

MICHAEL STAMM
Michigan State University
Department of History
Old Horticulture Building
506 E. Circle Drive, Room 256
East Lansing, MI 48824
(517) 884-4966
stamm@msu.edu

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

2022-present: Professor and Chair, Department of History

2019-2022: Professor, Department of History

2018-2019: Associate Professor, Department of History; Interim Director, Social Science
Scholars Program, College of Social Science

2015-2018: Associate Professor, Director of Graduate Studies, and Associate Chair,
Department of History

2013-2015: Associate Professor, Department of History and School of Journalism

2008-2012: Assistant Professor, Department of History and School of Journalism

McGill University, Montreal, QC

2012-2013: Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Public Policy

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

2007-2008: Assistant Professor, School of Journalism and Mass Communication; Affiliate
Member, Department of History

2006-2007: Assistant Professor, School of Journalism and Mass Communication

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of Chicago, History, 2006 (Awarded with Distinction)

M.A. University of Chicago, History, 2000

B.A. University of California, Berkeley, English, 1994

PUBLICATIONS (selected)

“Farm to Table Reading: Industrial Agriculture and Media Materiality in the Twentieth
Century,” *Book History* 28:2 (November 2025): 316-348.

“Waves and Radiation: Television Sets and the Fear of Biological Harm in the Cold War,”
Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television 45:3 (September 2025): 535-555.

“Watching News in Public: The Rituals and Responses of Newsreel Theater Audiences,”
accepted for publication in *Journal of Cinema and Media Studies* 63:2 (Winter 2024): 96-
118.

“What We Can Learn from Books in the Digital Age,” *Studies in Communication Sciences* 23:3
(2023): 311-320. Anthologized in *Material Histories of Paper*, eds. Juliette De Maeyer,

Aleksandra Kaminska, and Ghislain Thibault (Bern: infoclio.ch, 2024), [DOI: 10.13098/infoclio.ch-lb-0012](https://doi.org/10.13098/infoclio.ch-lb-0012).

The International Materiality of Domestic Information: The Geopolitics of International Newsprint Flows during World War II and the Cold War,” *International History Review* 44:6 (2022): 1286-1305.

Daniel Bergan, Stephen Lacy, Dustin Carnahan, Michael Stamm, and Daniel Krier, “Reinforcement in the Aggregate: Partisan Newspaper Circulation and the Presidential Vote, 1900-1928,” *Journalism Studies* 22:14 (2021): 1911-1929.

“Over, Up, and Shut: Considering North American Environmental History Across the US-Canada Border,” *Network in Canadian History & Environment*, <https://niche-canada.org/2020/11/26/over-up-and-shut-considering-north-american-environmental-history-across-the-us-canada-border/>, November 26, 2020.

“The Bias of Commercialism and the Public Presence of Organized Labor,” *Journalism & Communication Monographs* 22:1 (March 2020): 76-80.

“Dead Tree Media’s Non-Digital Disruption,” *National Post* (May 28, 2019), FP11.

Dead Tree Media: Manufacturing the Newspaper in Twentieth-Century North America (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2018).

“The Industrial Newspaper and the Politics of Content in North America,” in Gillian Roberts, ed., *Reading between the Borderlines: Cultural Production and Consumption across the 49th Parallel* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2018): 67-90.

Stephen Lacy and Michael Stamm, “Reassessing The People’s Choice: Revisiting a Classic and Excavating Lessons for Research About Media and Voting,” *Mass Communication and Society* 19:2 (2016): 105-126.

“Broadcasting News in the Interwar Period,” in Richard John and Jonathan Silberstein-Loeb, eds., *Making News: The Political Economy of Journalism in Britain and America from the Glorious Revolution to the Internet* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015; paperback 2018): 133-163.

“The Flavor of News,” *American Journalism* 32:2 (Spring 2015): 208-220.

“The Space For News: Ether and Paper in the Business of Media,” *Media History* 21:1 (January 2015): 55-73.

