, no. 62 (2020): 95-105.

"Radical Uncertainty," *Critical Quarterly* 62, issue 1 (April 2020): 15-28.

"Primal Capital," *Critical Historical Studies* 6, no. 2 (Fall 2019): 161-193.

"Appreciating Assets: New Directions in the History of Political Economy," *American Historical Review* (December 2017).

"Capital as Process and the History of Capitalism," *Business History Review* 91, 3 (Autumn 2017): 483-510.

"From Fiscal Triangle to Passing Through: Rise of the Nonprofit Corporation," in Naomi Lamoreaux and William Novak eds., *Corporations and American Democracy* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017).

"Altruism and the Origins of Nonprofit," in Lucy Bernholtz, Chiara Cordelli, and Rob Reich, eds., *Philanthropy in Democratic Societies: History, Norms, Institutions* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2016).

"Economic History: The Once and Future King," with Jeremy Adelman, *Chronicle of Higher Education* (December 1, 2014).

"Accounting for Profit and the History of Capital," *Critical Historical Studies* 1, no. 2 (Fall, 2014): 171-214.

"'The Mortgage Worked the Hardest': The Fate of Landed Independence in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century America," in Gary J. Kornblith and Michael Zakim, eds., *Capitalism Takes Command: Essays on the Social Transformation of Nineteenth-Century America* (University of Chicago Press, 2012): 39-68.

"The Freaks of Fortune: Moral Responsibility for Booms and Busts in 19<sup>th</sup>-century America," *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 10, no. 4 (Oct. 2011): 435-446.

"Contemplating Delivery: Futures Trading and the Problem of Commodity Exchange in the United States, 1875-1905," *American Historical Review* 111, no. 3 (April 2006): 307-335.

## Other

"Big Tech Gets Derailed," *Project Syndicate*, November 2022.

"Lunchtime in Italy," *Boston Review*, September 2022.

"The Adventures of Money," *Project Syndicate*, August 2022.

"After Neoliberalism," N+1, March 2021.

"Visualizing Climate Change and Loss: Houston," 2020

<http://histecon.fas.harvard.edu/climate-loss/houston/houston.html>

"Until the Next Crash," *N+1*, January 2019.

"Stuck in a Gilded Age," *Dissent Magazine*, Summer 2016.

"Structures of Risk: A Conversation between Jonathan Levy and John Harwood, *Pidgin Magazine* 15 (2013).

"The Rise of Finance," *Public Books* (Fall 2011).

Contributor, *Nobody's Property: Art, Land, Space, 2000-2010* (Princeton University Art Museum Series, 2010).

"Trading in Dreams," *Wilson Quarterly* (October, 2006).

## Reviews

Review of Francesco Boldizooni, *Foretelling the End of Capitalism: Intellectual Misadventures since Karl Marx* (2022) in *Journal of Modern History*.

Review of Thomas Piketty, *Capital and Ideology* in *Annales, Histoire, Sciences Sociales* (2021).

Review of Daniel M. Abramson, *Obsolescence: An Architectural History* (2016) in *Future Anterior: Journal of Historic Preservation, History, Theory, and Criticism* (Winter 2018).

Review of Jenifer Van Vleck, *Empire of the Air: Aviation and the American Ascendancy* (2013) in *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 45, no. 1 (Summer 2014): 98-99.

Review of Joshua D. Wolff, *Western Union and the Creation of the American Corporate Order, 1845-1893* (2013) in *Journal of American History* 101, no. 1 (January 2014): 278-279.

Review of Brett Christophers, *Banking Across Boundaries: Placing Finance in Capitalism* (2013) in *Economic Geography* 90, no. 1 (January 2014): 119-121.

Review of Marc Egnal, *Clash of Extremes: The Economic Origins of the Civil War* (2009) and John Majewski, *Modernizing a Slave Economy* (2009) in *Journal of American Studies* 44, 1 (March 2010): 1-4.

Review of Laura F. Edwards, *The People and Their Peace: Legal Culture and the Transformation of Inequality in the Post-Revolutionary South* (2009), in *Social History*, 35, no. 3 (August 2010): 339-341.

