

# OLIVIA PASCHAL

[oliviapaschal.com](http://oliviapaschal.com)

## EDUCATION

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**University of Virginia**, Charlottesville, VA. History Ph.D. candidate. Dissertation is a history of capitalism and political economy looking at the rise of Walmart, Tyson Foods, and J.B. Hunt Transportation in the Arkansas Ozarks, the United States, and the country in mid-late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Expected graduation 2026. Graduate Certificate in American Studies. Advisors: Grace Hale and Sarah Milov.

**University of Virginia**, Charlottesville, VA. M.A., History, May 2023.

**Yale University**, New Haven, CT. B.A., History with distinction, May 2018.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Spirituality and Politics in the Print Culture of the Ozarks’ Women’s Movement, 1980-1989,” *Journal of Ozarks Studies*, Vol. 1 No. 1 (2024), <https://www.ozarks-studies-assoc.com/general-5>.

“Chicken Woman: Gender and Labor in the Early Arkansas Poultry Industry,” *Agricultural History*, Vol. 99 Issue 2 (2025), forthcoming.

### GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

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PhD Plus Internship, University of Virginia, Virginia Quarterly Review	2023-2024
Graduate Global Research Grant, Center for Global Inquiry & Innovation, University of Virginia	2023
Southern Studies Pre-Dissertation Prospectus Fellowship, Wilson Special Collections Library, University of North Carolina	2023
Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Summer Research Fellowship, University of Virginia	2022
Editing & Public Scholarship Fellow, Made by History at the Washington Post & GAGE at UVA	2022
Graduate Fellow in the John L. Nau III History & Principles of Democracy Lab, Democracy Initiative, University of Virginia	2021-22
Director’s Fellow, Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University	2017

### CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, & WORKSHOPS

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**University of Virginia Department of English / Public Writing Kohler Seminar Co-Convenor** January 2023-present  
Co-convene a seminar for graduate students and faculty that provides a space for thinking about public-facing scholarship and writing. Invite speakers (including writers and editors) and organize pitch and craft workshops. Recipient of \$10,000 Jefferson Trust grant for 2024-25 academic year to fund a series of editing & craft workshops featuring editors from national magazines.

**“Why Did the Chicken Waste Cross the Highway? The Arkansas Chicken Industry and the Fight over Groundwater Pollution, 1989-1992”** — Business History Conference Meeting March 2024

**Southern Exposure at 50 / Conference Co-organizer** March 2023

Co-organized one-day conference/symposium at Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina with Biff Hollingsworth of the Southern Historical Collection, John Blythe of the North Carolina Collection, and co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of the American South and its programs (Southern Cultures, Southern Oral History Program, Southern Futures, and the Critical Ethnic Studies Collaborative). Program featured roundtables, panels, digital and material archives, community archive gathering, and oral history collection.

**“Production Credit Associations and Poultry: How a New Deal Program Impacted the Landscape of the Chicken Industry, 1940s”** – American Society for Environmental History Conference March 2023  
**“Chicken Woman’: Gender and Labor in the Arkansas Poultry Industry”** — LAWCHA Conference May 2023  
**PhD+ at UVA / Writing Op-Eds: Translating Your Research to a Broad Audience** October-November 2021

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## TEACHING

From Redlined to Subprime: Race and Real Estate in the U.S. / Andrew Kahrl / Teaching Assistant Spring 2023  
Introduction to American Studies / Grace Hale & Matt Hedstrom / Teaching Assistant Fall 2022

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## COURSEWORK

### Spring 2023

AMST 8001 Approaches to American Studies, Penny von Eschen  
HIUS 7659 Twentieth Century U.S. Cultural History, Grace Hale  
HIST 9101 Origins of Global Capitalism, Fahad Bishara and Brian Owensby

### Fall 2022

AMST/HIST 5559 Oral History Workshop, Grace Hale  
RELG 7130 American Spirituality, Matthew Hedstrom

