

Benjamin Holtzman

Lehman College
Department of History
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Bronx, NY 10468
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2020- Lehman College, Department of History, Assistant Professor

2018-2020 American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Postdoctoral Visiting Scholar

2017-2020 Duke University, Thompson Writing Program, Lecturing Fellow

2016-2017 Brown University, Department of History, Visiting Assistant Professor

EDUCATION

2016 Ph.D. Brown University, History

2010 A.M. Brown University, History

2003 B.A. Vassar College, History and Political Science

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

U.S. History; Social and Political History; Race, Class, and Inequality; Metropolitan History;
Social Movements; History of Capitalism; New York History; Oral History

PUBLICATIONS

Works-in-Progress

“Smash the Klan”: Fighting the White Power Movement in the Late Twentieth Century (book manuscript).

Book

The Long Crisis: New York City and the Path to Neoliberalism (New York: Oxford University Press, 2021).

- Excerpt: “Why Renters Fought NY’s Push for Ownership,” *Public Books*, April 28, 2022.

Journal Articles

“Expanding the Thin Blue Line: Resident Patrols and Private Security in Late Twentieth-Century New York,” *Modern American History* Vol. 3, Issue 1 (March 2020), 47-67.

“‘Shelter is Only a First Step’: Housing the Homeless in 1980s New York City,” *Journal of Social History* Vol. 52, No. 3 (Spring 2019), 886–910.

“‘I am Not Co-Op!’: The Struggle over Middle-Class Housing in 1970s New York City,”

Journal of Urban History Vol. 43, No. 6 (November 2017), 864-885.

“The Growth and Disruption of a ‘Free Space’: Examining a Suburban DIY Punk Scene,” co-authored with Kenneth R. Culton, *Space and Culture* Vol. 13, No. 4 (November 2010), 270-284.

Book Chapters

“Remaking New York’s Business Districts,” in *Gotham on the Verge: The Remaking of a Modern Global American City*, edited by Johanna Fernández, Kim Phillips-Fein, and Mason B. Williams (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, forthcoming 2026).

“Urban Homesteading,” in *Affordable Housing in New York City: The People, Places, and Policies That Transformed a City*, edited by Nicholas Dagen Bloom and Matthew Gordon Lasner (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2015), 258-261.

“Do It Yourself and the Movement Beyond Capitalism,” co-authored with Craig Hughes and Kevin Van Meter, *Radical Society: Review of Culture & Politics* Vol. 31 (2006), 7-20. Revised version published in *Constituent Imagination: Militant Investigation / Collective Theorization*, edited by Stephen Shukaitis and David Graeber (Oakland: AK Press, 2007), 44-61.

Translated into Lithuanian and published as “Pasidaryk Pats... Ir Judėjimas Anapus Kapitalizmo” in *Juodraštis* (2008), 78-89.

Book Reviews

“The Burning of the Bronx: Reconstructing a Decade of Abandonment, Arson, and Reform.” Review of *Born in Flames: The Business of Arson and the Remaking of the American City* by Bench Ansfield (New York: W.W. Norton, 2025) in *Metropolitics* (May 26, 2026).

Review of *Democracy in Default: Finance and the Rise of Neoliberal America* by Brian Judge (New York: Columbia University Press, 2024) in *Journal of American History* Vol. 112, No. 3 (December 2025), 618-619.

“Finding the People’s City.” Review of *A People’s Guide to New York City* by Carolina Bank Muñoz, Penny Lewis and Emily Tumpson Molina (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2022) in *Metropolitics* (March 26, 2024).

Review of *Radical Teaching in Turbulent Times: Martin Duberman’s Princeton Seminars, 1966-1970* by Robert L. Hampel (Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021) in *The Review of Higher Education* Vol. 46, No. 1 (Fall 2022), 145-148.

Review of *Undelivered: From the Great Postal Strike of 1970 to the Manufactured Crisis of the U.S. Postal Service* by Philip F. Rubio (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2020) in *Journal of American History* Vol. 109, Issue 2 (September 2022), 491–492.

“The Age of Predatory Inclusion.” Review of *Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership* by Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor (Chapel Hill:

University of North Carolina Press, 2019) in *Shelterforce* (June 11, 2020).