## FELLOWSHIPS

Center for History and Economics, Harvard University  
Visiting Fellow, 2017-2018

Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University  
Fellow, 2012-2013

American Council of Learned Societies  
Early Career Fellowship, 2009-2010

John Kluge Center, Library of Congress  
Visiting Scholar, 2009-2010

American Council of Learned Societies  
Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2007-2008

Council on Library and Information Resources  
Mellon Dissertation Research in Primary Sources Fellowship, 2006-2007

Harvard Business School  
Alfred Chandler Fellowship, 2006

Social Sciences Division, University of Chicago  
Mellon Graduate Achievement Fellowship, 2003-2006

## INVITED LECTURES AND SYMPOSIUMS

New School for Social Research  
Keynote for Conference on Currency and Empire, October 2022

University of Bologna  
Veblen's University Politics, April 2022

Scuola Normale Superiore, Firenze  
Ages of American Capitalism, January 2022

Sciences Po  
Accounting and Capitalism, November 2021

L'École des hautes études en sciences sociales  
Periodizing American Capitalism, November 2021

Yale University  
Ages of American Capitalism, November 2021

El Colegio de México,  
Ages of American Capitalism, November 2021

Princeton University  
Ages of American Capitalism, November 2021

Paris School of Economics  
Ages of American Capitalism, October 2021

Harvard University  
Does Capital Flow?, May 2021

University of Bologna  
Planning and the Corporate Aesthetic in Post-WWII United States, December 2020

Purdue University  
Volcker Shock: American Capitalism Since 1980, March 2019

New School for Social Search  
Volcker Shock: American Capitalism Since 1980, February 2019

Dartmouth College  
Volcker Shock: American Capitalism Since 1980, February 2019

University of California-Santa Barbara  
Volcker Shock: American Capitalism Since 1980, October 2018

Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa  
Capital as Process and the History of Capitalism, June 2018

Scuola Normale Superiore, Firenze  
Volcker Shock: American Capitalism Since 1980, June 2018

Brown University, Workshop on the History of the Self  
Primal Capital: The Microfoundations of Keynes's *General Theory*, April 2018

Harvard University, Economic Sociology Workshop  
Volcker Shock: American Capitalism Before and After 1980, January 2018

Tel Aviv University, Safra Center for Ethics  
Volcker Shock: American Capitalism Before and After 1980, January 2018

Cambridge University, American History Seminar  
Volcker Shock: American Capitalism Before and After 1980, January 2018

Oxford University, American History Seminar  
Volcker Shock: American Capitalism Before and After 1980, January 2018

Harvard University, Center for History and Economics  
Volcker Shock: American Capitalism Before and After 1980, October 2017

Harvard University, Program on the History of Capitalism  
Primal Capital: The Microfoundations of Keynes's *General Theory*, October 2017

Max Po (Paris), Economic Sociology Workshop  
Primal Capital: The Microfoundations of Keynes's *General Theory*, April 2017

University of Pennsylvania, Economic History Seminar  
Comment on "Its Always the Shadow Banks," October 2016

Newberry Library, Chicago, IL  
"The New Economy Revisited," October 2016

Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany  
"Radical Uncertainty: The History of an Idea," June 2016

American Bar Foundation, Chicago, IL  
"Rise of the Nonprofit Corporation," October 2015

University of Virginia, History Department  
"Rise of the Nonprofit Corporation," October 2015

Harvard University, Law School  
"The Fiscal Triangle," September 2015

University of Georgia, Department of History  
"Corporate Personality Revisited," February 2015

University of California, Berkeley, American Political History Seminar  
"Freaks of Fortune," September 2014

University of Michigan, Fictions of Finance

“Accounting for Profit and the History of Capital,” May 2014

Washington University St. Louis, Department of History  
“Corporate Personality Revisited,” May 2014

Columbia University, Department of History  
“Profit and Not in Nineteenth-Century America,” April 2014

Princeton University, Economic Sociology Workshop  
“Corporate Personality Revisited,” April 2014

Georgetown University, 19-Century History Workshop  
“Accounting for Profit and the History of Capital,” February 2014

Stanford University, Department of History  
“Corporate Personality Revisited,” February 2014

University of Chicago, Department of History  
“Corporate Personality Revisited,” February 2014

Drew University, History and Culture Colloquium  
“The New Economy Revisited,” November 2013

Harvard/Princeton, Conference on Corporations, Commerce, and Law  
“Corporate Personality Revisited,” September 2013

Stanford University, History Department  
“The History of Profit,” June 2013

New York University, Business and Society Program  
“Freaks of Fortune,” November 2012

Tel Aviv University, The Sovereign Economy  
“The History of Profit,” June 2012

American Council Learned Societies, Annual Meeting  
“How the Humanities Help Us Understand Economic Behavior,” May 2012

