

RACHEL SARCEVIC-TESANOVIC
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CURRENT POSITION

Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Nicholas D. Chabreja Center for Historical Studies, Northwestern University, 2026-2027

EDUCATION

Northwestern University | Evanston, IL

Doctor of Philosophy in History, Early Modern and Modern Europe | December 2026

Specialization: France and the Francophone Atlantic World, 1700-1900

Minor Field: Latin America and the Caribbean

Dissertation: "Intimate Economies: Free Women of African Descent and Making the Francophone Atlantic World, 1750-1850"

Committee: Sarah Maza (advisor), Tessie Liu, and Leslie Harris

University of Chicago | Chicago, IL

Master of Arts in the Social Sciences, Concentration in History | August 2017

Thesis: "Reimagining the French Colonial 'Family': The Political Discourse of Saint-Domingue's Free Men of Color and the Boundaries of the Sacred Rights of Man, 1789-1792"

Advisor: Paul Cheney

Johns Hopkins University | Baltimore, MD

Bachelor of Arts in History, Minor in Philosophy | May 2013

RESEARCH INTERESTS

France's empire and the Francophone Atlantic world; the eighteenth and nineteenth century; the circum-Caribbean world; the African diaspora; slavery and colonialism; the intersections of gender, race, and sexuality; the practices and politics of race, kinship, and belonging; intimacy and the family

PUBLICATIONS

(Forthcoming) "In Return for Good and Essential Services: Ménagère Arrangements, Extralegal Intimacies, and Free Women of Color's Advancement Strategies in Saint-Domingue," *French Colonial History*

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2025 **Catherine Prelinger Award**, Coordinating Council for Women in History

2025	International Travel Conference Grant , Buffett Institute for Global Affairs
2025	Conference Travel Grant , The Graduate School, Northwestern University
2025	Dissertation Fellowship , Buffett Institute for Global Affairs
2024	Summer Public History Fellowship , Nicholas D. Chabreja Center for Historical Studies, Northwestern University
2024	Albert J. Beveridge Grant , American Historical Association
2024	W.J. Eccles Prize for the best paper presented by a graduate student at the French Colonial Historical Society's Annual Meeting
2022-2023	Fulbright Research Grant , France, Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program
2022-2023	Jeanne Marandon Fellowship (declined), Société des Professeurs Français et Francophone d'Amérique
2022	Millstone Research Fellowship , Western Society for French History
2021	Graduate Research Grant , The Graduate School, Northwestern University
2021	Accepted Participant , École d'été franco-américaine d'histoire du long dix-huitième siècle, ENS-Lyon
2018	History Department Research Grant , Northwestern University
2018	University Fellowship , The Graduate School, Northwestern University
2016-2017	Social Sciences Scholarship , Division of Social Sciences, University of Chicago

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

2026	"From Ménagères to Marchandes and Propriétaires: The Role of Free Women of Color in the Urban Economy of Saint-Domingue's Ports and Their Pathways to Greater Freedom," Panel Title: Liberty in Colonial and Revolutionary Saint-Domingue, Society for French Historical Studies Conference on "Liberties," Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 5-8
2025	"Resilient Networks: Intimate Ties and Economic Strategies in the Lives of Saint-Dominguan Free Women of Color in the Circum-Caribbean," The Global Consortium for French Historical Studies Conference on "Resistance," Paris, France, July 15-19

