

MELANIE LYNN HIGHSMITH

CURRICULUM VITAE

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MELANIE.L.HIGHSMITH@GMAIL.COM

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in History (ABD)** **2018-Present**
Tentative Dissertation: *Community of Care: The Menninger Legacy in Kansas*
Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas
- M.A. in History** **2018**
Thesis: *Negotiating Power: Constructing Authority at St. Elizabeths Hospital*
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas
- M.A. in Anthropology** **2015**
Thesis: *Experimental Assessment: Heavy Bladed Tool Mark Analysis in Relation to Dismemberment and its Implications for Forensic Identification*
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas
Minors: Classics and Biology
- B.A. in History** **2012**
Angelo State University, San Angelo, Texas
Minors: French and English

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Curator of Education and Design** **October 2022- Present**
Riley County Historical Museum
Manhattan, KS
- Executive Director** **June 2022- Nov 2022**
Wonder Workshop Children's Museum
Manhattan, KS
- Graduate Research Assistant** **June 2022- Nov 2022**
The Chapman Center for Rural Studies
Manhattan, KS
- Student Assistant** **Sept 2021- Oct 2022**
Riley County Historical Museum
Manhattan, KS
- Intern** **May 2021- July 2021**
Rush County Historical Museum
La Crosse, KS

Student Assistant

Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home
Manhattan, KS

May 2021- July 2022

Intern

Riley County Historical Museum
Manhattan, KS

Jan 2020- May 2020

Kansas State University

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Aug 2018-May 2022

Texas Tech University

Graduate Teaching Assistant
Graduate Teaching Assistant

Aug 2017-May 2018

Aug 2013-May 2015

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Plant Stress & Germplasm Development Research

Biological Science Aid GS 0404, Supervisor: Dr. J. Chen
Lubbock, TX

June 2015- Aug 2018

Natural Science Research Laboratory, Museum of Texas Tech University

Dermestid Colony Operator, Supervisor: H. Garner
Lubbock, TX

Sept 2012- Aug 2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE**Kansas State University**

2023

HIST 534: Social History of Medicine, Guest Instructor

2019-2022

HIST 151: U.S. History to 1877

2021

HIST 301: Illness and Mental Health in the United States
HIST 301: Gender/Sexuality in Greece and Rome, TA

2018

HIST 112: World History from 1450, TA

Texas Tech University

2017- 2018

HIST 2300: American History before 1877, TA

Texas Tech University

2014- 2015

ANTH 2100: Physical Anthropology Lab

2013- 2014

ANTH 2302: Cultural Anthropology, TA
ANTH 2306: Anthropology at the Movies, TA
ANTH 2315: Intro to Language and Linguistics, TA

SCHOLARSHIPS

Dr. A. Bower Sageser Memorial Scholarship

May 2022

- The Sageser Award recognizes outstanding teaching among graduate students in the K-State Department of History. Students who have taught their own sections should submit a letter of application, a one-page statement about their teaching, a copy of their course syllabi, and copies of student evaluations.

Beach-Young Kansas History Scholarship

May 2022

- The recipient(s) of this scholarship will be an undergraduate or graduate student(s) properly enrolled in the Department of History in the College of Arts and Sciences at Kansas State University who are specializing in Kansas History.

James C. Carey Graduate Student Research and Travel Scholarship

May 2021

- Awarded by Kansas State University to support graduate student research, purchase materials, to travel to research collections and professional meetings to present scholarly papers.

Cora Stewart Wilcoxon Graduate Fellowship

May 2021

- Awarded by Kansas State University to perpetuate the memory of George Dent Wilcoxon and his mother, Cora Stewart Wilcoxon, that provides financial assistance to graduate students enrolled in the Department of History.

Ina Belle (Wilson) Mueller Scholarship

May 2020

- Awarded by Kansas State University and established by Colonel Harrie Mueller in memory of his wife. This scholarship is awarded to a graduate student whose thesis or dissertation relates to the history of Kansas.

Shirley A. Martin Scholarship

May 2020

- Awarded by Kansas State University to promote gender diversity within the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of History.

History Department Research and Conference Travel Grant

Oct. 2017

- Awarded by the Texas Tech University History Department based on need and academic excellence to assist in costs to attend the SWPACA Conference in New Mexico for 2018.

Classical and Modern Language and Literature Graduate Scholarship

March 2013

- Awarded by Texas Tech University's Department of Classical & Modern Languages & Literatures towards the cost for attending the Binchester Archaeological Field School.

PRESENTATIONS

Oct 13, 2023

Illuminating Manhattan: A City in a New Light. Presentation for Meadowlark Hills.

July 23, 2023

Yuma Street Historic District. Presentation for the Riley County Genealogical Society.

March 28, 2023

Glitz & Glam: Art and Life of Gertrude Doud Tetrick for Stoneybrook Assisted Living & Memory Care of Manhattan.

Feb. 28, 2023

The Legend of Sadie. Presentation for Stoneybrook Assisted Living & Memory Care of Manhattan.

Feb. 16, 2023
Yuma Street Historic District. Presentation for Stoneybrook Assisted Living & Memory Care of Manhattan.

Jan 24, 2023
Kansas Day. Presentation for the World Friendship Group of Manhattan.

Jan 12, 2023
MLK in MHK: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 's Legacy in Manhattan. Presentation for Stoneybrook Assisted Living & Memory Care of Manhattan.

