

## **SIMON TORRACINTA**

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## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

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2023–present. Lecturer, Department for the History of Science, Harvard University.

2022–2023. Visiting Research Scholar, Center for the History of Political Economy, Duke University.

## **EDUCATION**

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2016–2023. Ph.D. (Distinction), History of Science and Medicine, Yale University.

Dissertation: “Economy of Desire: The Sciences of Human Wants, 1870–1950”  
Committee: Joanna Radin (Chair), Deborah Coen, Samuel Moyn

M.A. (2018); M.Phil. (2019)

2012–2014. M.A. International History, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.

2009–2012. B.A. (First Class), History, University of Oxford.

## **HONORS & AWARDS**

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2023	Hans Gatzke Dissertation Prize in History, Yale University
2021	<i>History of the Human Sciences</i> Early Career Prize
2012	Arnold Modern Historical Essay Prize (Best Thesis in History), University of Oxford
2012	Runner Up, Undergraduate Dissertation Prize, Society for the Study of French History

## **FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS**

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2022–23	Duke Center for the History of Political Economy Predoctoral Research Fellowship
2021	National Science Foundation Travel Grant, History of Science Society
2020	Princeton Library University Research Grant
2020	University of Chicago Robert L. Platzman Memorial Fellowship
2019	Duke Center for the History of Political Economy Young Scholars Grant
2019	Rockefeller Archive Center Research Stipend
2018	National Science Foundation Travel Grant, History of Science Society
2017–18	Overbrook History Fellowship Fund, Yale University
2017	History Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, Yale University

- 2016–17 A. Bartlett Giamatti Memorial Graduate Fellowship in the Humanities, Yale University
- 2016 LAHP Arts and Humanities Research Council Scholarship for Ph.D. in History, King's College London (declined)
- 2013 Visiting Fellowship, École Doctorale, Science Po Paris

## PUBLICATIONS

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### BOOKS

*Economy of Desire: The Sciences of Human Wants* (under contract: University of Chicago Press).

### PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

2023. “Maps of Desire: Edward Tolman’s Drive Theory of Wants,” *History of the Human Sciences* 36.1. Winner of the journal’s Early Career Prize.

### WORKING PAPERS

“Sign Your Work’: Services and the Personalization of Productivity.” *History of Political Economy* (under review).

### EDITED VOLUMES

2023. “Escape from the Market.” *On Solidarity*. Mie Inouye *et al.* Ed. Matt Lord. Cambridge: MIT Press. 144–162.
2021. “We Don’t Know, But Let’s Try It.” *Uncertainty*. Sheila Jasanoff *et al.* Ed. Joshua Cohen and Deborah Chasman. Cambridge: MIT Press. 132–155.

### PUBLIC WRITING

2024. *Dissent*. Review of *Visions of Inequality* by Branko Milanovic.
2023. *Washington Post*. Op-Ed. “A Miracle Cure for Addiction May Not Be Around the Corner.”
2023. *Boston Review*. Review of *Welfare for Markets* by Anton Jäger and Daniel Zamora Vargas.
2022. *Boston Review*. Review of *Thinking Like an Economist* by Elizabeth Popp-Berman, *Cogs and Monsters* by Diane Coyle, and *What’s Wrong with Economics?* by Robert Skidelsky.
2021. *Boston Review*. Review of *Albert O. Hirschman* by Michele Alacevich.
2021. *New Labor Forum*. Review of *Post-Growth Living* by Kate Soper.
2020. *Boston Review*. Review of *Veblen* by Charles Camic.
2020. *History of Anthropology Review*. Review of *Gift Exchange* by Grégoire Mallard.
2020. *n+1*. “Extinction Event.” On financing higher education.
2017. *The New Inquiry*. Review of *The Economization of Life* by Michelle Murphy.

## TEACHING

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### HARVARD UNIVERSITY

#### *Instructor of Record:*

Being Human since 1945 (Fall 2023, Fall 2024)

This seminar traces the arc of the human sciences since 1945. Each session considers a different object of the human sciences—e.g. sex, race, primates, blood, brains—as they became salient for researchers seeking to get at the root of the human species. The course draws together developments in fields like primatology, cognitive science, genomics, human biology, demography, psychiatry, and neuroscience to understand the stakes behind claims to human nature and dreams of reengineering or liberation.

From Steam Engines to Silicon Valley: Science and Capitalism in History (Spring 2024)

This lecture course examines the interrelated histories of science and capitalism, beginning with the dramatic and intertwined transformations of the “scientific revolution,” the transition to capitalism, and the global “great divergence,” and continuing to the present. Topics covered include science and empire; energy, work, and fossil capitalism; the technics of the industrial revolution; the science of racial capitalism; the rise of corporate science and R&D; techniques of quantification and economic calculation; biotechnology and pharmaceuticals; and the origins of “Big Tech.”