- 2024 Panel Organizer, Panel Title: Kinship, Freedom, and Migration in the Circum-Caribbean, French Colonial Historical Society's Annual Meeting on "The Intimacies of Empire," Charlottesville, Virginia, May 23-25
- 2024 "Forging New Paths: Intimate Ties and Economic Strategies in the Lives of Free Women of African Descent from Saint-Domingue to Louisiana," Panel Title: Kinship, Freedom, and Migration in the Circum-Caribbean, French Colonial Historical Society's Annual Meeting on "The Intimacies of Empire," Charlottesville, Virginia, May 23-25
- 2024 "In Return for Good and Essential Services: Ménagère Arrangements, Extralegal Intimacies, and Free Women of Color's Advancement Strategies in Saint-Domingue," Panel Title: French Women in Moments of Change, Global Graduate Exchange with the School of History at Queen Mary University of London, Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies, Northwestern University, May 3
- 2024 "In Return for Good and Essential Services: Ménagère Arrangements, Extralegal Intimacies, and Free Women of Color's Advancement Strategies in Saint-Domingue," Panel Title: Labor, Kinship, and Intimacy, University of Chicago Department of History Conference on "Islands of Scale: Forms of Globality in the French Antilles," Chicago, Illinois, April 19
- 2021 "Free Women of African Descent and Afro-European Unions in the Francophone Atlantic World," École d'été franco-américaine d'histoire du long dix-huitième siècle, Lyon, France, August 16

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Race, Sex, and Power in the Atlantic World (Upcoming)

Instructor of Record | Department of History | Northwestern University | Spring 2027

History of Modern France: The French Revolution and Napoleon (Upcoming)

Instructor of Record | Department of History | Northwestern University | Winter 2027

History of Modern France: 19th Century to Present

Teaching Assistant | Department of History | Northwestern University | Winter 2022

Europe in the Modern World

Teaching Assistant | Department of History | Northwestern University | Fall 2021

Gender, War, and Revolution in the 20th Century

Teaching Assistant | Departments of History and Gender and Sexuality Studies | Northwestern University | Spring 2021

Eighteenth-Century France: The Old Regime, The French Revolution, and Napoleon

Teaching Assistant | Department of History | Northwestern University | Fall 2020

Pirates, Guns, and Empires

Teaching Assistant | Department of History | Northwestern University | Spring 2020

Gender and Sexuality in African American Women's Lives: The Nineteenth Century

Teaching Assistant | Departments of History, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and African American Studies | Northwestern University | Fall 2019

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICE

2026	Translation Work , Primary Source Material for the Digital Collections for the Classroom, The Newberry Library
2020-2025	Graduate Teaching Committee Member , Department of History, Northwestern University
2024-2025	Graduate Coordinator , European Dissertators' Workshop, Department of History, Northwestern University
2024	Public History Fellow , Teacher Programs, The Newberry Library
2024	Early Career Scholars Panel Member , Panel on "Race and Empire in Teaching Francophone History," Presentation Title: "Race, Slavery, and Saint-Domingue in Teaching Eighteenth-Century French History," French Colonial Historical Society's Annual Meeting, Charlottesville, Virginia, May 23, 2024
2024	Certificate Program , Mentoring Workshop Series, Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Training and Development, The Graduate School, Northwestern University
2023	Translation Work , Primary Source Material for the Digital Collections for the Classroom, "The French Colonial Empire, 1500-1800," The Newberry Library
2023	Translation Work , Primary Source Material for the Digital Collections for the Classroom, "Subject to Citizen, Kingdom to Nation: Changing Notions of Identity in the Age of the French Revolution," The Newberry Library
2023	Content Review Work , Essays Included in the Digital Collections for the Classroom, "The French Colonial Empire, 1500-1800," The Newberry Library
2023	Content Review Work , Essays Included in the Digital Collections for the Classroom, "Subject to Citizen, Kingdom to Nation: Changing Notions of Identity in the Age of the French Revolution," The Newberry Library

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, French Colonial Historical Society

Member, Society for French Historical Studies

Member, Western Society for French History

Member, American Historical Association

Member, Coordinating Council for Women in History

LANGUAGES

French: Advanced reading, writing, and speaking proficiency

Spanish: Intermediate reading and writing proficiency

REFERENCES

Sarah Maza

Jane Long Professor in the Arts and Sciences and Professor of History, Department of History,
Northwestern University

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Tessie Liu

Professor of History and Gender and Sexuality Studies, Department of History, Northwestern
University

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