

Adrian Brettle

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., American History, University of Virginia, August 2008 – May 2014 (graduation)

Fields: United States History, Early Modern England.

Dissertation: “‘The Fortunes of War’: Confederate Expansionist Ambitions during the American Civil War” (Advisor, Gary W. Gallagher)

M.A., B.A., History, Pembroke College, Cambridge University, 1998, 1994

Honors: First class degree, Pembroke College Foundation Scholarship, Hadley History Prize

TEACHING

Lecturer, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, June 2025-to present

Instructor (In Class), United States History to 1876 (forthcoming, Fall 2025)

Instructor (On line), Graduate Seminar in War and Violence (Summer 2025); Graduate Seminar on War and Film in America (Summer 2025); Graduate Seminar on the History of the American South (Summer 2025); United States History to 1876 (forthcoming, Fall 2025); Methods in History (forthcoming, Fall 2025)

Assistant Teaching Professor in History, Arizona State University, Tempe, August 2018-December 2024

Nominated for The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Outstanding Lecturer Award 2020

Instructor (In Class), “Modern Europe: French Revolution to the EU” (Fall 2024) “United States to 1865 (Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2021); “United States since 1865” (Fall 2018, Fall 2020, Fall 2022, Spring 2024); “Foundations of Democracy” (Spring, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Spring, Fall 2021, Spring, Fall 2022, Spring, Fall 2023, Spring 2024); “Wealth and Poverty of Nations” (Spring 2019); “Historical Thinking” (Fall 2019, Spring 2022, Fall 2024); “Political History and Leadership Seminar” (Fall 2019, Spring 2023, Spring 2024); “U.S. Comparative Race & Law 1880-1900 Capstone Seminar” (Spring 2020); War and Political Thought (Fall 2020)

Instructor (On line), “Civil War in Global Perspective” (Fall 2018, Summer 2019, Spring & Fall, 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2023, Spring 2024); “United States to 1865” (Spring 2019, Fall 2021, Fall 2023); “Historical Thinking” (Fall 2019, Fall 2024); “United States since 1865” (Spring 2020); Debating American Liberty (Summer 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2023); War and Political Thought (Fall 2020, Summer 2021); “U.S. Comparative Race & Law 1880-1900 Capstone Seminar” (Spring 2021); Civil War and Reconstruction (Spring, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024); Graduate Research Seminar: The Civil War Era (Spring 2023)

Lecturer in American History, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts, 2016-2017

Instructor, “United States Foreign Relations to 1900” (Fall 2016); “The United States After 1865” (Spring 2017)

Adjunct Professor, Department of History, Rowan University, New Jersey, 2016-2017

Instructor, “The History of the United States Before 1865” (Fall 2016); “The History of the United States from 1865 to the Present” (Spring 2017); “Historical Methods for Graduates and Undergraduates” (Summer 2017)

Adjunct Professor, Liberal Arts Division, Rowan College at Burlington County, New Jersey, Spring 2017

Instructor, “United States History I” [until Reconstruction]

Teaching Fellow, Department of History, Rowan University, New Jersey, 2014-2016

Instructor, “Civil War and Reconstruction” (Fall 2014); “The United States in the Nineteenth-Century World” (Spring 2015); “Historical Methods” (Summer 2015, 2016); American History Survey (Spring 2016)

Instructor, University of Virginia “American Reactions to the First Age of Globalization, c1848-c1870,” Capstone Seminar for History Majors, (Fall 2011)

PUBLICATIONS

I. Book

Colossal Ambitions: Confederate Planning for a Post-Civil War World (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2020)

Finalist for the 2021 Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize

Reviewed in *American Historical Review*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Southern History*, *The Journal of the Civil War Era*, *Civil War Book Review*, *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*.

