

Seán Thomas Kane, FLS
skane8@binghamton.edu
Department of History
4400 Vestal Parkway East
Binghamton, New York 13902, USA

CURRENT STATUS

2026 Ph.D. in History, Binghamton University, SUNY
Dissertation: “Understanding the *Savage* in André Thevet’s Brazil: 1555-1590.” Defended 15 May 2026.
Main Advisor: Bradley Skopyk, Ph.D.

EDUCATION

2019 M.A. in History, *University of Missouri-Kansas City*
2016 M.A. with Merit in International Relations and Democratic Politics, *University of Westminster*
2015 B.A. in History and Theology, French and Philosophy minors, *Rockhurst University*

POSITIONS HELD

2019- Teaching Assistant, Binghamton University, SUNY
2017-19 Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Missouri-Kansas City

TEACHING EXPERIENCE IN THE ACADEMY

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY, SUNY

Instructor of Record for

Western Civilization (History 101A) – online: Winter 2021, 2022
First Contacts, 1492–1800 (History 381D) – online: Summer 2021
Science in the Renaissance, 1500–1610 (History 281A) – online: Winter 2023
Columbian Exchange, 1500–1700 (History 381J) – online: Summer 2023

Teaching Assistant for

Western Civilization (History 101A) - in person & online: Fall 2019, 2020, 2021
Modern American Civilization (History 104A) - in person & online: Spring 2020
Europe Since 1500 (History 281D) – online: Spring 2021
Wars of Religion (History 281U) – in person: Spring 2022
Animals and Society (History 231) – in person: Fall 2022

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY

Graduate Teaching Assistant for

U.S. History: Beginnings to 1877 (History 101): Fall 2017
U.S. History: 1877 to the Present (History 102): Fall 2018; Spring 2018, 2019

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

2026 a. Short-Term Residential Research Fellowship, American Philosophical Society
b. Binghamton Graduate School Conference, Travel, and Research Fund
2025 a. Binghamton Graduate Student Conference, Travel, and Research Fund
b. National Science Foundation Travel Grant
c. Elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London
2024 a. Society for the History of Natural History Small Grant Fund
b. Binghamton University Graduate School Travel Award
c. Binghamton History Department Graduate Student Professional Travel Grant

- d. Renaissance Society of America Travel Grant
- 2023 Robert M. Kingdon Prize, Sixteenth Century Society
- 2022 a. Binghamton University Graduate School Travel Award
- b. Binghamton History Department Graduate Student Professional Travel Grant
- 2021 Binghamton History Department Graduate Student Professional Travel Grant

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- 2025 “A Sloth in the First French Colony in the Americas.” “Animals and Exploration” special issue of *Terrae Incognitae* 57, no. 3, 284-298.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2026 a. Jack Bouchard, *Terra Nova: Food, Water, and Work in an Early Atlantic World*, Yale University Press, 2025. In *H-Environment* (2026): 1-4.
- b. Cristina Brito, *Humans and Aquatic Animals in Early Modern America and Africa*, Amsterdam University Press, 2023. In *Early Science and Medicine* 31, no. 2 (2026): 231-233.
- 2025 a. William T. Taylor, *Hoof Beats: How Horses Shaped Human History*, University of California Press, 2024. In *The Journal of World History* 36, no. 2 (2025): 330-332.
- b. Carla Lois, *Terrae Incognitae: Mapping the Unknown*. By Carla Lois, trans. Matthew Edney, Jennifer Harris, & Darío Zárate Figueroa. Leiden: Brill, 2025. In *Terrae Incognitae*, (2025): 395-397.
- c. K.J.P. Lowe, *Provenance and Possession: Acquisitions from the Portuguese Empire in Renaissance Italy*. Princeton University Press, 2024. In *The Journal of World History* 36, no. 3 (2025): 496–498.
- 2024 a. Samuel Dolbee, *Locusts of Power: Borders, Empire, and Environment in the Modern Middle East*, Cambridge University Press, 2023. In *The Journal of World History* 35, no. 3 (2024): 509–511.
- b. Alison Bashford, Emily M. Kern, and Adam Bobbette, *New Earth Histories: Geo-Cosmologies and the Making of the Modern World*, University of Chicago Press, 2023. In *The Journal of World History* 35, no. 4 (2024): 675-677.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

English translation of André Thevet, *Les Singularitez de la France Antarctique*, (Paris, 1557 ; Antwerp, 1558). (preparation for submission)