Review of *A History of Private Policing in the United States* by Wilbur R. Miller (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2019) in *Journal of American History* Vol. 106, Issue 4 (March 2020), 1105-1106.

“Whose Brooklyn?” Review of *Brooklyn: The Once and Future City* by Thomas J. Campanella (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2019) in *Public Books* (February 18, 2020).

Review of *The City Lost & Found: Capturing New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles, 1960-1980*, edited by Katherine A. Bussard, Alison Fisher, and Greg Foster-Rice (Princeton: Princeton University Art Museum, 2015) in *Buildings and Landscapes* Vol. 23, No. 1 (Spring 2016), 114-116.

Review of *The Great Rent Wars: New York, 1917-1929* by Robert M. Fogelson (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2013) in *Business History Review* Vol. 89, Issue 2 (Summer 2015), 386-388.

Review of *The Hidden 1970s: Histories of Radicalism* edited by Dan Berger (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2010) and *Oppose and Propose! Lessons from Movement for a New Society* by Andrew Cornell (Oakland: AK Press, 2011) in *Make/Shift: Feminisms in Motion* Issue 11 (Spring/Summer 2012), 50-51.

Review (co-authored with Kenneth R. Culton) of *Punk Productions: Unfinished Business* by Stacy Thompson (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2004) in *Journal of Popular Music Studies* Vol. 17, No. 3 (2005), 368-371.

Review (co-authored with Alan O'Connor) of *False Prophet: Fieldnotes from the Punk Underground* by Steven Taylor (Middletown: Wesleyan University Press, 2003) in *Popular Music and Society* Vol. 28, No. 3 (July 2005), 431-433.

Essays and Public Scholarship

“Something Better Than Nothing,” (with Claire Dunning), *Urban Omnibus*, February 1, 2023.

“Fighting the White Power Movement in the Late Twentieth Century,” *Emory Library Blog*, September 1, 2022.

“Why Renters Fought NYC’s Push for Ownership,” *Public Books*, April 28, 2022.

“‘Vigilante’ Mayoral Candidate Narrative Obscures History of New York City Resident Patrols,” *Gotham Gazette*, October 8, 2021.

“New York City and the Path to Neoliberalism in the 1970s,” OUPblog, June 8, 2021.

“The Corporate Campaign to Save Madison Square Park,” *Gotham*, July 16, 2020.

“When the Homeless Took Over,” *Shelterforce*, October 11, 2019.

“We Can’t Solve Homelessness Until We Understand How We’ve Made It Worse,” *The Washington Post*, October 25, 2018.

“Flexibility Won’t Go Far Enough,” The Miller Center for Public Affairs, First Year Project (August 2016).

“Gentrification’s First Victims,” *Jacobin* (May 2016).

“Where the Rubber Meets the Road for the Indefinite Future: An Interview with Jefferson Cowie,” co-authored with Craig Hughes, *New Politics* Vol. 14, No. 1 (Summer 2012), 96-104.

“Points of Resistance and Departure: An Interview with James C. Scott,” co-authored with Craig Hughes, *Upping the Anti: A Journal of Theory and Action* Issue 11 (November 2010), 73-84.

“An Interview with Robin D.G. Kelley,” *In the Middle of a Whirlwind*, published online: inthemiddleofawhirlwind.info by the *Journal of Aesthetics of Protest* (2008).
Republished with additional questions in “Challenging Power and Creating New Spaces for Possibility: A Discussion with Robin D.G. Kelley,” *Uses of a Whirlwind: Movement, Movements, and Contemporary Radical Currents in the United States*, edited by Team Colors Collective (Oakland: AK Press, 2010), 317-329.

Interviewee

Soundscapes Podcast, Season 1, Episode: Ford to City: Drop Dead. May 2, 2025.

New Books Network Podcast, January 25, 2022.

“Long Crises,” *Phenomenal World*, July 12, 2021.