II. Book Chapters and Articles

- "Free Speech in the Civil War," *Journal of Policy History* 35 4 (October 2023), 475-504
- "Their very sectionalism makes them cultivate that wider and broader patriotism," in David M. Prior, ed., *Reconstruction and Empire: the Legacies of Abolition and Union Victory for an Imperial Age* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2022), 105-35
- "Confederate Imagined Relations with the Federals in the Postwar Order," *Civil War History* 65 1 (March 2019), 43-72
- "Struggling to Realize a Vast Future: The Civil War as a contest over the relative priorities of political liberty and economic prosperity," *Journal of Policy History* 29 2 (Spring 2017), 267-88
- "1864: The Genesis of a New Tory World?" in Jeremy Black, ed., *The Tory World: A Deep History and the Tory Theme in British Foreign Policy* (Farnham, U.K.: Ashgate, 2015), 187-202
- "The Enduring Importance of Foreign Policy Dominance in Mid Nineteenth Century Politics" in William Mulligan, Brendan Simms, eds., *The Primacy of Foreign Policy in British History: How Strategic Concerns Shaped Modern Britain, 1660-2000* (London, U.K.: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010), 151-66

III. Short Essays, Social Media, Blog or Podcast

- Radio Interview, Inside Track, March 4, April 8, May 13, 2023; March 23, June 1, July 13, December 21, 2024; April 19, 2025
- "Interview with Adrian Brettle, Jack Miller Center, March 1, 2025
- "The Best Books on Slavery, Ambition, and the Civil War," Shepherd, February 3, 2025
- Podcast Interview, Davos in the Desert, March 30, 2023
- Podcast Interview, History Unplugged, December 13, 2022
- "Lessons for Historians about Reparations," American Greatness, May 5, 2022
- "Rebel States to World Power," *Civil War Times* (December 2021)
- "The Confederacy's Postwar Plan," *Dorchester Review* 11 2 (Spring/Summer 2021)
- "Brave New World? 5 Questions" Author Interview by Nancy Tappan, *America's Civil War* (July 2021), 58-59
- Podcast Interview, Iain Dale Book Club, April 30, 2021
- Author Interview, "Planning for a Victorious South," April 2021, Historynet.com
- Author Interview--Adrian Brettle (*Colossal Ambitions*), UVA Press blog, February 12, 2021
- Podcast Interview, The Rogue Historian, November 11, 2020
- "We have Come to Praise Globalization not Bury It" UVA Press Blog, September 1, 2020
- Author Interview--Adrian Brettle (*Colossal Ambitions*), H-CivWar, August 27, 2020
- "The Page 99 Test: Colossal Ambitions," Campaign for the American Reader, July 28, 2020
- "3 Crisis-Leadership Lessons from Abraham Lincoln," *The Conversation* (2020)
- Author Interview: -- (Confederate Imaginations with the Federals in the Postwar Order), H-CivWar, April 18, 2019
- "Southern Ambitions: A War for the Future," *The American Civil War Museum Winter 2018/2019 Magazine*, 6-9
- With Jesse George-Nichol: "Civil War, U.S." and "Gettysburg," in Paul Joseph, ed., *The SAGE Encyclopedia of War: Social Science Perspectives* (Thousand Oaks, Calif.: SAGE Publications. Inc., 2017), 296-99, 714