“Do You Believe in Magic? Thevet’s Brazil and Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* in *William Shakespeare: Tensions and Tempest*.” Edited by Francis Mickus. Vernon Press. (under review)

“Pepper-Birds: Toucans as Nature Transformed into Economic Commodity.” in *Environment and Economy in the Global Renaissance*, eds. Bob Fredona, Caroline Elizabeth Murphy, and Sophus Reinert. University of Delaware Press. (under review)

“Cosmographic Singularities: André Thevet as a Collector of American Exotica (1556-1590).” Edited by Maddalena Bellavitis. Anthem Press. (under review)

English translation of André Thevet, *La Cosmographie de Levant*, (Lyon, 1554). (currently translating)

DISSERTATIONS AND THESES

- 2026 Ph.D. Diss.: “Understanding the *Savage* in André Thevet’s Brazil: 1555-1590.” *Binghamton University*.
- 2019 M.A. Thesis: “The Humanist Education of Margaret Roper.” *University of Missouri-Kansas City*.

- 2016 M.A. Thesis: “How has promotion by the Irish and Welsh governments aided in the revival of the Irish and Welsh languages in those two countries?” *University of Westminster*.

POPULAR PRESS ARTICLES

- 2024 “The ‘Sufficiently Strange’ Sloth” in *EPOCH Magazine*, Issue 16.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

- 2025 “Amerindians in Brasil.” in *South America: From European Contact to Independence*. Edited by H. Michael Tarver and Carlos E. Márquez Petit. Bloomsbury Academic, 2025.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 a. “*Marsouins*: Accounts Dolphins, Porpoises, and Orcas in the French Atlantic.” *Annual Meeting of the Sixteenth Century Society (SCS)*. Chicago, Illinois, United States. 29–31 October 2026.
- b. Organizer and Chair, “Medicine and the Body in the Early Modern World.” *Annual Meeting of the Sixteenth Century Society (SCS)*. Chicago, Illinois, United States. 29–31 October 2026.
- c. “Beauty in the Face of a New World in André Thevet’s Cosmovision: A Perception of Ecological Change in the Middle of the Sixteenth Century.” *Renaissance Ecologies – 7th Annual Conference of the Nordic Network for Renaissance Studies*. University of Gothenburg, Sweden.
- d. “Collecting Animal Singularities in Vernacular Print: The Curation of Indigenous Knowledge in André Thevet’s Cosmography.” *Edinburgh Bibliographical Seminar and Workshop*. University of Edinburgh, Scotland. 20–24 July 2026.
- e. Organizer and Chair, “Contested Conceptions of Atlantic Animals I and II,” *History of Science Society/European Society for the History of Science 2026 Meeting*, Edinburgh, 13–16 July 2026.
- f. “Parlaying Parrots and Sighing Sloths: Animal Utterances in Thevet’s *Singularitez de la France Antarctique*.” *Annual Conference of the Renaissance Society of America (RSA)*. San Francisco, California, USA. 19–21 February 2026.
- g. “Sufficiently Strange Beasts: André Thevet’s Catholic Comprehension of Neotropical Animals.” *Annual Conference of the American Catholic Historical Association (ACHA)*. Chicago, Illinois, USA. 8–10 January 2026.
- 2025 a. “André Thevet’s Ascension Island *Aponar* as the Confluence of Auks and Penguins.” *Annual Meeting of the History of Science Society (HSS)*. New Orleans, Louisiana, United States. 13–16 November 2025.
- b. “Getting Creative with Research and Funding: Tacit Knowledge Roundtable.” *Annual Meeting of the History of Science Society (HSS)*. New Orleans, Louisiana, United States. 13–16 November 2025.
- c. “‘Like a Child Afflicted with Sorrow’: Changes in André Thevet’s Sloth Appearance Among Early French Editions.” *Annual Meeting of the Sixteenth Century Society (SCS)*. Portland, Oregon, United States. 30 October – 1 November 2025.
- d. “Animals Adapting to Changes in Nature: Perceptions of Animal Intelligence in the Renaissance?” *RSA GSAC Graduate Student Lightning Talk Series: The Renaissance*. 12 June 2025.
- e. “The Uncertain Catholicism of Nicolas Durand de Villegaignon (1510-1571): Accounts from France Antarctic.” *Annual Conference of the Renaissance Society of America (RSA)*. Boston, Massachusetts, USA. 20–22 March 2025.

