

Amy M. Cools

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Personal Profile

Prior to my PhD in History from the University of Edinburgh, I have long been an independent scholar in the humanities, especially history, intellectual history, and philosophy. Creator of a website 'dedicated to the history of ideas that change the world,' I have been focused on public impact in the world of ideas since 2013. My employment background is strong in writing, research, tutoring, entrepreneurship, online and social media tools, and management. I am pursuing employment in higher education, writing, research, and public impact.

Education and Honors

PhD in History, University of Edinburgh, 2018-2021

MSc in Intellectual History with Distinction, University of Edinburgh, 2018

BA in Philosophy: Ethics, Politics and Law, Summa Cum Laude, California State University at Sacramento, 2013

Associate of Arts, Humanities, and Fine Arts, Distinction, Riverside City College, 1999

Certificate

Associate Fellow, Advance HE, 2021

Program Graduate - Women's Initiative for Self-Employment, Oakland, 2008

Additional

Studies in Political Theory, Philosophy, and Spanish, Peralta Colleges, 2011

Studies in Textiles, Fine Arts, and English Literature, San Francisco State University 2000-2001

Fellowships, Grants, and Scholarships

Society of Civil War Historians Micro-Grant, 2020

McMillan Award, University of Edinburgh, 2019/20

Gilder Lehrman Institute for American Studies Scholarly Fellowship, 2019

European Association for American Studies Research Travel Grant, 2019

Research/Writing Assistant

Just Spring Press, <http://justspringpress.com/>

Teaching / Tutoring

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Glasgow: The Social and Cultural History of Europe, 1500-2000 (autumn 2021)

Tutorial instructor, University of Edinburgh, 2019-2021: History of the United States (online,

spring 2021); Themes in Modern European History (hybrid, autumn 2020); Themes in Scottish History Since 1560 (in-person, spring 2020); and Modern United States History (in-person, autumn 2019)

Writing Centre Tutor, Riverside City College, CA, USA, academic year 1998-99

Research Interests

Dr. James McCune Smith and his 19th-century transatlantic world; history of philosophy, early modern to modern; history of science; U.S. presidential history; Native American and U.S. relations and conflicts, especially from the Civil War era to the early 1900's. Her biographical research has also focused particularly on Frederick Douglass; Margaret Sanger; Thomas Paine; David Hume; and Joan of Arc, among others.

Writings

Published

- '[James McCune Smith and Glasgow: A Scholar's Transatlantic Journey, 1821-1837](#),' Beniba Centre for Slavery Studies, University of Glasgow, 17 October 2021
- 'Roots: Tracing the Family History of James McCune and Malvina Barnett Smith, 1783-1937,' Parts 1-3, *Journal of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society*, Vol. 37 (2020)
- 'James McCune Smith Predicted African American Preeminence in United States Art and Culture' in 'A New Dawn of Freedom' special issue for *Kalfou: A Journal of Comparative and Relational Ethnic Studies*, Vol. 7 No. 1 (2020)
- 'Roots: Tracing the Family History of James McCune and Malvina Barnett Smith' (summary), *AAHGS News: The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society*, September/October 2020
- '[Paine on Basic Income and Human Rights](#),' Thomas Paine National Historical Association website, 30 March 2016
- '[Science & Philosophy: A Beautiful Friendship](#),' *Philosophy Now*, Issue 109, Aug./Sep. 2015
- [Ordinary Philosophy](#): Self-published historical, philosophical, and other essays, 2013-present

Unpublished

"The Life and Work of James McCune Smith (1813-1865)," PhD thesis 2021

"Frederick Douglass and His Scottish Influences" MSc thesis 2018

Conferences, Papers Delivered

- "Association of Ladies': Emeline Bastien, Fanny Tompkins, and Leadership in the African American Community of New York City, 1810-1885,' British Association for American Studies, 8-10 October 2021, Warwick, UK
- 'Genesis of a Medical Pioneer: James McCune Smith in Glasgow and Beyond, 1832-1837,'

American Association for the History of Medicine Annual Meeting, 13-16 May 2021, Madison, WI, USA

- 'Invaders: Dr. James McCune Smith and the History of Anti-Immigration Rhetoric in the United States,' British American Nineteenth Century Historians, 11-13 Oct. 2019, Edinburgh, UK