IV. Book Reviews

- Forthcoming: Roundtable Review of Alys D. Beverton, *Exceptionalism in Crisis: Faction, Anarchy, and Mexico in the U.S. Imagination during the Civil War Era* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2025), H-Diplo
- Forthcoming: Maria Angela Diaz, *A Continuous State of War: Empire Building and Race Making in the Civil War--Era Gulf South* (Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 2024), *American Nineteenth Century History*
- Forthcoming: Kyle B. Carpenter, *Globalizing the Lower Rio Grande: European Entrepreneurs in the Borderlands, 1749-1881* (Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2024), *Journal of Southern History*
- Steven J. Brady, *Chained to History: Slavery and U.S. Foreign Relations to 1865* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2022), *Slavery & Abolition: A Journal of Slave and Post-Slave Studies* (Vol. 44, No. 4, 2023), 810-2
- Bradley R. Clampitt, *Lost Causes: Confederate Demobilization and the Making of Veteran Identity* (Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 2022), *The Georgia Historical Quarterly* (Summer 2023), 222-25
- Kevin Waite, *West of Slavery: The Southern Dream of a Transcontinental Empire* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2021), *Journal of Arizona History*, vol. 63, no. 1 (Spring, 2022)
- Ann L. Tucker, *Newest Born of Nations: European Nationalist Movements and the Making of the Confederacy* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2020), *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, vol. 119, no. 1 (Winter 2021)
- Thomas Richards, Jr., *Breakaway Americas: The Unmanifest Future of the Jacksonian United States* (Baltimore, Md.: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2020), *Journal of the Civil War Era*, vol. 11, no. 4 (December 2021)

- Andrew F. Lang, *A Contest of Civilizations: Exposing the Crisis of American Exceptionalism in the Civil War Era* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2021), H-Nationalism, H-Net reviews (November 2021)
- Thomas Sebrell II, *Persuading John Bull: Union and Confederate Propaganda, 1860-1865* (Lanham, Md.: Rowman and Littlefield, 2014), *Journal of the Civil War Era*, vol. 5, no. 3 (September 2015)
- Bruce Levine, *The Fall of the House of Dixie: How the Civil War Remade the American South* (New York: Random House, 2013), *Civil War History*, vol. 60, no. 2 (June 2014)
- Coleman Hutchison, *Apples and Ashes: Literature, Nationalism, and the Confederate States of America* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2012), "The Past, Present and Future of Confederate Nationalism", H-CivWar, H-Net reviews (September 2013)
- Paul Quigley, *Shifting Grounds: Nationalism and the American South, 1848-1865* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012), *Journal of American Studies*, vol. 47, no. 2 (May 2013)
- Anthony J. Gaughan, *The Last Battle of the Civil War, United States Versus Lee, 1861-1883* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2011), *American Nineteenth Century History*, vol. 13, no. 3 (September 2012)

MUSEUM EXHIBIT

"Southern Ambitions: A War for the Future," The American Civil War Museum, Richmond, Virginia, installed July 2020 and on show until October 2023

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND LECTURES

- Forthcoming: "The Struggle for Confederate Liberty or a Second American Revolution," The American Revolution and its Legacies from 1776 to Today," Jack Miller Center, Washington D.C. (September 14-16, 2025)
- "The volunteer armies of the United States: a glimpse of a possible new foundation of the European nation?" Research Presentation to the Military History Working Group, Centre for Geopolitics, Cambridge University, ENGLAND (May 6, 2025)
- "Why the North Won" and "The Strange Death of Slavery," Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Arizona State University, Tempe (November, 13, 20, 2024)
- "The Civil War's Wildcard or When Did the Civil War Almost Become a World War," Trilogy History Club, Peoria AZ, (October 28, 2024)
- "Would Free Speech be a Part of the New Birth of Freedom?" 2022 Policy History Conference, Arizona State University, Tempe (June 2, 2022)
- "Brave New World," Scottsdale Civil War Round Table, Arizona (February 15, 2022)
- Book Talk, Political History and Leadership Dialogue, Arizona State University, Tempe (February 14, 2022)
- "Behind the Lines," Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Arizona State University (December 6, 13, 2021)
- "Should You Be Concerned If It's Only Soft Despotism?" Political History and Leadership Engaging Citizenship Luncheon, December 7, 2021
- "There is no acknowledged power to give character & regularity to the Markets" Pacific Coast Branch meeting of the American Historical Association, Portland State University, Oregon (August 11-13, 2021)
- "Book Breaks: Adrian Brettle discussed his book *Colossal Ambitions: Confederate Planning for a Post-Civil War World*" Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History (August 8, 2021)
- Panelist for "Confederate Ambitions: Flawed Visions for a New Nation," Virginia Festival of the Book, Charlottesville (March 17, 2021)
- "The Problem of Slavery," "Did Leadership Make the Difference in the Civil War?" "The Common Soldier and Filling the Ranks," Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Arizona State University (February 3, 17, 24, 2021)
- Colossal Ambitions* Book Talks: Club Events Online (September 3, 2020); American Civil War Museum (July 27, 2020); Spirit of the Senses (July 17, 2020)
- "Reconstruction: Wartime and Postwar," "Women in the Civil War," "Was the Civil War a Total War?" "When the Civil War Almost Became a World War," "The Turning Points of the Civil War," Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Arizona State University, Tempe (March 20, April 24, June 12, 29, July 6, September 8, 15, 2020)
- "Looking to a Post-Brexit Future" Political History and Leadership Dialogue, Arizona State University, Tempe (February 3, 2020) and Spirit of the Senses, Phoenix, Arizona (April 3, 2020)
- "Brexit: A Present-Day Crisis With Roots in the Past" Greater Phoenix Mensa 2019 Regional Gathering, Phoenix (November 30, 2019)
- "Organizing the Pacific: Britain, the U.S., and the Californian Gold Rush," Work in Progress Seminar, School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies, Arizona State University, Tempe (November 22, 2019)
- Panelist for the ASU College of Law's International Law Society Brexit Event, Beus Center for Law and Society, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University, Phoenix (November 18, 2019)