#### *Instructor:*

Junior Tutorial (HS98): Historical Research Methods (Fall 2023 & Spring 2024)

#### *Undergraduate Advising:*

Senior Thesis (HS99): “Laboratory Culture from the Double Helix to Biogen: Mentorship and Innovation in the Harvard Biological Laboratories, 1960-1990,” Abigail Fennelly, 2023–24.

### YALE UNIVERSITY

#### *Instructor of Record:*

Being Human since 1945 (Summer 2023)

#### *Teaching Fellow:*

American Economic History (Spring 2021)

Historical Perspectives on Global Health (Fall 2020)

Making Climate Knowledge (Fall 2019)

The World circa 2000 (Spring 2019)

Media and Medicine in Modern America (Fall 2018)

American Environmental History (Spring 2018)

### GULL ISLAND INSTITUTE

#### *Visiting Faculty*

Seminar on Louis Agassiz and the Penikese Island Anderson School (Summer 2024)

## INVITED TALKS

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- 2024 “‘Sign Your Work’: Services and the Personalization of Productivity.” History of Political Economy Conference (Duke University, April 2024).
- 2024 “Motive Forces: Two Moments in the Scientific History of Desire.” Richardson Seminar on the History of Psychiatry, DeWitt Wallace Institute (Weill Cornell, January 2024).
- 2022 “The Disappearance of Desire.” Transforming *Homo Economicus* Workshop (École normale supérieure Paris-Saclay, December 2022).
- 2019 “Utility: Need and Satiation in the Affluent Society.” With the Yale Working Group on Globalization and Culture (Dartmouth University, May 2019).

## CONFERENCES

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### PANEL ORGANIZATION

- 2021 *Working Theories: The Human Sciences and Motivation to Labor in the Twentieth Century*. Sponsored by the Forum for History of Human Science. History of Science Society. (New Orleans, November 2021).

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “The Faces of Desire: Of Monkeys, Men, and Morphine.” History of Science Society (Mérida, Mexico, November 2024).
- 2022 “‘A Self-Contained Globule of Desire’: Wants in the Birth of Microeconomics.” Center for the History of Political Economy Workshop (Duke University, November 2022).
- 2021 “States of Desire: The Socialist Calculation Debate over Incommensurable Wants.” History of Economics Society (Utrecht, Netherlands, December 2021).
- 2021 “Time, Labor, and Motivation in Midcentury Economics.” History of Science Society. (New Orleans, November 2021).
- 2021 “Abstract Leisure-Time.” With the Yale Working Group on Globalization and Culture. Yale University American Studies Colloquium (June 2021).
- 2019 “The Moral Economies of Modernization: Eric Wolf’s Cold War Peasant Ethnography.” American Anthropological Association. (Vancouver, November 2019).
- 2019 “‘(Can’t Get No) Satisfaction’: Utility and Need in the Global 1970s.” Cultural Studies Association. (New Orleans, June 2019).
- 2018 “Two Sciences for ‘Man with a Capital-M’: Man’s Role and Anthropology in the Atomic Age.” History of Science Society. (Seattle, November 2018).
- 2018 “How do you know we’ll be alive then?’: Spaceship Earth, Cold War Man, and the Origins of the Anthropocene.” 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Joint Atlantic Seminar for the History of Biology. (Princeton University, April 2018).
- 2017 “Science for Earthly Survival: The *Radical Science Journal* in the History of Science.” Knowledges in Contact: 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Natura Conference on Science and Epistemology. (Rutgers University, March 2017).

## **MEDIA APPEARANCES**

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“For an Alternative Hedonism.” KBOO 90.7FM Portland. August 2021.

“Higher Education in Crisis.” *The Dig* Podcast. September 2020.

## **LANGUAGES**

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English & French (native speaker); Spanish (fluent); German (working)

## **ACTIVITIES & SERVICE**

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Contributing Editor, *Boston Review* (2023-present).

Treasurer, Forum for History of Human Science (2023–present).

Steering Committee, Forum for History of Human Science (2021–present).

Editor, *History of Anthropology Review* (<http://histanthro.org/>) (2018–present).

Coordinator, Yale Working Group on Marxism & Cultural Theory (2018–22).

Coordinator, Holmes Workshop in the History of Science and Medicine, Yale University (2018–19).

Member, Yale Working Group on Globalization and Culture (2018–21).

Graduate Affiliate, Trumbull College, Yale University (2018–19).

Associate Editor, *History of Anthropology Review* (2017–18).

Student Representative, Search Committee, Assistant Professor of International History, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva (2014).