### Spring 2022

DEM 7501 Democracy and Freedom, Laurent DuBois and Jessica Kimpell Johnson  
HIST 8001 Masters’ Essay Writing, Chris Gratien  
HIST 9035 Histories of Neoliberalism, Sarah Milov

### Fall 2021

DEM 7500 Democracy and Freedom, Laurent DuBois and Jessica Kimpell Johnson  
HIST 7001 Approaches to Historical Study, Fahad Bishara and Alan Megill  
HIST 7020 Twentieth Century World History, Will Hitchcock

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## OTHER WORK

**Virginia Quarterly Review / Assistant Editor / Charlottesville, VA** January 2022-present  
**Southern Labor Studies Association / Co-host, Working History podcast** 2022-present  
**The Institute for Southern Studies / Archives Editor, *Southern Exposure*** August 2021-present  
Managing archive digitization and web redesign project for 4 decades of award-winning *Southern Exposure* magazine archives.  
**Freelance Writer & Editor / [Clips](#)** 2017-present  
Write and report on food systems, Walmart and the Walton family, Arkansas, and the South for outlets including The Atlantic, HuffPost, CivilEats, Southerly, Scalawag, The Nation, Grid News, Dwell, and The American Prospect.  
**Facing South / Staff Reporter / Durham, NC & Fayetteville, AR / [Clips](#)** August 2019-August 2021  
**The Atlantic / Editorial Fellow, Politics Desk / Washington, DC / [Clips](#)** July 2018-June 2019  
**Scott Stern / Researcher / New Haven, CT** Spring 2018  
Archival research on HIV/AIDS, the drug epidemic, and health care across three decades of New Haven newspaper and alt-weekly archives.  
**Steve Kornacki & HarperCollins / Researcher / Remote** July 2017-March 2018  
Researched and wrote endnotes for Kornacki’s 2018 book *The Red and the Blue: The 1990s and the Birth of Political Tribalism*.

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## HONORS

**Honorable Mention, In-Depth Reporting / Arkansas Press Women Communications Contest** May 2021  
For 2020 reporting on COVID-19 in Arkansas poultry processing facilities.  
**Distinction in the Major / Yale University Department of History** May 2018

**National Quality Work in Yale Publications / Poynter Fellowship in Journalism**

November 2017

“Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Abuse and Neglect in the County Jails of Arkansas,” cover story for Yale Politic selected by Poynter for commentary session with Ilena Silverman, Features Editor of the New York Times Magazine.

**Director’s Fellow / Institution for Social and Policy Studies** January-December 2017

Researched Arkansas prison policy and received further funding for journalistic and academic research into Walmart and the rural South.

**SELECTED PUBLIC-FACING WRITING AND MEDIA**

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- [“Q&A: What’s going on in Walmart’s Homeland?”](#) *Interview with the Daily Yonder* April 2024
- [“Dead chicken pileup shows poultry growers’ vulnerability to government & industry power,”](#) *The Arkansas Times* January 2024
- [“The Cost of Cheapness,”](#) *produced with Bart Elmore, Ethan Payne, and the Southern Foodways Alliance* October 2023
- short documentary on the consequences of Walmart’s corporate capitalism for the Arkansas Ozarks
- [“Summer in the South Is Becoming Unbearable,”](#) *The Atlantic* July 1, 2023
- [“An archive for a time of crisis,”](#) *Facing South* March 2023
- [“The Modern-Day Company Towns of Arkansas,”](#) *The American Prospect* August 2022 print issue
- [“The Coin Standard,”](#) *Laphams Quarterly* Dec. 15, 2021
- [“A history of groundbreaking reporting on the South’s poultry industry,”](#) *Facing South* June 2021
- [“The Disastrous Opening of One Arkansas School District,”](#) *The Nation* Aug. 30, 2021
- [“George’s poultry workers walk out in Arkansas to protest COVID-19 conditions,”](#) *Facing South, en español* December 2020
- [“COVID-19 pounded Arkansas poultry workers as government and industry looked on,”](#) *Facing South* August 20, 2020
- republished by local outlets in Spanish and Marshallese
- [“Food, power, and place in Northwest Arkansas,”](#) *Scalamag* January 2020
- [“Corporate ‘multiculturalism’ in Walmart’s company town,”](#) *Scalamag* May 2018