- “The Old South and the Civil War,” *Spirit of the Senses*, an arts, science, and cultural salon group based in Phoenix, Arizona (November 2, 2019)
- “Why the North Won” and “The Strange Death of Slavery,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Arizona State University, Tempe (September, 13, 27, 2019)
- “Brexit!” Political History and Leadership Dialogue, Arizona State University, Tempe (February 11, 2019) and *Spirit of the Senses*, Phoenix, Arizona (July 11, 2019)
- “What if the Confederacy had Won?” Political History and Leadership Dialogue, Arizona State University, Tempe (October 15, 2018)
- “Fighting for a New World,” The American Civil War Museum History Happy Hour, Richmond, Virginia (October 9, 2017) and Charlottesville-Albemarle County Civil War Round Table, Virginia (December 18, 2017)
- “Autumn 1862: when the Civil War almost became a World War,” Research Lecture, Rowan University, Glassboro, New Jersey (March 30, 2016)
- “What have You got to do with Our Civil War?” Or explaining why an Englishman is interested in nineteenth century U.S. history, Rowan University, Phi Alpha Theta banquet, Sewell, New Jersey (April 26, 2015)
- “The Governor becomes a General”: The Civil War Career of Henry Alexander Wise, Charlottesville-Albemarle County Civil War Round Table, Virginia (November 18, 2014) and Rappahannock Valley Civil War Roundtable in Fredericksburg, Virginia (August 8, 2016)
- Commentator on “Is Political Liberty Necessary for Economic Prosperity?” Symposium, Arizona State University (November 7-8, 2014)
- The Confederate World in the Civil War, The American Historical Association 2014 Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. (January 4, 2014)
- “The Imperial Throne of Southern Commerce is Now Vacant for our Possession”: George Wythe Randolph, Jefferson, Virginia and the Confederacy, Charlottesville-Albemarle County Civil War Round Table, Virginia (July 16, 2013)
- British Tories and Southern Confederates: Partners in Global Progress? The Tory World Conference: A Deep History of the Tory Party and its Views of Britain’s World Role, Exeter University, ENGLAND (June 20-21, 2013)
- Confederate Visions of the Future in the Lower Mississippi Valley from Secession to the End of the Civil War, Historic Natchez Conference, Mississippi (April 18-20, 2013)
- “Rethinking an Empire for Liberty”: George Wythe Randolph and the Jeffersonian Inheritance of Expansion in the Confederacy, International Center for Jefferson Studies, Monticello, Charlottesville, Virginia (January, 15, 2013)
- “Weal or Woe”: Confederate Expansionist Ambitions in 1863, Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, Mobile, Alabama (November 1-4, 2012)
- “It opens to us the markets of the whole Pacific coast, and the eastern world”: Confederate Westward Expansionist Ambitions During the American Civil War, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California (October 23, 2012)
- Confederate Expansionist Ambitions in the Upper South and Ohio Valley, The Filson Society, Louisville, Kentucky (September 13, 2012)
- “The Basis of Confederate Ambitions for Expansion,” The Boston Athenaeum, Massachusetts (July 23, 2012)
- “Self-Assertion”: Fashioning the Foreign Policy of the Confederacy, Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Meeting, Hartford, Connecticut (June 28-30, 2012)
- “Duty or Destiny”: Fluctuating Confederate Expansionist Ambitions during 1862, The Future of Civil War History: Conference on New Methods and Frameworks for Understanding,” Drew University, Madison, New Jersey (March 30-31, 2012)
- “The Richmond Campaign to Antietam: the Civil War’s International Interlude,” Charlottesville-Albemarle County Civil War Round Table, Virginia (January 17, 2012)
- “Resolving Dilemmas”: How George C. Marshall Successfully Reconciled his Personal and Professional Lives in Pursuit of Excellence, Nights at the Archives Series, George C. Marshall Foundation, Lexington, Virginia (October 27, 2011)
- “The Destiny of Empire”: How Secessionists Tried to Counter the Appeal of Union, The Annual Conference of the Association of British American Nineteenth Century Historians, Madingley Hall, Cambridge, ENGLAND (October 14-16, 2011)
- “The Necessity of Continuing and Extending”: An Introduction to Confederate Expansionist Ambitions in Peace and War, 1861-2, Civil War – Global Conflict Conference, College of Charleston, South Carolina (March 3-5, 2011)
- “Making the Big Stick”: A Civil War Preview, American Power and Energy--A History of the United States, University of Virginia (February 21, 2011)
- “In the Shadow of Palmerston”: The Conservative Party and its Foreign Policy from the Fall of Peel to the Death of Palmerston, 1846-65, Conference on the Primacy of Foreign Policy in British History, University of Glasgow. Scotland (March 27-29, 2008)