Stephen Lacy, Michael Stamm, and Hugh Martin, “Short-run Decisions Threaten Papers’ Long-run Viability,” *Newspaper Research Journal* 35:4 (Fall 2014): 6-20.

“Broadcasting Mainline Protestantism: The Chicago Sunday Evening Club and the Evolution of Audience Expectations from Radio to Television,” *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation* 22:2 (Summer 2012): 233-264.

Sound Business: Newspapers, Radio, and the Politics of New Media (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011; paperback, 2016).

“Paul Lazarsfeld’s *Radio and the Printed Page: A Critical Reappraisal*,” *American Journalism* 27:4 (Fall 2010): 37-59.

David Sloan and Michael Stamm, *Historical Methods in Communication*, 3rd edition (Northport: Vision Press, 2010).

“Newspapers, Radio, and the Business of Media in the United States,” *OAH Magazine of History* 24:1 (January 2010): 25-28.

“The Sound of Print: Newspapers and the Public Promotion of Early Radio Broadcasting in the United States,” in *Sound in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction*, eds. Susan Strasser and David Suisman (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009): 221-241.

“Questions of Taste: Interest Group Liberalism and the Campaigns to Save Classical Music Broadcasting in Post-World War II Chicago,” *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television* 25:2 (2005): 291-309.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Catherine Covert Award, History Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, for best mass communication history article, essay, or book chapter published in the previous year, for “The International Materiality of Domestic Information,” 2023.

Richard E. Sullivan Endowed Award for Teaching Excellence, Department of History, Michigan State University, 2022.

Canadian Studies Network, Prize for Best Edited Collection in Canadian Studies for *Reading Between the Borderlines* (contributed essay), 2020.

Canadian Business History Association, Best Book Award for *Dead Tree Media*, 2019.

American Journalism Historians Association, Honorable Mention for Book of the Year Award for *Dead Tree Media*, 2019.

American Journalism Article Award for best work published in the journal in 2010 (for “Paul Lazarsfeld’s “*Radio and the Printed Page: A Critical Reappraisal*”), American Journalism Historians Association, 2011.

Learning Leader recognition for teaching, Department of Residence Life, Michigan State University, 2011, 2010, 2009.

Margaret A. Blanchard Doctoral Dissertation Prize for best dissertation in journalism and mass communication history, American Journalism Historians Association, 2007.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS (selected)

Career Diversity for Historians Fellowship, American Historical Association, 2018-2020

Science and Society at State (S3) Interdisciplinary Seed Grant, Michigan State University, 2018

Grey Towers Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship, USDA Forest Service, 2015

Canadian Embassy Faculty Research Grant, 2011

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS (selected)

Book talk about *Dead Tree Media*, Rare Book School, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, August 6, 2025.

“Making Meaning from Nature in North America,” Climate and Business/The Business Climate, Canadian Business History Association, Banff, AB, September 21, 2024.

“Sweetness and Media: The Promise of Sugarcane Paper for the Developing World During the Cold War,” Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, June 13, 2024.

“Waves and Radiation: Broadcasting and the Fear of Biological Harm in the Cold War,” Business History Conference, Providence, RI, March 16, 2024.

Roundtable Participant, “Journalism and Politics,” Radio Preservation Task Force, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, April 28, 2023.

“Farm to Table Reading: Industrial Agriculture and Media Materiality in the Twentieth Century,” Northwestern University History Department, October 13, 2022.

“The Value of Environmental Studies for Journalism History,” President’s Panel, American Journalism Historians Association, Memphis, TN, September 29, 2022.

“Farm to Table Reading: Midwestern Corn Paper in the 1920s,” Paperology Symposium, Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montreal, QC, May 8, 2022.

Roundtable Participant, “How Historians and Journalists Can Work Together,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, January 4, 2020.

