

Holly Swenson

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CURRENT POSITION

2024–25 Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Chabraja Center for Historical Studies, Northwestern University

EDUCATION

2018–24 **Northwestern University**, Ph.D. in Modern European History
Thesis: *Cultural Commerce: How Media Exports Made the British World in Australia, 1850–1990*
Committee: Deborah Cohen, Joel Mokyr, Tracy Davis, and Michael Stamm

2017–18 **University of Cambridge**, M.Phil. in Modern British History, Trinity Hall
Thesis: *The Dramatic Life of Lady Randolph Churchill*

2013–17 **Stanford University**, B.A. in History with departmental honors, Phi Beta Kappa
GPA: 3.97

RESEARCH INTERESTS

British and British World history	Cultural history
Media history	Economic and social history
Business history	Global history

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

“A ‘High Quality’ Deal: the Business of British Comedy Television in Australia, 1960–1990.” *Modern British History* Vol 35. 1, 2024: 115–132.

“‘The Vital Link’: British Print Media Export to Australia, 1853–2020.” *Enterprise & Society* Vol 26.1, 2025: 249–273 (published online March 2024).

Book Reviews

“Business as usual: how sponsored media sold American capitalism in the twentieth century,” *Business History*, published online December 18, 2024.

Works in Progress

The Business of Culture in the British World, 1850–1990 (book manuscript)

“British Literature for the World: the Book Export Scheme, 1939–1951” (In preparation for *Modern British History*)

“Pushing the Envelope: Theatrical Entrepreneurship in the British Commonwealth and the Development of International Intellectual Property Law” (In preparation for *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*)

FELLOWSHIPS AND PRIZES

- 2025 Donald Coleman Prize, for best British business history dissertation, Association of Business Historians, Finalist (Deferred to 2026)
- Margaret A. Blanchard Dissertation Prize, American Journalism Historians Association, Honorable Mention
- Alfred D. Chandler Jr. Travel Fellowship, Harvard Business School
- Visiting Research Fellowship Award in Business History, University of Glasgow Library (Deferred to 2026)
- Herman E. Krooss Dissertation Prize, Business History Conference, Semi-Finalist
- 2024 T.W. Heyck Prize for Outstanding Graduate Research in British History, Northwestern University History Department
- 2023 Duncan Tanner Prize, for outstanding research by a postgraduate student, *Modern British History* (formerly *Twentieth Century British History*)
- T.H. Breen Global Exchange Fellowship, Chabreja Center for Historical Studies, Northwestern University
- Dorothy W. Collin Fellowship in the History of the Book, awarded by the University of Western Australia
- 2022 National Archives of Australia/Australian Historical Society's Postgraduate Scholarship
- Arnstein Prize, Honorable Mention, Midwest Victorian Studies Association
- 2021 Graduate Research Grant, Northwestern University
- 2020 Graduate Research Grant, Northwestern University
- 2019 Summer Internship Grant, Chabreja Center for Historical Studies, Northwestern University
- 2018 Mellon Cluster Fellowship, for British Studies Cluster research at Northwestern University
- New Scholars Prize, Society for Theatre Research
- 2017 Undergraduate Essay Prize, North American Conference on British Studies
- James Birdsall Weter Prize for Outstanding History Honors Thesis, Stanford University
- Beyers' Prize for Excellence in Historical Scholarship, Stanford Historical Society

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 "Book Export Scheme, Ltd.: British Literature as Charm Offensive in the 1940s," American Historical Association Annual Conference, New York City, New York.
- 2024 "Advanced G&S': Gilbert & Sullivan in the British World," North American Conference on British Studies, Denver, Colorado.

- 2024 “The Business of Culture in the British World, 1850-1990,” Business History Summer School, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK.
- “A Funny Problem: The Business of Comedy Television in Australia in the Postimperial Moment,” International Communication Association Preconference: Going Global Before Satellite and Internet, Sydney, Australia.
- “A Funny Problem: The Business of Comedy Television in Australia in the Postimperial Moment,” Business History Conference, Providence, Rhode Island.
- “Cultural Commerce: British Media Exports and British Sentiment in Australia,” Center for Economic History, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.
- 2023 “No Laughing Matter: British Comedy Television in Global Markets, 1968–1980,” North American Conference on British Studies, Baltimore, Maryland.
- “English Gardening Literature in a Changing Climate: William Robinson and Gertrude Jekyll in Australia, 1869–1935,” Institute for Historical Research, History of Gardens and Landscapes Seminar, London, England.
- “‘High Quality’ and a Culture Industry that Bound the British World: British Comedy Television in Australia, 1960–1985,” Tony Slaven Doctoral Workshop, Association of Business Historians Conference, Newcastle, England.
- 2022 “Britain, Australia, and the Global Newsprint Market, 1920–45,” North American Conference on British Studies, Chicago, Illinois.
- “The Vital Link: British Newspaper Exports in the Twentieth Century,” Britain and the World Conference, Plymouth, England.
- “Cultural Commerce: Making the British World in Australia,” Business History Conference Doctoral Workshop, Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2021 “Romanticism, Globalization, and Racial Disgust: Willie Hoggan-Armadale and ‘Daisy Bell,’” Britain and the World Conference, Online.

SERVICE

- 2023–2024 British Studies Cluster Coordinator
- 2023–2024 History Department Graduate Teaching Committee
- 2022–2024 European Dissertators’ Workshop Convenor, Northwestern University
- 2021–2024 Graduate Writing Place Fellow
- 2020–2021 Long Nineteenth Century Colloquium Co-Convener, Northwestern University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

As Instructor of Record at Northwestern University

- 2025 Business Disasters in Modern History

As TA at Northwestern University

2022	The History of the Soviet Union
	Rome: Culture and Empire
2021	Ancient Greece: from Homer to Alexander the Great (online)
2020	History of the Holocaust
2019	Tudor and Stuart Britain

PUBLIC HUMANITIES

2022	Web Designer and Manager for “Northwestern Historians in Public Life”
2020–2022	Public Humanities Colloquium Participant
2019	TimeLine Theatre Company, Assistant Dramaturg, <i>Oslo</i>
2018	Conceiver, Director and Producer of “Between the Devil and the Deep Sea,” A World Premiere Staged Reading of a Play by Lady Randolph Churchill, Churchill Archives Center
2016	Hoover Institute Museum Exhibition: “Glimpses: The Official Art of War”

LANGUAGES

<i>Intermediate</i>	French
<i>Basic</i>	Swedish

AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association
Association of Business Historians
Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand
Britain and the World
Business History Conference
Economic History Association
International Communication Association
North American Conference on British Studies