FELLOWSHIPS

2024-2025	Awards for Faculty, National Endowment for the Humanities
2018-2020	Postdoctoral Visiting Scholar, American Academy of Arts and Sciences
2015-2016	Miller Center National Fellowship, The University of Virginia
2013-2014	Mellon Fellowship for Dissertation Research in Original Sources, Council on Library and Information Resources

GRANTS

2026	PSC-CUNY Research Award Cycle 57
2025	PSC-CUNY Research Award Cycle 56
2024	PSC-CUNY Research Award Cycle 55

2023 PSC-CUNY Research Award Cycle 54
 2023 Dean's Office Travel Award, Lehman College
 2023 William Stewart Travel Award, City University of New York
 2022 PSC-CUNY Research Award Cycle 53
 2022 Dean's Office Travel Award, Lehman College
 2022 Short-term Fellowship, Emory University Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library
 2022 Mary Lily Research Travel Grant, Duke University David Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library
 2022 Dean's Office Travel Award, Lehman College
 2021 Archie K. Davis Fellowship, North Caroliniana Society
 2021 Faculty Fellowship Publication Program, City University of New York (CUNY)
 2020 Madeleine L'Engle Travel Research Fellowship, Smith College
 2019 Faculty Research Grant, Duke University
 2019 Professional Development Award, Duke University
 2018 Thompson Writing Program Research Grant, Duke University
 2018 Professional Development Award, Duke University
 2017 Arts & Sciences Council Travel Grant, Duke University
 2016 Swearer Center Engaged Course Development Grant, Brown University
 2016 James Ryland and Georgia A. Kendrick Fellowship, Vassar College
 2015 Alfred D. Chandler, Jr. Travel Grant, Business History Conference
 2014 Anna K. and Mary E. Cunningham Research Residency, New York State Library
 2014 William G. McLoughlin Travel Fund, Brown University
 2013 Graduate International Colloquium Grant, Brown University Office of International Affairs
 2013 Student Travel Award, Society for American City and Regional Planning History
 2013 The Larry J. Hackman Research Residency Award, New York State Archives
 2013 A. Molho Graduate Travel Fund, Brown University
 2013 Graduate Research Travel Grant, Brown University
 2012 William G. McLoughlin Travel Fund, Brown University
 2012 Graduate Research Travel Grant, Brown University
 2012 William and Madeline Welder Smith Research Travel Award, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas-Austin
 2011 William G. McLoughlin Travel Fund, Brown University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lehman College, History Department, Assistant Professor

"Recent United States History, 1945 to the Present"
 "The United States from World War I through World War II, 1914-1945"
 "History of New York: City & State"
 "Protest in America"
 "The Mainland Borough: The Bronx as a City in History"
 "Capstone Project" (Master's)
 "Individual Tutorial Project in American History" (Undergraduate and Master's)

Duke University, Thompson Writing Program, Lecturing Fellow

“Race, Inequality, and Justice in Metropolitan American History”

Brown University, History Department, Visiting Assistant Professor

“Race and Inequality in Metropolitan America from Urbanization to #blacklivesmatter”

“Politics and Culture in the U.S. Since 1945”

PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Invited Talks

“‘A Grand Experiment in Urban Governance’: The Market Turn in the Late Twentieth Century,” presented at Temple University, November 4, 2022.

“The Market Turn in the Late Twentieth-Century United States,” presented at the University of Washington-Tacoma, October 12, 2022.

“After the Fiscal Crisis: NYC and the Path to Neoliberalism,” presented at the Gotham Center for New York City History, March 17, 2022

“‘A Grand Experiment in Urban Governance’: The Market Turn in the Late Twentieth Century,” presented at New York University, November 17, 2021.

“New York City and the Neoliberal Turn,” presented at Lehman College, October 14, 2021.

“Movements and the American City,” presented at the Urban History Association’s “State of the U.S. City: Problems and Possibilities” (virtual) plenary, October 8, 2021.

Public Talks and Presentations

“Neoliberalism’s History and Future in New York City,” presented for the Democratic Socialists of America New York City Politics of Fiscal Austerity Group, April 7, 2026.

“New York’s Limited Equity Cooperatives: Histories, Challenges, and Possibilities,” presented for House the Future, August 24, 2025.

