

Amy M. Cools

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### **Personal Profile**

I am a historian, researcher, educator, and author. Prior to returning to academia at the University of Edinburgh in 2017, I have long been an independent scholar in intellectual history and the humanities. Creator of a website 'dedicated to philosophy and the history of ideas that change the world,' I have been focused on public impact in the world of ideas since 2013.

### **Education and Honors**

PhD in History, University of Edinburgh, 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

### **Certificates**

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 abolitionist and human rights movements, especially late eighteenth through mid-nineteenth century; history of ideas and philosophy, especially early modern to modern; history of science and medicine; special topics in U.S. history. My biographical research and writing have also focused on Frederick Douglass; Margaret Sanger; Thomas Paine; David Hume; and Joan of Arc, among others.

### **Writings**

#### Under peer review

““Association of Ladies”: Emeline Bastien, Fanny Tompkins, and Leadership in the African American Community of New York City, 1810-1885,” *New York History*, Cornell University Press

Book review: “*The Failed Promise: Reconstruction, Frederick Douglass, and the Impeachment of Andrew Johnson*, Robert S. Levine, W. W. Norton & Company, 2021,” *Slavery & Abolition*, Taylor & Francis Online.

#### Articles

- ‘[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

#### Book reviews

- ‘Remaking the republic: black politics and the creation of American citizenship’ (Book review),

*Intellectual History Review* (24 Mar 2022), <https://doi.org/10.1080/17496977.2022.2047328>  
Unpublished

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

“Frederick Douglass and His Scottish Influences” MSc thesis 2018

### **Media**

“James McCune Smith's matriculation at UoG and his medical activism” (documentary), Beniba Centre for Slavery Studies, University of Glasgow, 19 April 2022.

[https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/slavery/news/headline\\_847051\\_en.html](https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/slavery/news/headline_847051_en.html).

### **Conferences, Papers Delivered**

- "'Drilled under the severe training of the University of Glasgow": New Discoveries Pertaining to Dr James McCune Smith's Experiences in Glasgow, 1832-1837,' Scottish Association for the Study of America 23rd Annual Conference, 5 March 2022, University of Glasgow, UK

- “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 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](http://www.ordinaryphilosophy.com)