- 2024 a. “André Thevet as an Eyewitness to the Transition from Humanism to Science (1554-1590).” *Annual Meeting of the History of Science Society (HSS)*. Mérida, Yucatan, Mexico. 7-10 November 2024.
- b. “‘Sufficiently Strange Beasts’: Animals in André Thevet’s *Singularities of France Antarctique*.” *2024 Annual Conference of the Sixteenth Century Society (SCS)*, Toronto, Canada. 31 October – 2 November 2024.
- c. “André Thevet’s Cosmography: Synthesizing Eyewitness Accounts on the Borders of Established Knowledge (1554-1590).” *Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Discoveries (SHD)*. San Antonio, Texas, USA. 24–26 October 2024.
- d. “Cosmographic Singularities: André Thevet as a Collector of American Exotica (1556-1590).” *Collecting, Growing, and Exploring in Early Modernity International Interdisciplinary Workshop*. EPHE Sorbonne, Paris. 11 June 2024.
- e. “Pepper-Birds: Toucans as Nature transformed into Economic Commodity.” *2024 Annual Conference of the Renaissance Society of America (RSA)*. Chicago, Illinois, USA. 21–23 March 2024.
- 2023 a. “The Taxonomic Conservation of Tupinambá Ritual Artifacts in the French Royal Cabinets of Curiosities (1555-1575).” *2023 Annual Conference of the Sixteenth Century Society (SCS)*, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. 26–29 October 2023.
- b. “Royal Monopolies and the Ineffective Colonial Conservation of the Brazilwood Tree (1500-1570).” *Integrating the History and Philosophy of Biodiversity: Narratives of Diversity, Extinction, Conflict and Value*. Museum of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium. 20–21 October 2023.
- c. “Strangers in a Strange World: The Anthropocene in André Thevet’s Cosmos 1557-1580.” *(Un)Common Worlds III Human-Animal Studies Conference*. University of Oulu, Finland and the University of Derby, United Kingdom. 4–6 October 2023.
- d. “Confronting the Three-toed Sloth: The Taxonomy of a Brazilian Singularity” *2023 Annual Conference of the Renaissance Society of America (RSA)*. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2022 a. “Misconceptions of the Brazilian Maned Sloth Diet and the Trouble of the French Eyewitness, 1550 1590”. *Binghamton Graduate History Society Brown Bag Presentation*. 29 November 2022.
- b. “A Transatlantic Feather Rustling: Belon, Thevet, and Gessner’s Initial Classification of the Toucan as a Brazilian Magpie”: *2022 Renaissance Society of America (RSA) Online Graduate Student Lightning Talks: Rethinking the Global Renaissance*.
- c. “The Beast that Lives Only on Air: André Thevet’s Sloth”: *2022 Annual Conference of the Sixteenth Century Society (SCS)*, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.
- 2021 a. “French Perspectives on Religion and Marriage in Tupinambá Society” *2021 Annual Conference of the Sixteenth Century Society (SCS)*, San Diego, California, USA.
- b. “André Thevet’s Brazil: Understanding the Cosmographer as a Humanist Reader”: *26th Annual James A. Barnes Graduate History Conference*, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.
- 2020 “Identity and Legacy: The Tupinambá of Brazil and the Cannibals of Early Modern French Literature”: *2020 Syracuse Graduate History Conference*, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, USA.
- 2019 a. “The Humanist Education of Margaret Roper”: *50th Anniversary Annual Conference of the Sixteenth Century Society (SCS)*. Saint Louis, Missouri, USA.

- b. “Erasmus’s *Enchiridion militis Christiani* and the Humanist Knight in early-sixteenth century England”: *Annual Meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association (ACHA)*. Chicago, Illinois, USA.
- 2018
- a. “A Codicological Study of the 1523 English manuscript translation of Erasmus’s *Enchiridion militis Christiani*”: *65th Annual Midwest Conference on British Studies (MWCBS)*, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, USA.
 - b. “The Northwest Ordinance, Partisan Politics, Frontier Policy, and the Growth of the Union in the Early Republic”: Annual Meeting of the Midwest Historical Association (MHA), Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA.
 - c. “Perspectives on the French Counter-Reformation.” *Spring Meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association (ACHA)*, Mount St. Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, Maryland, USA.
- 2017
- “The Irish Language in an Independent Ireland.” *Midwest Meeting of the American Conference on Irish Studies (ACIS)*, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, USA.

