

## **TED STEINBERG**

ADELINE BARRY DAVEE DISTINGUISHED  
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY  
PROFESSOR OF LAW

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

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### **EMPLOYMENT**

Adeline Barry Davee Distinguished Professor of History, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, 2006–  
Professor of Law, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, 1999–  
Professor of History, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, 1999–2006  
Associate Professor of History and Associate Professor of Law, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, 1996–1999  
Assistant Professor of History, New Jersey Institute of Technology and Rutgers University–Newark, 1993–1996  
Visiting Assistant Professor of History, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1990–1993

### **EDUCATION**

Brandeis University, Ph.D., 1989, History of American Civilization  
Tufts University, B.A., 1983, *Summa Cum Laude*, Special Honors in History

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

Faculty Distinguished Research Award, Case Western Reserve University, 2017  
New York Academy of History Fellow, 2016  
New York City Book Award, New York Society Library (Natural History category) for *Gotham Unbound: The Ecological History of Greater New York*, 2015  
PROSE Award, Association of American Publishers (U.S. History category) for *Gotham Unbound: The Ecological History of Greater New York*, 2015  
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES, Fellowship for University Teachers, 2010

Hartman Hotz Lectures in Law and Liberal Arts, University of Arkansas, 2007  
 B. BENJAMIN ZUCKER FELLOW, Yale University, 2006  
 Nominee, Carl F. Wittke Undergraduate Teaching Prize, Case Western Reserve University, 2006  
 Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities Fellowship, Case Western Reserve University, 2004  
 Pulitzer Prize Nominee (History), for *Down to Earth: Nature's Role in American History*, 2003  
 National Outdoor Book Award (Nature/Environment category) for *Down to Earth: Nature's Role in American History*, 2002  
 Pulitzer Prize Nominee (Nonfiction), for *Acts of God: The Unnatural History of Natural Disaster in America*, 2001  
 Ohio Academy of History Outstanding Publication Award for *Acts of God: The Unnatural History of Natural Disaster in America*, 2001  
 FREDERICK BURKHARDT FELLOWSHIP, American Council of Learned Societies, 2000–2001  
 JOHN SIMON GUGGENHEIM MEMORIAL FOUNDATION FELLOW, 1996  
 Spencer Foundation, Research Grant, 1995–1996  
 Willard Hurst Prize in American Legal History, for *Nature Incorporated*, 1992  
 Old Sturbridge Village E. Harold Hugo Memorial Book Prize (best book on the history and material culture of rural New England) for *Nature Incorporated*, 1992  
 American Council of Learned Societies, Grant-in-Aid, 1992–1993  
 MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF FELLOWS, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1990–1993  
 William F. Sullivan Research Fellowship, Museum of American Textile History, 1987–1988  
 Irving and Rose Crown Fellowship in the History of American Civilization, Brandeis University, 1984–1989  
 Phi Beta Kappa, Delta Chapter, Tufts University, 1983  
 Russell E. Miller History Prize, Tufts University, 1983

## BOOKS

*Gotham Unbound: The Ecological History of Greater New York* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2014, xxii + 517 pp.; paperback edition, 2015).  
*American Green: The Obsessive Quest for the Perfect Lawn* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2006, xv + 295 pp.; paperback edition, 2007).  
*Down to Earth: Nature's Role in American History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002, xiv + 347 pp.; paperback edition, 2002; 2d edition, 2009; 3d edition, 2013; 4th edition, 2019).

- Acts of God: The Unnatural History of Natural Disaster in America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000, xxiii + 294 pp.; paperback edition, 2003; 2d edition, 2006).
- Slide Mountain, or the Folly of Owning Nature* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1995, 212 pp.; paperback edition, 1996).
- Nature Incorporated: Industrialization and the Waters of New England* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991, xv + 284 pp.; paperback edition, Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 1994; paperback edition, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2004).

### ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- “Can Karl Polanyi Explain the Anthropocene? The Commodification of Nature and the Great Acceleration,” *Geographical Review* 109 (April 2019): 265–270.
- “Subversive Subjects: Donald Worster and the Radical Origins of Environmental History,” in *Field on Fire: The Future of Environmental History*, ed. Mark Hersey and Ted Steinberg (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2019), 17–27.
- “Les eaux de l’industrie,” in *Posséder la nature : Environnement et propriété dans l’histoire*, ed. Frédéric Graber and Fabien Locher (Paris: Éditions Amsterdam, 2018), 129–142.
- “Private Property and the Defiance of Natural Limits: Coastal Flooding in the United States’ Largest City,” *Global Environment* 11 (2018): 208–218.
- Afterword in *Environmental Disaster in the Gulf South: Two Centuries of Catastrophe, Risk, and Resilience*, ed. Cindy Ermus (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2018), 184–194.
- “Can New York City Survive the Sea,” *Dissent* 61 (Summer 2014): 60–64.
- “A Natural Disaster, and a Human Tragedy,” in *Critical Thinking, Thoughtful Writing*, ed. John Chaffee, 6th ed. (Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning, 2014), 326–330.
- “Can Capitalism Save the Planet? On the Origins of Green Liberalism,” *Radical History Review* 2010, no. 107: 7–24.
- “United States of Fertilizer: A Case Study of Corporations and Environmental Harm,” *Hedgehog Review* 11 (Summer 2009): 55–65.
- “Lawn-O-Rama: The Commodification of Landscape in Postwar America,” in *Natures Past*, ed. Paolo Squatriti (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2007), 270–287.
- “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Archives,” *Environmental History* 10 (October 2005): 742–743.
- “Lawn and Landscape in World Context, 1945–2005,” *OAH Magazine of History* 19 (November 2005): 62–68.

- “Environment,” introductory essay in *Encyclopedia of New England Culture*, ed. Burt Feintuch and David Watters (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005), 531–541.
- “Last Call for Judgment Day,” *Southern Exposure* 22 (2004): 68–76.
- “Big Is Ugly: The Corporate Enclosure of the Global Water Supply,” *Technology and Culture* 45 (July 2004): 618–623.
- “Honest (and Honest to God) Dirt,” *Journal of Urban History* 31 (Nov.2004): 101–105.
- “Fertilizing the Tree of Knowledge: Environmental History Comes of Age,” *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 35 (Autumn 2004): 265–277.
- “Down, Down, Down, No More: Environmental History Moves Beyond Declension,” *Journal of the Early Republic* 24 (Summer 2004): 260–266. Reprinted in John Lauritz Larson and Michael A. Morrison, eds., *Whither the Early Republic: A Forum on the Future of the Field* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005).
- “Down to Earth: Nature, Agency, and Power in History,” *American Historical Review* 107 (2002): 798–820. (Forum Essay)
- “Split Personality Ponds,” *Massachusetts Historical Review* 3 (2001): 138–145.
- “The Secret History of Natural Disaster,” *Environmental Hazards* 3 (2001): 31–35.
- “Smoke and Mirrors: The San Francisco Earthquake and Seismic Denial,” in *American Disasters*, ed. Steven Biel, (New York: New York University Press, 2001), 103–126.
- “Morton Salt Disaster,” in *Writing on Water*, ed. David Rothenberg and Marta Ulvaeus (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2001), 100–110.
- “L.A. Exponential: The Case Against Southern California Exceptionalism,” *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism* 10 (Sept. 1999): 52–58.
- “Do-It-Yourself Deathscape: The Unnatural History of Natural Disaster in South Florida,” *Environmental History* 2 (October 1997): 414–438. Reprinted in Paul Sutter and Christopher Manganiello, eds., *Environmental History and the American South* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2009).
- “What is a Natural Disaster?” *Literature and Medicine* 15 (Spring 1996): 33–47.
- “New England in a Pocketbook: Gazetteers and the Modernization of Landscape,” *American Studies* 35 (Fall 1994): 59–72.
- “Environment,” in *Encyclopedia of Social History*, ed. Peter N. Stearns (New York: Garland Publishing Company, 1994), 236–37.
- “Cloudbusting in Fulton County: A Study on the Ownership of Weather,” *Michigan Quarterly Review* 32 (Spring 1993): 209–30.
- “That World's Fair Feeling: Control of Water in 20th-Century America,” *Technology and Culture* 34 (April 1993): 401–9.

“God’s Terminus: Boundaries, Nature, and Property on the Michigan Shore,”  
*American Journal of Legal History* 37 (Jan. 1993): 65–90.

“Dam-Breaking in the 19th-Century Merrimack Valley: Water, Social Conflict,  
and the Waltham-Lowell Mills,” *Journal of Social History* 24 (Fall 1990):  
25–45. Reprinted in Carroll Pursell, ed., *American Technology* (Malden,  
MA: Blackwell, 2001).

“An Ecological Perspective on the Origins of Industrialization,” *Environmental  
History Review* 10 (Winter 1986): 261–76. Reprinted in the Fortieth  
Anniversary Virtual Issue.