Columbia University, The Heyman Center for the Humanities  
“Writing the History of Risk,” April 2012

Columbia University, Business History Forum  
“Capitalism Takes Command,” November 2011



Johns Hopkins University, Institute for the Study of Business Enterprise,  
“The Corporate Transformation of Risk, 1890-1920,” November 2011

History of Political Economy Workshop, Duke University  
“The Corporate Transformation of Risk, 1890-1920,” October 2011

Princeton University School of Architecture  
“Architecture and the Current Crisis,” October 2011

The New School, Power and the History of Capitalism  
Comment, “Capitalism and Risk,” April 2011

Minnesota Law School, Legal History Workshop  
“The Perils of the Seas: The Maritime Origins of the ‘Assumption of Risk,’” November 2010

Columbia University School of Architecture, Forum on Risk  
“Three Histories of Risk,” October 2010

Oxford University, Culture of the Market Symposium  
“The Freaks of Fortune,” March 2010

Smithsonian Institution, Contemporary History Colloquium  
“The Freaks of Fortune,” February 2010

Princeton University, Economic Sociology Workshop  
“The Systematization of Risk in 19<sup>th</sup>-century America,” February 2010

University of Pennsylvania, Economic History Forum  
“The Mortgage Worked the Hardest: The Fate of Landed Independence in 19<sup>th</sup>-century America,” October 2009

American Council of Learned Societies, Annual Meeting  
“Themes and Methods of Humanities Research: Risk,” May 2008

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

American Historical Association, Annual Meeting  
Commentator, “Making the Math Work: International Credit and Debt Since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century” January 2020

US Intellectual History, Annual Meeting

Presenter, "No more Capital?" November 2019

Social Science History, Annual Meeting  
 Commentator, "Monica Prasad's *Starving the Beast*," October 2019

Organization of American Historians, Annual Meeting  
 Commentator, "Philanthrocapitalism" April 2018

Newberry Library, Labor History Seminar  
 Commentator, "History of Neoliberalism," April 2016

Organization of American Historians, Annual Meeting  
 Commentator, "Histories of 'No-Fault'" April 2016

Business History Conference, Annual Meeting  
 Commentator, "Reassessing Shareholder Value," March 2014

American Historical Association, Annual Meeting  
 Presenter, "Is the History of Capitalism the New Business History?" December 2013

American Society for Legal History, Annual Meeting  
 Commentator, "The Legal History of Capitalism from Below," November 2013

Social Science History Association, Annual Meeting  
 "Accounting for Profit," November 2012

Organization of American Historians, Annual Meeting  
 Commentator, "Seeing Like the American State," April 2012

Business History Conference, Annual Meeting  
 Commentator, "Financial Markets and the Law in Modern America," March 2012

Annual Meeting, Southern Economic Association  
 "Risk: Origins of an Economic Concept, 1850-1920," November 2011

Annual Meeting, Law and Society  
 Comment, "The Causes and Consequences of Financial Crises," June 2011.  
 Comment, "The Socially Responsible Corporation: More than an Oxymoron?" June 2011

Annual Meeting, Business History Conference  
 "George Perkins and the Corporate Reconstruction of Risk," April 2011

Modern America Workshop, Princeton University  
 "The Perils of the Seas," December 2010

Annual Meeting, American Society for Legal History  
“The Legal Transformation of Fraternity,” November 2010

Annual Meeting, Organization of American Historians  
“Social Risk: The Birth of a Concept,” April 2010

Annual Meeting, American Historical Association  
“The Freaks of Fortune: Moral Responsibility for Booms and Busts in 19<sup>th</sup>-century America,” January 2010

Social Science History Association  
“Capitalism, Freedom, and the Origins of Risk,” November 2007.

History of Science Society  
“Elizur Wright and the Actuarial Science of Freedom,” November 2007.

#### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Co-Editor, Critical Historical Studies (2016-)

Fellowship Selection Committee, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, (2015-2016, 2022-23)

University of Chicago Press, Manuscript Review

Harvard University Press, Manuscript Review

Johns Hopkins University Press, Manuscript Review

Stanford University Press, Manuscript Review

Law and History Review, Manuscript Review

Law and Social Inquiry, Manuscript Review

Journal of American Studies, Manuscript Review

Journal of American History, Manuscript Review

American Historical Review, Manuscript Review

#### LANGUAGE SKILLS

Italian (fluent)

Spanish (reading)

French (reading)

#### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association

Organization of American Historians  
Social Science History Association  
Business History Conference