“The Primacy of Foreign Policy in German History,” The Struggle for Mastery in Germany Symposium, Cambridge University, England (May 24, 1994)

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Director of Community Education, Political History and Leadership Program, Arizona State University, Tempe, August 2019-May 2024

Andrew W. Mellon Fellow, The American Civil War Museum, Richmond, Virginia (July 2017-July 2018)

Prepared Teaching Module on Diplomacy during the American Civil War, John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History, University of Virginia (July 2017-August 2018)

Assistant, “The South in American History,” Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, online course for M.A. in American History from Adams State University (Spring 2015)

Assistant, “The American Civil War: Origins and Consequences,” Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Teacher Seminars (June 2012, June 2013, June 2014, June 2015)

Internship, George C. Marshall Foundation, Lexington, Virginia, Collections Processing and Research, Institute of Public History (May 2011-August 2011)

Research Assistant, People of the Founding Era Project, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (November 2010 – January 2011; May 2011-January 2012)

Prepared the index for Gary W. Gallagher and Caroline E. Janney eds., *Cold Harbor to the Crater: The End of the Overland Campaign* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015)

Prepared the index for Gary W. Gallagher, *Becoming Confederates: Paths to a New National Loyalty* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2013)

Prepared the index for Gary W. Gallagher and Rachel A. Sheldon eds., *A Political Nation: New Directions in Mid-Nineteenth-Century American Political History* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2012)

More than 12 years in marketing, planning and finance in the Technology sector in UK, US, Europe. Created strategic plans for T-Mobile UK’s data & wholesale cellular business; passed professional accountancy examinations