### BOOK REVIEW ESSAYS

*Agricultural History*  
*American Historical Review*  
*Bulletin of the History of Medicine*  
*Canadian Historical Review*  
*Comparative Studies in  
Society & History*  
*Environmental History*  
*H-Environment*  
*Isis*  
*Journal of American History*  
*Journal of American Studies*  
*Journal of Interdisciplinary History*  
*Journal of Ecological Economics*  
*Journal of Historical Geography*  
*Journal of Social History*  
*Journal of Southern History*  
*Law and History Review*

*Northwest Ohio Quarterly*  
*Oregon Historical Quarterly*  
*Pacific Historical Review*  
*Pennsylvania Magazine of  
History and Biography*  
*Planning Perspectives*  
*Public Historian*  
*Reviews in American History*  
*Radical Historians Newsletter*  
*Register of the Kentucky  
Historical Society*  
*Science*  
*Technology and Culture*  
*Terra Nova*  
*The Trumpeter*  
*Urban Affairs Review*  
*Western Historical Quarterly*

### COURSE REPERTOIRE

Environmental History  
of North America  
Environmental History and the Law  
Historical Research and Writing  
Method and Theory  
History of Corporate America  
History of Technology  
History of the American West  
Introduction to American History

Introduction to U.S. Historiography  
Legal History of the Corporation  
Natural Disaster in History  
Radical History in America  
Senior Research Seminar  
Social History and Policy  
Social History of Crime  
U.S. History Survey, 1865–Present  
World History

### **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS (since 2014)**

Heyburn Lecture, Milton Academy, Milton, MA, November 20–22, 2019  
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York, October 4, 2019  
NYC H2O and Hunter College, New York, NY, March 16, 2018  
Williams College, Williamstown, MA, October 27, 2017  
Kent State University, Kent, OH, September 15, 2017  
National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution,  
Washington, DC, November 29, 2016  
Renmin University, Beijing, China, June 27, 2016  
Agricultural History Conference (Keynote Address), City College of New  
York, June 23, 2016  
Florida International University/HistoryMiami, April 8, 2016  
University of Copenhagen, Denmark, Northern European Conference on  
Disaster Studies (Keynote Address), December 11, 2015  
Amherst College, Association for the Advancement of Liberal Arts Colleges  
(Keynote Address), October 23, 2015  
École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, June 1, 2015  
New York Society Library, May 4, 2015  
Tulane University, April 9, 2015  
New York University, Tandon School of Engineering, February 26, 2015  
University at Buffalo, State University of New York, November 14, 2014  
Museum of the City of New York, October 27, 2014  
Yale University, October 9, 2014  
New York University, Institute for Public Knowledge, October 8, 2014  
Architectural League of New York, The Five Thousand Pound Life: Nature  
and the City, September 26, 2014  
American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New Directions in Disaster  
History Panel, January 4, 2014

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE**

Vetting (books): Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press,  
Harvard University Press, Princeton University Press, University of  
Chicago Press, University of California Press, University of North  
Carolina Press, Johns Hopkins University Press, Columbia University  
Press, University of Washington Press, University of Georgia Press,  
University of Minnesota Press, University of Pittsburgh Press, Fordham  
University Press, University Press of Kansas, SUNY Press, Bloomsbury,  
Resources for the Future Press, Wiley-Blackwell, McGraw Hill,  
Routledge, New Press, Penguin Books, W. W. Norton & Company

Consulting: Brooklyn (NY) Historical Society; Kanji and Katzen (*United States v. Washington*); Environmental Literacy Council; Charles River Museum of Industry, Waltham, MA; Belknap Mills, Laconia, NH; Lowell National Historical Park, U.S. National Park Service, Lowell, MA; *Encyclopedia of New England Culture*; *Cambridge Dictionary of American Biography*

Chair, Dean Review Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, Case Western Reserve University, 2016

Co-Leader, Jewish Voice for Peace, Cleveland Chapter, 2015–present

President, Case Western Reserve University Chapter of the American Association of University Professors, 2011

Co-Chair, Task Force on Research, College of Arts & Sciences, Case Western Reserve University, 2007

Faculty Presidential Search Advisory Committee, Case Western Reserve University, 2006

Chair, Twentieth-Century U.S. History Search Committee, Case Western Reserve University, 2005–2006

President’s Advisory Committee on Promotion and Tenure, Case Western Reserve University, 2005

Executive Committee, American Society for Environmental History, 2003–2006

Chair, Early American History Search Committee, Case Western Reserve University, 2003–2004

President, Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha of Ohio, 2003–2009; Vice-President, 2001–2003

Editorial Board, *Environmental History*, 2002–2010

Associate Chair, Department of History, Case Western Reserve University, 1999–2000

Director of Graduate Studies in History, Case Western Reserve University, 1998–1999, 2000–2002, 2011 (interim director, spring semester), 2017–present

Chair, Women’s History Search Committee, Case Western Reserve University, 1998–1999

Chair, Program Committee, American Society for Environmental History, 1995

Associate Editor, *Environmental History Review*, 1993–1996

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

Essays: *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *Scientific American*, *Natural History*, *Discover Magazine*, *American*