INVITED PUBLIC LECTURES

- 2022 “Close Encounters of the Three-Toed Kind: How Unknown Life was Named in the First Age of Exploration.” *Friday Evening Program at the Kopernik Observatory and Science Center*, Vestal, New York, USA.
- 2019 “Exploring Ancient Ireland”: Series of Public Lectures, Mid-Continent Public Library Camden Point, Raytown, Smithville, & Independence, MO, USA.
- 2018 “A History of the Irish in Major League Baseball.” *Kansas City Irish Fest Culture Stage*, Kansas City, Missouri, USA.
- 2016 “Ireland in the Empire leading up to 1916”: *Kansas City Irish Fest Culture Stage*, Kansas City, Missouri, USA.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2026
- a. Field Museum of Natural History Library, Chicago, Illinois, USA
 - b. University of Chicago Library Special Collections
 - c. Zoological Society of London Library and Archives, London, United Kingdom
- 2025
- New York Public Library, New York, New York, USA
- 2024
- a. Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, France
 - b. Musée du Quai Branly-Jacques Chirac, Paris, France
 - d. Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas
- 2023
- Musée du Quai Branly-Jacques Chirac, Paris, France
- 2022
- Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering, and Technology, Kansas City, MO, USA
- 2021
- a. Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
 - b. Archives nationales de France, Paris, France
- 2018
- a. Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois, USA
 - b. British Library, London, United Kingdom

2013 a. Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., USA

SERVICE

TO THE PROFESSION

2025- Communications Committee, History of Science Society, Graduate and Early Career Caucus.

2021- Peer Reviewer, *Past Tense Graduate Review of History*

2021- Peer Reviewer, *Alpenglow: Binghamton University Undergraduate Journal of Research and Creative Activity*

TO BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

2022 Selection Committee Chairman, *Binghamton Journal of History*

2021-22 President, Graduate History Society

2020-22 History Graduate Committee Member

TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY

2018-19 Treasurer, History Graduate Student Association

TO ROCKHURST UNIVERSITY

2013-15 President, Phi Alpha Theta Chapter, Rockhurst University

ACADEMIC SOCIETIES

Fellow of the Linnean Society of London (FLS)

American Historical Association (AHA)

American Catholic Historical Association (ACHA)

Sixteenth Century Society (SCS)

Renaissance Society of America (RSA)

Society for the History of Discoveries (SDH)

The Society for the History of Natural History (SHNH)

History of Science Society (HSS)

Forum on Early-Modern Empires and Global Interactions (FEEGI)

Animals and Society Institute (A&S)

LANGUAGES

Native: English

Proficient: French (B2), Irish (B1)

Reading: Latin, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish

REFERENCES

Dr. Bradley Skopyk, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, Binghamton University.
bskopyk@binghamton.edu

Dr. Elizabeth Casteen, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, Binghamton University.
ecasteen@binghamton.edu

Dr. John Kuhn, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English, Binghamton University.
jkuhn@binghamton.edu

TEACHING EXPERIENCE BEYOND THE ACADEMY

- 2023 Nativity Parish School, Leawood, Kansas, USA
6th Grade Social Studies (World History)
7th Grade Social Studies (Geography and Kansas History)
8th Grade Social Studies (U.S. History to 1900)
- 2023- Barstow Global Online, Kansas City, Missouri, USA
Course Builder for
Modern World History – 10th Grade
French I
- 2023 Pembroke Hill School, Middle and Upper School, Kansas City, Missouri, USA
Substitute Teacher
- 2015-16 Real Action, London, United Kingdom
Courses taught
Fourth Year English Literacy
- 2013-15 Aylward-Dunn Learning Center, Rockhurst University
Courses tutored
Beginner French
Reality and Human Existence
Ethical Theory
Communication
American Federal & State Government
Music History
Western Civilization I

INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

- 2026-29 Friends of Art Council, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri, USA
- 2017-18 Genealogy Research Volunteer, National Archives and Records Administration, Kansas City, Missouri, USA
- 2015 Archival Intern, Rockhurst University Archives Kansas City, Missouri, USA
- 2007-09 Intern at *The Leaven*, Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, Kansas City, Kansas, USA
- 2006-10 Genealogy and Archival Volunteer, Irish Center of Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri, USA

PUBLIC SERVICE, TEACHING LICENSES, AND CERTIFICATES

- 2023 Buck Institute for Education Project Based Learning Certificate
- 2023-27 Missouri Substitute Teaching License
- 2017-19 Notary Public for the State of Missouri, registered in Jackson County