

Will Mackintosh

Associate Professor of History and American Studies at University of Mary Washington
Fredericksburg, VA, US

Dr. Mackintosh is an expert in early American history, nineteenth century history, & the history of tourism.

Biography

Growing up in the Rust Belt, Will Mackintosh sought answers from the past in order to understand and explain the fading world around him. "My roots on the banks of the Erie Canal have profoundly shaped my professional interests, both chronologically and thematically," said Mackintosh, who earned a bachelor's degree in history from Swarthmore College and a master's degree and Ph.D. in history from the University of Michigan. Mackintosh's book *Selling the Sights: The Invention of the Tourist in American Culture*, was inspired by his high school summer job as a waiter on a dinner cruise boat touring a lake lined with Gilded-Age mansions. "It just got me really interested in the way people spent their leisure time in the nineteenth century," he said in an interview on the *With Good Reason* public radio show. He is also the editor of "The Panorama: Expansive Views from The Journal of the Early Republic." An expert on American criminal history, Mackintosh has researched the Loomis Gang, a highly organized group of horse thieves that operated out of central New York state for much of the 1800s. "Although clearly a criminal organization, the gang used many of the pioneering organization techniques of nineteenth century big business, including dividing territory, monitoring and manipulating local markets, and investing heavily in the control of local and statewide politicians in order to influence public policy," Mackintosh said. At UMW, Mackintosh teaches courses on early American history, the American Revolution and Early Republic, American history to 1865, gender history, urban history, history of the book, history of capitalism, and the history of crime and punishment in the U.S.

Areas of Expertise

Cultural History of Capitalism, History of Travel and Tourism, Nineteenth Century History, Early American History, Cultural and Intellectual History, History of Leisure

Affiliations

"The Panorama," digital supplement to *The Journal of the Early Republic* : Founding Editor, Papers of James Monroe Project Advisory Board : Member

Event Appearances

Selling the Sights: The Invention of the Tourist in American Culture
Newport Symposium - 2019

New England Travel Entrepreneurs and the Commodification of Leisure Experiences, 1820-1860
Deerfield-Wellesley Symposium - 2019

Manitous at the Springs: Imagined Indians and Elite Tourism in the Long Nineteenth Century
American Studies Association Annual Meeting - 2018

Painesque Publishing: How Historians Write Politics, Then and Now
Revolutionary Texts in a Digital Age: Thomas Paine's Publishing Networks, Past and Present -
2018

Red Jacket Bathed Here: Inventing Native American Origins for Leisure in the Early Republic
Reading, Writing, and World-Making in Nineteenth-Century America - 2016

Education

University of Michigan
Ph.D. History

University of Michigan
M.A. History

Swarthmore College
B.A. History

Accomplishments

Bright Fellowship, Bright Institute at Knox College
2018 - 2021

Supplemental Faculty Development Grants, University of Mary Washington
2011 - 2016 and 2018 - 2019

Jepson Fellowship, University of Mary Washington
2015 - 2016

Summer Faculty Research Grant, University of Mary Washington
2015

Helen and John S. Best Fellowship, American Geographical Society Library
2013

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