March 29, 2019
Negotiating Power: Constructing Authority at St. Elizabeths Hospital. 93rd Annual Kansas Association of Historians Conference, Manhattan, KS.

Feb. 21, 2019
Too Far Gone? Representations of Mental Health and Redeemability in Video Games. ML Highsmith and LC Highsmith. 40th Annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM.

Feb. 9, 2018
Death is Sexy: Exploring the Macabre and the Morbid in the Creation of America's Museums. ML Highsmith and JA Domeischel. 39th Annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM.

April 14, 2016
Machete and Axe Tool Mark Assessment Using Fully Fleshed Pigs. ML Highsmith and RR Paine. 85th Annual American Association of Physical Anthropologists Conference, Atlanta, Georgia.

Oct. 24, 2015
Machete and Axe Tool Mark Assessment Using Fully Fleshed Pigs. ML Highsmith and RR Paine. Texas Association of Biological Anthropologists, Lubbock, Texas.

Nov. 15, 2014
Experimental Assessment: Heavy Bladed Tool Mark Analysis in Relation to Dismemberment and its Implications for Forensic Identification. ML Highsmith and RR Paine. Texas Association of Biological Anthropologists, Huntsville, Texas.

RADIO INTERVIEWS

2023

True Crime Vignettes: KMAN In Focus (October 16, 2023)

- <https://1350kman.com/2023/10/in-focus-10-16-23-riley-co-historical-museum-true-crime-stories/>

Death and Dying in Victorian Era Manhattan: KMAN In Focus (September 18, 2023)

- <https://1350kman.com/2023/09/in-focus-9-17-23-riley-county-historical-museum-and-purple-paws/>

Sunset Zoo Turns 90 with Melissa Kirkwood: KMAN In Focus (August 21, 2023)

- <http://1350kman.com/2023/08/in-focus-8-21-23-riley-county-historical-museum-and-sunset-zoo/>

Faces of Innovation: Medical Pioneers of Riley County: KMAN In Focus (July 17, 2023)

- <http://1350kman.com/2023/07/in-focus-7-17-23-melanie-highsmith-riley-county-historical-museum/>

30 Year Anniversary: Flood of 1993 with Pat Collins and Dave Lewis: KMAN In Focus (June 19, 2023)

- <https://1350kman.com/2023/06/in-focus-6-19-23-riley-county-historical-museum/>

The Curious Case of Seldon B. Lard with Katharine Hensler: KMAN In Focus (May 15, 2023)

- <https://1350kman.com/2023/05/in-focus-5-15-23-riley-county-historical-museum/>

History of the Wolf House with Katharine Hensler: KMAN In Focus (April 17, 2023)

- <https://1350kman.com/2023/04/in-focus-4-17-23-riley-county-historical-museum/>

Glitz & Glam: Gertrude Doud Tetrick: KMAN In Focus (March 20, 2023)

- <https://1350kman.com/2023/03/in-focus-3-20-23-melanie-highsmith/>

Yuma Street Historic District with Dave Baker: KMAN In Focus (February 20, 2023)

- <https://1350kman.com/2023/02/in-focus-2-20-23-riley-county-historical-museum/>

MLK in MHK: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy in Manhattan: KMAN In Focus (January 16, 2023)

- <https://1350kman.com/2023/01/in-focus-1-16-23-melanie-highsmith/>

2022

How Common are White Christmases?: KMAN In Focus (December 19, 2022)

- <https://1350kman.com/2022/12/in-focus-12-19-22-riley-county-historical-museum/>

Thanksgiving traditions in Riley County: KMAN In Focus (November 21, 2022)

- <https://1350kman.com/2022/11/in-focus-11-21-22-katherine-hensler-melanie-highsmith/>

PUBLICATIONS

2023

Highsmith, Melanie. "Tips on Preserving History — Installment 2: Sharing Your Findings."

Kansas Kin: A semi-annual publication of Riley County Genealogical Society, May 2023, 61, no. 1 (2023): 22-25.

2022

Tonsing, Ernst F. "2022: A Polio Anniversary Year in Kansas." Introduction and edited by Melanie L. Highsmith. *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*, Autumn 2022, 45, no. 3 (2022): 172-89.

Vann, Dustin and Melanie Highsmith. "Preserving Family Heirlooms." *Kansas Kin: A semi-annual publication of Riley County Genealogical Society*, November 2022, 60, no. 2 (2022): 44-46.

GRANTS

Walmart Community Grant

July 2022

- \$3,000 for Wonder Workshop Children's Museum to build exhibits and facilitate programs.

Deihl Grant

Sept 2022

- \$15,000 for Wonder Workshop Children's Museum to build STEAM/sensory exhibits.

Yes! Fund Grant

- \$24,000 for Wonder Workshop Children's Museum to facilitate the After School and Teen Mentor programs.

FIELD WORK

Field Assistant

Forensic Case in Brewster County, Texas

Nov. 7-8, 2014

Field School Student

Field Research in Skeletal Biology: Cyprus

June 2 - July 2, 2014

Research Assistant

Binchester VINOVIa project: Binchester, England

June 30 - July 27, 2013

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Riley County Historical Society

Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance

Riley County Genealogical Society

LANGUAGES

French (Intermediate)