- 'James McCune Smith and Tokenism in the Mainstream Abolitionist Movement,' British Association for American Studies, 25-27 Apr. 2019, Brighton, UK

- 'James McCune Smith: African American Physician of Many Firsts,' First Year PhD in History conference, 11 Apr. 2019, University of Edinburgh, UK

- 'James McCune Smith and John Marshall on Form and Substance in U.S. Government,' Scottish Association for the Study of America, 2 Mar. 2019, Edinburgh, UK

- 'James McCune Smith Predicted African American Predominance in American Art and Culture,' Black Atlantic Authorship and Art (1818-2018) International Symposium, 16-17 Nov. 2018, Edinburgh, UK

Other Projects

- Ordinary Philosophy – 2013-present – website and podcast which publishes historical, philosophical, travel, and other essays; original scholarship and historical research; profiles of great thinkers and activists in history; reviews and recommendations; and discussions with scholars and specialists in history and the world of ideas www.ordinaryphilosophy.com

- Amy Cools' website – 2013-present – features original art quilts and past entrepreneurial enterprises in fashion design and the arts www.amymcools.com

Skills

Writing / Research / Educational

- Conducts historical research and provides writing assistance for an author currently working on a book about the history and significance of United States Supreme Court decisions

- Conducts history seminars for second-year undergraduates at the University of Glasgow – which she also did at the University of Edinburgh – guiding student discussions and marking coursework

- Authors and delivers papers at academic and professional conferences, conducting all research on which these papers are based

- Authored academic works and conference papers as a PhD candidate in History at the University of Edinburgh

- Authors / edits / publishes a series of essays and discussions about philosophy in the public square and the history of ideas, along with book / media reviews and social commentary at Ordinary Philosophy blog and podcast, conducting relevant historical research

- Authors a Traveling Philosophy / History of Ideas series following the lives and ideas of great thinkers of the past, conducting relevant historical research
- Organized a conference, as part of a committee, for first-year PhD students at the University of Edinburgh. Subsequently advised other students on conference organizing
- Assisted director of college writing center by performing various administrative tasks
- Tutored junior college students in a variety of subjects, especially symbolic logic and English composition

Administrative and Management

- Conducted all duties of managing and administering a medical office by overseeing employees; maintaining patient records and medical charts; ordering and maintaining medical and office supplies; creating and sending patient referrals; handling communications between medical practices for patient care; keeping and auditing pathology records; monitoring cancer patient treatment; keeping licensing and insurance company contracts up-to-date; scheduling appointments; answering high-volume phone calls; assisting at minor surgeries; scrubbing instruments, and other related duties
- Did bookkeeping, filing taxes, and paperwork for my own business and a busy medical office, and the same for many other small businesses
- Managed and created departments for the San Francisco Bay Area's largest retail salvage/reuse/recycling operation which sought to provide a green, ethical business model; oversaw employees in retail sales; set pricing; helped to write the operations manual; designed layout; set up décor and designed shop displays
- Designed, created, updated, and maintained business and directory websites

Design and the Arts

- Textiles: produced and designed apparel, accessories, and costumes
- Fine art: creates large-scale art quilts and pen and ink drawings
- Founded, designed, set up décor, and curated a new department to display and sell furniture, art, jewelry, and other high end and collectible artifacts at the San Francisco Bay Area's largest retail salvage/reuse/recycling operation
- Gallery work: archivist and docent at lace and textile museum; founded and curated a small art gallery

Entrepreneurial and Nonprofit

- Small business owner: founded a line of women's apparel and accessories, consisting of my own all-original designs, producing the line personally as well as directing production by others
- Online sales: founded, curated, and ran vintage clothing, fabric, and craft supply shops

- Authored a free online directory and resource for independent craft and design in wearable and textile arts
- Assistant media database compiler for the National Center for Science Education

Customer Service

- Performed front office / customer service duties at a high-volume, fast-paced medical office by greeting and rooming patients, obtaining medical history and insurance information, processing payments, assisting at medical procedures, and making the waiting and exam rooms welcoming and pleasant to the patients
- Acted as buyer, receiver, and salesperson for goods and services
- Gallery and sales floors merchandiser, designer, and docent
- Managed and acted as assistant manager for retail and food service establishments

Detailed employment history provided upon request