*Scientist, Chronicle of Higher Education, Newsday, Métropolitiques, Counterpunch, Guardian*

Radio, Television, and Documentary Appearances: Radio France International, August 7, 2020; WNYC, *Freakonomics Radio* with Stephen J. Dubner, June 18, 2020; May 31, 2017; WNPR (Connecticut Public Radio), *Where We Live*, August 12, 2016; CUNY TV, *Science and the Earth*, August 4, 2015; WAMC (Northeast Public radio), *The Academic Minute*, July 3, 2015; *Sierra Club Radio* with Orli Cotel, May 30, 2015; *Plant This Movie* (urban farming documentary directed by Karney Hatch), November 7, 2014; WABC (New York City) *John Batchelor Show*, November 3, 2014; WNET (Newark, NJ), *Metrofocus* with Jack Ford, October 23, 2014; Jeff Schechtman's *Specific Gravity*, August 5, 2014; KCRW (Santa Monica, CA), *Press Play* with Madeleine Brand, July 22, 2014; *Publishers Weekly Radio* with Rose Fox, June 19, 2014; WNYC, *Leonard Lopate Show*, June 10, 2014; *The Takeway* with John Hockenberry, November 21, 2013; *CBS Sunday Morning*, May 29, 2011; WFPL (Louisville), *Homegrown*, August 16, 2009; *Penn & Teller: Bullshit!* Lawns, season 7, episode 8, August 14, 2009; KUER (Salt Lake City), *RadioWest*, July 29, 2008; Wisconsin Public Radio, *Kathleen Dunn Show* (Veronica Rueckert in for Kathleen Dunn), July 25, 2008; WVIZ/PBS (Cleveland), *Ideas: Lawn Care* with David C. Barnett, February 11, 2008; *CBS Sunday Morning*, "The History of the American Lawnmower," August 19, 2007 (rebroadcast June 1, 2008); Wisconsin Public Radio, *Joy Cardin Show*, July 19, 2007; KUAF (Fayetteville, AR), *Kyle Kellums Show*, April 30, 2007; KPCC (Southern California Public Radio), *Airtalk*, April 4, 2007; KFOX (San Jose), *Fred Reiss Weekly World Update*, September 6, 2006; *CBS Sunday Morning*, "Making the Grass Greener on Your Side," September 3, 2006 (rebroadcast April 28, 2010); KSTP (Minneapolis), *The Tom Mischke Show*, August 1, 2006; KRLA (Los Angeles) *The Dennis Prager Show*, July 25, 2006; KPCC (Southern California Public Radio), *Patt Morrison Show*, July 18, 2006; CKLW (Bingham Farmers, MI/Windsor, Ontario), *Melanie DeVeau Show* July 18, 2006; *To the Best of Our Knowledge*, July 9, 2006; KQRS (Minneapolis), July 7, 2006; WBAL (Baltimore), July 4, 2006; WHO (Des Moines), *Stephen Winzenburg Show*, July 3, 2006; KAHL (San Antonio), *Ron Thulin Show*, June 30, 2006; Martha Stewart Living Radio, *Homegrown*, June 13, 2006; American Public Media, *Marketplace Money*, June 2, 2006; WCPN (Cleveland), May 30, 2006; WPHT (Philadelphia), *The Michael Smerconish Morning Show*, May 24, 2006; WHYI (Philadelphia), *Radio Times* with Marty Moss-Coane, May 12, 2006; WTKF (Atlantic, NC), *Viewpoints*, May 12, 2006; WHYI (Philadelphia) *You Bet Your Garden*, May 13, 2006; WKBN (Youngstown, OH), May 3,



2006; CHOK (Sarnia, Ontario) *Lee Michaels Show*, April 25, 2006; Wisconsin Public Radio, *Joy Cardin Show*, April 24, 2006; WLW (Cincinnati) *Gary Burbank Show*, April 18, 2006; WREL (Lexington, VA), April 11, 2006; WZTK (Burlington, NC), April 11, 2006; CBC, *The Current* with Anna Maria Tremonti, April 5, 2006; Minnesota Public Radio, *Mary Lucia Show*, March 31, 2006; Talk Radio Network, *The Jerry Doyle Show*, March 27, 2006; Bloomberg Radio, March 21, 2006; KXEL (Waterloo-Cedar Falls, IA), *On the Air* with Mike Bunge, March 17, 2006; WBUR (Boston), *On Point*, March 14, 2006; A&E TV, *Weather...or Not?* November 7, 2005; WHRV (Norfolk, VA), *HearSay* with Cathy Lewis, September 12, 2005; WWRL (New York), September 5, 2005; WNYC, *Leonard Lopate Show*, September 1, 2005

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