

OLIVIA PASCHAL

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EDUCATION

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA. History Ph.D. candidate. M.A., History, May 2023.

Graduate Certificate in American Studies . Expected graduation May 2026.

Dissertation: A history of capitalism and political economy on the rise of Walmart and Tyson Foods in Arkansas, the U.S., and the world in the mid-late 20th century. Advisers: Grace Hale, Sarah Milov, Andrew Kahrl.

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

Thesis: A history of labor, race, and the media focusing on the contradictory narratives of the Elaine Massacre of 1919 created by white newspapers and the Black press.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Chicken Woman: Gender and Labor in the Early Arkansas Poultry Industry,” *Agricultural History*, Vol. 99 Issue 2 (May 2025). <https://doi.org/10.1215/00021482-11625346>.

“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>.

Edited Volumes

Co-editor, with Brendan Thomas, *Mountain Bike Capital: Essays on cycling, ecotourism, and economic development in the Arkansas Ozarks*, solicited by University of Oklahoma Press. In proposal stage.

“The Development of State-Level Neoliberalism in Bill Clinton’s Arkansas,” Chapter in *Neoliberalism and the Capitalists* forthcoming edited volume or special journal issue, Janick Schaufelbuehl, Quinn Slobodian, and Dieter Plehwe, eds. In proposal stage.

Reviews

The Proof is in the Dough: Rural Southern Women, Extension, and Making Money by Kathryn L. Beasley, *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, forthcoming.

New Destinations of Empire: Mobilities, Racial Geographies, and Citizenship in the Transpacific United States by Emily Mitchell-Eaton, *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, forthcoming.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Departmental Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Corcoran Department of History, University of Virginia
Spring 2026

Overton Award, Lexington Group in Transportation History
2024

Oral History Grant, Hagley Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society
2024-25

David Stricklin Research Fellowship, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies/Central Arkansas Library
System
2024

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 at Chapel Hill
2023

Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Summer Research Fellowship, University of Virginia
2022

Editing & Public Scholarship Fellow, Made by History at the Washington Post & Governing America in
the Global Era at the University of Virginia
2022

Graduate Fellow, John L. Nau III History & Principles of Democracy Lab, Democracy Initiative,
University of Virginia
2021-2022

INVITED TALKS

“Creating the Neoliberal State: Bill Clinton’s Arkansas,” Keynote Speaker, Ozarks Studies Symposium, Missouri State University – West Plains September 2025
“Chicken Woman: Gender and Labor in the Arkansas Poultry Industry,” Virtual Lecture, Ozarks Folkways Center, Winslow, AR March 2025

CONFERENCES, PANELS, AND WORKSHOPS

Rethinking Rural America in the Neoliberal Era Roundtable, organizer and participant — Organization of American Historians Conference April 2026
Poultry & the Remaking of the Southern Working Class Roundtable, participant — Labor and Working Class History Association Conference June 2025
“Creating the Neoliberal State: The ABCs of Education Reform in Bill Clinton’s Arkansas” — Neoliberalism & the Capitalists conference, History and Political Economy Project May 2025
“Race and Class on the Trails” — Ozarks Studies Association Conference April 2025
Histories of Cycling and Mountain Biking in the Ozarks, panel chair — Ozarks Studies Association Conference April 2025
Oral History Roundtable, participant — Business History Conference Meeting March 2025
“Agribusiness’s Final Frontier: Ideas of America in the Ozarks Poultry Industry” — Southern Historical Association Conference September 2024
“Rhetoric & Reality: ‘Economic Development’ in Bill Clinton’s Arkansas” — Southern Labor Studies Association Conference September 2024
“Why Did the Chicken Waste Cross the Highway? The Arkansas Chicken Industry & the Fight over Groundwater Pollution, 1989-1992” — Business History Conference Meeting March 2025
“Chicken Woman: Gender and Labor in the Arkansas Poultry Industry” — Labor and Working Class History Association Conference May 2023
“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
Community Reporting Fellowship, workshop leader, Southerly Magazine November 2022
Humanities and the Media, panelist — Arkansas Humanities Council series on Democracy and the Informed Citizen October 2022
KUAF and Fayetteville Public Library Town Hall: The Movement That Never Was, panelist January 2021

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant:

HIUS/AAS 3853: From Redlined to Subprime: Race & Real Estate in the U.S.
Instructor: Andrew Kahrl
University of Virginia, Fall 2025; Spring 2023
(Led discussion sections, graded papers and exams)

AMST 2001: Introduction to American Studies
Instructors: Grace Hale, Matthew Hedstrom
University of Virginia, Fall 2022
(Led discussion sections, graded papers and exams)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & ACTIVITIES

Southern Labor Studies Association

Member, ad hoc committee on rebranding & website design
 Co-host and producer, Working History podcast

August 2025-present
 2022-present

Kohler Seminar for Public-Facing Scholarship, UVA Department of English

Co-Convenor, seminar on public writing for graduate students & faculty.