- “Canadian Trees, American Policy, and Latin American Journalism: A Hemispheric History of Newsprint in the Mid-Twentieth Century,” Business History Conference, Cartagena, Colombia, March 15, 2019.
- “The Industrial Newspaper and the Politics of Content,” EDGY MEDIA: On Borders, Migrations, Media Studies and Media Arts – A Cross-Border Two-Day Symposium in Windsor/Detroit, University of Windsor and Detroit College of Creative Studies, March 2, 2019.
- Panel Participant, “The Humanities Ecosystem and Graduate Education,” National Humanities Conference, New Orleans, LA, November 10, 2018.
- “Trees, Media, and Materiality: The Legacies of the Industrial Newspaper in North America,” invited lecture at University of British Columbia History Department, Vancouver, BC, March 15, 2018.
- “Enabling Quality Journalism: The Role of Advertising,” A Conference on The History of Democracy: A Tobin Project Conference, Cambridge, MA, June 2, 2017.
- Keynote Address, “Dead Tree Media: The Industrial Newspaper in the Twentieth Century,” Joint Journalism and Communications Historians Conference, New York University Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute, New York, NY, March 11, 2017.
- “The Statue and the Dam: The *Chicago Tribune* and the Corporate Transformation of the North Shore Landscape,” Northeast & Atlantic Canada Environmental History Forum, Gorsebrook Institute, Saint Mary’s University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, August 13, 2016.
- “The Flavor of News: *The Chicago Tribune*, Scientific Innovation, and the Byproducts of the Industrial Newspaper,” The Fishbein Workshop in the History, Philosophy, and Sociology of Science, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, February 12, 2016.
- “The Industrial Newspaper and the Politics of Content,” Presented at “Cultural Crossings: Production, Consumption and Reception Across the Canada-US Border,” University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK, June 22, 2014.
- “The Strange Products of the ‘Newspaper Business’,” International Communication Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, May 25, 2014.
- “Robert McCormick, the Industrial Newspaper, and the Ironies of Planning,” Canadian Business History Workshop, Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, April 25, 2014.
- “Broadcasting Journalism, Across the Atlantic,” Presented at “The Political Economy of News Reporting Workshop,” Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, August 23, 2013.

“The Space For News: Ether and Paper in North America, 1900-1940,” International Communication Association Annual Meeting, London, UK, June 20, 2013.

“Broadcasting and the Commodification of News in the Anglo-American World, 1920-1945,” Presented at “What is Radio? Exploring the Past, Present & Future,” University of Oregon Turnbull Center, Portland, OR, April 27, 2013.

“Broadcasting Journalism, Across the Atlantic,” Presented at “Free Market, Free Press? The Political Economy of News Reporting in the Anglo-American World since 1688,” The Heyman Center for the Humanities at Columbia University, New York, NY, November 17, 2012.

Roundtable Participant, “Does Journalism History Matter? Journalism Historians Talk with John Nerone,” American Journalism Historians Association Annual Meeting, Raleigh, NC, October 11, 2012.

“The Local Newspaper as Multinational Corporation: The *Chicago Tribune* across the United States-Canada Border,” Presented at the Canadian Historical Association Annual Meeting, Waterloo, ON, May 28, 2012.

“The Owner of the Printing Press as an Agent of Change In Broadcasting Policy,” Presented at the Policy History Conference, Columbus, OH, June 4, 2010.

“The Use and Abuse of History in the Development of American Broadcasting,” Presented at the Business History Conference, Athens, GA, March 27, 2010.

RECENT TEACHING

United States Intellectual History Since 1860 (undergraduate)

The City and its Discontents (undergraduate)

War and Revolution (undergraduate)

Humans and the Environment (undergraduate)

Humans in their Social Environments (undergraduate)

United States Business and Economic History (undergraduate)

United States Research Seminar (graduate)

Seminar in Digital History: The Theory and Practice of Audio Documentary (undergraduate)

Historiography of the United States Since 1865 (graduate)

The United States Since 1876 (undergraduate)

History of Journalism (graduate and undergraduate)

Print, Publishing, and Reading in Historical Perspective (undergraduate)

The Mass Media and American Public Life (graduate)

History of Broadcasting in the United States (undergraduate)

Culture and Politics During the Great Depression (undergraduate)