“Homesteading and Social Housing in New York City,” presented at Citygroup for the Architecture Lobby, April 8, 2024.

“The Long Crisis,” presented at Caveat for Tom D’s Big New York Show, January 6, 2024.

“The 1970s Fiscal Crisis,” presented at Interference Archive, August 15, 2022.

“Housing Postwar New York,” presented at the Democratic Socialists of America New York City Housing Group, November 1, 2021.

Conference Panel Commentator

“Big City, Big Problems: Challenges to New York’s Primacy after World War II,” presented at the American Historical Association conference, New York, New York, January 5, 2025.

“Planning for Urban Nature,” presented at the Society for American City and Regional Planning History conference, New York, New York, October 22, 2022.

Conference Papers Presented

“Organizing after Tragedy: Southern Activists in the Aftermath of the Greensboro Massacre,” to be presented at the Society for American City and Regional Planning History conference, Cincinnati, Ohio, October 17, 2026.

“Bankrupting White Supremacists and Exposing the State: Anti-Racism and Civil Lawsuits in the 1980s,” presented at the American Political History conference, Washington, D.C., June 6, 2026.

“Bankrupting the Klan: Anti-Racist Activists and Civil Lawsuits in the 1980s,” presented at the Organization of American Historians conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 18, 2026.

“Building an Anti-Racist Movement: The National Anti-Klan Network (NAKN) and the Campaign to Combat White Supremacists in the 1980s,” presented at the Organization of American Historians conference, Los Angeles, California, March 30, 2023.

“Homeless Organizing in 1980s New York City,” presented at the Labor and Working-Class History Association conference, Durham, North Carolina, June 1, 2019.

“Public-Private Governance of Homelessness in the 1980s,” presented at the American Historical Association conference, Chicago, Illinois, January 4, 2019.

“Homelessness, Housing, and Public Space in 1980s New York City,” presented at the Urban History Association conference, Columbia, South Carolina, October 19, 2018.

“Patrolling the Neighborhood: Citizen Responses to Crime in 1970s New York,” presented at the Organization of American Historians conference, Sacramento, California, April 20, 2018.

“Preserving Affordability in Low-Income Housing: HDFCs in Gentrifying New York City,” presented at The Society for American City and Regional Planning History conference, Cleveland, Ohio, October 27, 2017.

“The Urban Crisis and Economic Development,” presented at the Urban History Association conference, Chicago, Illinois, October 15, 2016.

“Sweat Equity Homesteading during New York’s 1970s Fiscal Crisis,” presented at the Policy History conference, Nashville, Tennessee, June 4, 2016.

“Promoting Development during Crisis: Tax Incentives and New Markets in 1970s New York,” presented at the Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, May 13, 2016.

“Grassroots Revitalization, Private-Public Partnerships, and the Transformation of New York City’s Parks in the 1970s and 1980s,” presented at the joint meeting of the Business History Conference (BHC) and the European Business History Association, Miami, Florida, June 27, 2015.

“The Remaking of Public Space in New York during the 1970s and 1980s,” presented at the Policy History conference, Columbus, Ohio, June 5, 2014.

“Homeownership and the Rebirth of the City: The Cooperative Conversion Movement in New York during the 1970s and 1980s,” presented at the Organization of American Historians conference, Atlanta, Georgia, April 10, 2014.

“The Neighborhood Housing Movement and the Struggle over Housing in New York during the 1970s and 1980s,” presented at The Society for American City and Regional Planning History conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, October 5, 2013.

“Homesteading and the Urban Crisis: Low-Income Homeownership in New York City during the 1970s,” presented at “Refiguring the 1970s: New Narratives in U.S. and International History,” University of Chicago, April 27, 2013.

“Homes for the Poor: Urban Homesteading and the Transformation of Low-Income Homeownership in New York City,” presented at the Urban History Association conference, New York, New York, October 28, 2012.

“Punk and its Image Problem: Subcultural Representations and Responses,” presented at the Social Science History Association conference, Baltimore, Maryland, November 13, 2003.

Roundtable Participant

“Roundtable of Recent Books in Urban History,” Urban History Association conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 27, 2023.

