

Holly Swenson

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CURRENT POSITION

2025–27 British History Postdoctoral Fellow, 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
- Winner: S. J. Butlin Prize for best postgraduate thesis in Australian or New Zealand economic history, Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand (2026)
 - Winner: T.W. Heyck Prize for outstanding graduate research in British History, Northwestern University History Department (2024)
- 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

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

“The British Book Export Scheme, 1939–1951.” *Book History* Vol 29.1, 2026, 94–129.

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

- Winner of the Mira Wilkins Prize for best article in international/comparative business history in *Enterprise & Society*, Business History Conference (2026).

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

- Winner of the Duncan Tanner Prize for outstanding research by a postgraduate student, *Modern British History* (formerly *Twentieth Century British History*) (2023).

Book Reviews and Dissertation Summaries

“Cultural Commerce: How Media Exports Made the British World in Australia, 1850–1990.” *Asia-Pacific Economic History Review* Vol. 66.1 (2026): 117–119.

“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)

“The (Mis)management of Male Emotions in British International Business” (in preparation for *Business History Review*)

“Rethinking Cultural Export Within and Beyond the Empire in the Twentieth Century” (in preparation for *Modern British History*)

PRIZES

- 2026 Mira Wilkins Prize, Business History Conference, Winner
S. J. Butlin Prize, Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand, Winner
Donald Coleman Prize, for best British business history dissertation, Association of Business Historians, Finalist
- 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
Herman E. Krooss Dissertation Prize, Business History Conference, Semi-Finalist
- 2024 T.W. Heyck Prize, Northwestern University, Winner
- 2023 Duncan Tanner Prize, *Modern British History*, Winner
- 2022 Arnstein Prize, Midwest Victorian Studies Association, Honorable Mention
- 2018 New Scholars Prize, Society for Theatre Research, Winner
- 2017 Undergraduate Essay Prize, North American Conference on British Studies, Winner
James Birdsall Weter Prize for Outstanding History Honors Thesis, Stanford University, Winner
Beyers' Prize for Excellence in Historical Scholarship, Stanford Historical Society, Winner

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2025 Alfred D. Chandler Jr. Travel Fellowship, Harvard Business School
Visiting Research Fellowship Award in Business History, University of Glasgow Library
- 2024 Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship, Chabreja Center for Historical Research, Northwestern University
- 2023 T.H. Breen Global Exchange Fellowship, Chabreja Center for Historical Studies, Northwestern University
Dorothy W. Collin Fellowship in the History of the Book, University of Western Australia
- 2022 National Archives of Australia/Australian Historical Association's Postgraduate Scholarship
- 2021 Graduate Research Grant, Northwestern University
- 2020 Graduate Research Grant, Northwestern University
- 2018 Mellon Cluster Fellowship, for British Studies Cluster research at Northwestern University

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 “What Value Empire? Commercial Cultural Exports Within and Beyond the British Empire,” Modern British History Conference, Birmingham, UK.
- “What Value Empire? Commercial Cultural Exports Within and Beyond the British Empire,” Business History Conference, London, UK.
- “Overwork and Communities of Care in International British Business, 1870-1930s,” American Historical Association Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois.
- 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.
- “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.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

As Instructor of Record at Northwestern University

2027	History of Global Entrepreneurship (HIST 254)
2026	Europe in the Modern World (HIST 201)
	Twentieth-Century British History (HIST 362)
2025	Business Disasters in Modern History (HIST 200)

As TA at Northwestern University

2022	The History of the Soviet Union (HIST 345)
	Rome: Culture and Empire (CLASSICS 212)
2021	Ancient Greece (online) (CLASSICS 211)
2020	History of the Holocaust (HIST 349)
2019	Tudor and Stuart Britain (HIST 360)

SERVICE

2026–2027	History of Capitalism Reading Group Convenor, Northwestern University
2026–2027	Newberry Library British Studies Seminar Co-Convenor
2023–2024	British Studies Cluster Coordinator, Northwestern University
2023–2024	History Department Graduate Teaching Committee, Northwestern University
2022–2024	European Dissertators' Workshop Convenor, Northwestern University
2021–2024	Graduate Writing Place Fellow, Northwestern University
2020–2021	Long Nineteenth Century Colloquium Co-Convener, Northwestern University

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 (theatrical historian), <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

LANGUAGES

Intermediate French

Basic Swedish

AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association

Association of Business Historians

Britain and the World

Business History Conference

Economic History Association

North American Conference on British Studies