January 2023-present

United Campus Workers of Virginia CWA Local 2265

Chapter Chair, UCWVA-UVA
 Campaign lead, Cut the Checks campaign

June 2025-September 2025
 2022-23

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

Virginia Quarterly Review, Charlottesville, VA

Assistant Editor
 Editorial Fellow

August 2023-August 2025
 January 2022-July 2023

The Institute for Southern Studies / Facing South, Durham, NC

Digital Archives Editor, *Southern Exposure*
 Investigative Staff Reporter

August 2021-December 2024
 August 2019-August 2021

The Atlantic, Washington, DC

Editorial Fellow, Politics Desk

July 2018-June 2019

SELECTED PUBLIC-FACING WRITING & MEDIA

[“Who Owns the Mountains?”](#) *New York Review of Books* November 3, 2024
[“The Forebears of J. D. Vance and the New Right,”](#) *History News Network* September 2024
[“Dead chicken pileup shows poultry growers’ vulnerability to government & industry power,”](#) *Arkansas Times* January 2024
[“The Cost of Cheapness,”](#) short documentary produced with Bart Elmore, Ethan Payne, and the Southern Foodways Alliance October 2023
[“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
[“Food, power, and place in Northwest Arkansas,”](#) *Scalawag* January 2020
[“Corporate ‘multiculturalism’ in Walmart’s company town,”](#) *Scalawag* May 2018

PODCASTS, PRINT, & RADIO INTERVIEWS

[“The Companies with Olivia Paschal,”](#) The Underview podcast, about my scholarship on Walmart and Tyson, 75-minute episode July 2025

["An Internal Colony,"](#) *New York Review of Books* Brief Encounters interview series, about my scholarship on Appalachia and the Ozarks December 2024

["Q&A: What's going on in Walmart's Homeland?"](#) The Daily Yonder Pathfinders interview series, about my scholarship on Walmart in northwest Arkansas April 2024

["Facing South reporter examines emails between Springdale mayor, Tyson,"](#) Ozarks at Large on KUAF (NPR affiliate), 15-minute broadcast segment February 2021

["A system broken by design: The politics of healthcare,"](#) Reckon Interview podcast, 20-minute segment September 2020

["Astonishing disparities in the rural South,"](#) Outbreak Alabama podcast, 10-minute segment May 2020

INVITED SPEAKING – UNIVERSITY COURSES

Masters' Essay Writing graduate course, University of Virginia, visiting speaker on publishing the masters' essay in an academic journal October 2025

Writing and Critical Inquiry undergraduate course, University of Virginia, visiting speaker on writing about rural spaces February 2024

Writing and Critical Inquiry undergraduate course, University of Virginia, visiting speaker on magazine editing February 2024

Media & Public Policy graduate course, High Point University, visiting speaker on government accountability reporting November 2022

Honors Government & Media undergraduate course, University of Arkansas School of Journalism & Strategic Media, visiting speaker on advocacy journalism September 2022

Features Writing undergraduate course, University of Arkansas School of Journalism & Strategic Media, visiting speaker on freelance writing April 2022

Honors Government & Media undergraduate course, University of Arkansas School of Journalism & Strategic Media, visiting speaker on government accountability reporting, transitioning from journalism to academia September 2021

Honors Government & Media undergraduate course, University of Arkansas School of Journalism & Strategic Media, visiting speaker on government accountability reporting November 2020

News Reporting undergraduate course, University of Arkansas School of Journalism & Strategic Media, visiting speaker on sourcing and tips October 2020

Creative Non-Fiction course, Northwest Arkansas Community College, visiting speaker on narrative journalism February 2020

Fundamentals of Journalism course, Northwest Arkansas Community College, visiting speaker on life as a working writer February 2020