“Urban Politics in Public and Private: A Roundtable of Recent Books,” American Political History Association conference, Purdue University, June 11, 2022.

In-Class Presentation/Discussion

“The Transformation of Public Space in New York,” in “LPOL 301/602: Work, Culture, and Politics in New York City,” Professor Samuel Lieberman, CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies, June 24, 2026.

“Neoliberalism in New York,” in “LPOL 301/602: Work, Culture, and Politics in New York City,” Professor Maggie Schreiner, CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies, October 10, 2025.

“Citizens Patrols and Crime in New York,” in “HIS 780: Seminar in History,” Professor Rhiannon Dowling, Lehman College, February 19, 2025 and April 24, 2026.

“New York and the Path to Neoliberalism” in National University of Singapore’s Global Experiences in New York City seminar, Lehman College, June 20, 2023.

“Responding to Crime in 1970s New York City” in “HIST 3480: The History of New York City,” Professor Teague Mims, Brooklyn College, April 22, 2021.

Conference Panels Organized

“Contesting the White Supremacist City: Organizing, Race, and Violence in Late Twentieth-Century America,” Society for American City and Regional Planning History conference, Cincinnati, Ohio, October 17, 2026.

“Social Movements and the Law in the Late Twentieth Century,” co-organized with Daniel Platt, Organization of American Historians conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 18, 2026.

“Cross-Racial Alliances and Social Movements in the Late Twentieth Century,” co-organized with Eddie Bonilla, Organization of American Historians conference, Los Angeles, California, March 30, 2023.

“Urban Politics in Public and Private: A Roundtable of Recent Books,” co-organized with Claire Dunning, American Political History conference, Purdue University, June 11, 2022.

“On the Margins in Reagan’s America,” co-organized with Mauricio Castro, American Historical Association conference, Chicago, Illinois, January 4, 2019.

“Housing Politics in America from New Deal Liberalism to Neoliberalism,” Urban History Association conference, Columbia, South Carolina, October 19, 2018.

“Market Politics: Liberalism, Neoliberalism and Urban Policy after the 1960s,” co-organized with Lily Geismer, Urban History Association conference, Chicago, Illinois, October 15, 2016.

“Community Responses to the Urban Crisis,” co-organized with Rebecca Marchiel, Policy History conference, Columbus, Ohio, June 5, 2014.

“After the Urban Crisis: New York and the Path to Neoliberalism,” co-organized with Ari Eisenberg, Organization of American Historians conference, Atlanta, Georgia, April 10, 2014.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Lehman College

College

Fellowship and Scholar Incentive Awards Committee, Fall 2025 – Present

Faculty Advisor, History Club, Spring 2023 – Spring 2024, Fall 2025 – Present

Admissions, Evaluations, and Academic Standards, Fall 2022 – Spring 2024

LGBTQI+ Oral History Project Consultant, Spring 2022 – Spring 2023, Fall 2026-
College Senate, Fall 2021 – Spring 2024
Co-Faculty Advisor, Crystal Queer, Fall 2021 – Spring 2024

Department

Co-Faculty Advisor, Phi Alpha Theta, 2021 – Spring 2024, Fall – Present
Library Liaison, 2021 – Spring 2024

Duke University

Editorial Board, *Deliberations: Journal of First-Year Writing*, 2017-2019

Professional

Board of Directors, Society for American City and Regional Planning History, 2024-
Program Committee, Society for American City and Regional Planning History conference, 2026
Program Committee, Society for American City and Regional Planning History conference, 2022

Reviewer

Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of American History*, 2025
Book Proposal Review, Stanford University Press, 2025
Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of Social History*, 2024 and 2025
Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of African American History*, 2023 and 2024
Manuscript Reviewer, *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, 2023
Book Proposal Reviewer, University of Chicago Press, 2022
Book Proposal Reviewer, Columbia University Press, 2022 and 2024
Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of Urban History*, 2022
Book Proposal / Manuscript Reviewer, Oxford University Press, 2021 and 2025
Manuscript Reviewer, *Modern American History*, 2020, 2021, and 2025

AFFILIATIONS

Organization of American Historians
Urban History Association
The Society for American City and Regional Planning History