**INTERVIEWS, PANELS, & SPEAKING APPEARANCES**

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- University of Virginia,** Writing and Critical Inquiry freshman writing course, featured speaker on writing about rural spaces, Feb. 2024.
- University of Virginia,** Writing and Critical Inquiry freshman writing course featured speaker on magazine editing, October 2023.
- Southerly Magazine,** [Community Reporting Fellowship](#) workshop leader, Nov. 29, 2022.
- High Point University,** Media & Public Policy graduate elective course, featured speaker on government accountability reporting. Nov. 22, 2022.
- Arkansas Humanities Council,** Featured panelist for 3-person panel on Democracy and the Informed Citizen: Humanities and the Media Zoom panel. Oct. 18, 2022.
- University of Arkansas School of Journalism & Strategic Media,** Honors Government & Media class, featured speaker on advocacy journalism. Sept. 21, 2022.
- University of Arkansas School of Journalism & Strategic Media,** Features Writing class, featured speaker discussing freelance writing. April 27, 2022.
- University of Arkansas School of Journalism & Strategic Media,** Honors Government and Media class, featured speaker discussing reporting on COVID in poultry plants, FOIA, non-traditional news outlets, reporting on and for marginalized communities, transition from journalism to graduate school. Sept. 15, 2021.
- KUAF’s Ozarks at Large,** [“Facing South’ reporter examines emails between Springdale mayor, Tyson,”](#) by Zuzanna Sitek. Feb. 15, 2021. (15-minute segment)

**KUAF & Fayetteville Public Library Town Hall** accompanying Episode 3 of Movement That Never Was podcast. Featured panelist alongside Dr. Angie Maxwell (University of Arkansas) and Dr. Pearl Dowe (Emory University) discussing history of Southern electorate, the Southern Strategy in Arkansas, and current political organizing work in the state. Jan. 28, 2021.

**University of Arkansas School of Journalism and Strategic Media**, Honors Government and Media class, featured speaker discussing the challenges of reporting on government. Nov. 18, 2020.

**University of Arkansas School of Journalism and Strategic Media**, News Reporting class, featured speaker discussing tips for sourcing and finding stories. Oct. 20, 2020.

**Reckon South's Reckon Interview** podcast, [\*A system broken by design: The politics of healthcare\*](#), by John Hammontree and R.L. Nave. September 7, 2020. (20-minute segment)

**AL.com's Outbreak Alabama** podcast, [\*Astonishing disparities in the rural South\*](#), by Ben Flanagan. May 20, 2020. (10-minute segment)

**Northwest Arkansas Community College**, Creative Non-Fiction class, featured speaker discussing curiosity-driven narrative journalism projects and my piece "Food, Power, and Place in Northwest Arkansas." Feb. 25, 2020.

**Northwest Arkansas Community College**, Fundamentals of Journalism class, featured speaker discussing career path and life as a working writer. Feb. 25, 2020.

## SKILLS

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- Social media, including Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook
- Data analytics and visualization: Photoshop, Datawrapper, Tableau, Google Sheets, Excel, SPSS, SQL, + others upon inquiry
- Web publishing: Silverpop, Substack, Ghost, MailChimp, Wix, AirTable, Wordpress, Squarespace, Drupal, InDesign, search engine optimization (SEO)
- Web analytics software: Google Analytics, Chartbeat
- HTML/CSS

## MEMBERSHIPS

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Business History Conference, Economic History Association, Labor and Working Class History Association, Southern Labor Studies Association, Coordinating Council for Women in History, American Society for Environmental History

## LANGUAGES

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Latin (proficient), Hebrew (intermediate), Spanish (basic), Marshallese (basic)