

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**James Richard Akerman**

**PROFESSIONAL ADDRESS:** The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography, The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610-3380; phone 312-255-3523; email akermanj@newberry.org

**EDUCATION:** Ph.D. (Geography), Pennsylvania State University, 1991 (dissertation: "On the Shoulders of a Titan: Viewing the World of the Past in Atlas Structure"); M.A. (Geography), University of Michigan, 1981; B.A. (Sociology), Denison University, 1978, Phi Beta Kappa

**POSITIONS HELD:** Curator of Maps, the Newberry Library, 2011-; Director, the Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography, the Newberry Library, 1996-; Acting Director, 1995-96; Assistant Director, 1988-1995; Acting and Assistant Curator of Maps, the Newberry Library, 1985-88

### SELECT PUBLICATIONS

"Maps in Travel Narratives and Guidebooks," forthcoming in Alasdair Pettinger and Tim Youngs, *Routledge Research Companion to Travel Writing*.

Editor, *Decolonizing the Map* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017).

"Atlases," "Composite Atlases," and "Geographical Atlases," forthcoming in *The History of Cartography*, vol. 4, *Cartography in the Enlightenment*, ed. Matthew Edney and Mary Pedley (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, forthcoming).

Coedited with Peter Nekola, *Mapping Movement in American History and Culture: An Online Archive and Companion to the Cartography of Movement* (Chicago: The Newberry Library, 2016), supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. <http://mappingmovement.newberry.org/>

"Mapping, Battlefield Guidebooks, and Remembering the Great War, in *History of Military Cartography: 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography, 2014*, ed. Elri Liebenberg, Imre Josef Demhardt, and Soetkin Vervust (Cham, Switzerland: Springer, 2016), pp. 159-77.

"Travel, Tourism, and Place Marketing," "North American Road Mapping," "American Automobile Association," "H.M. Gousha," and "Road Atlas," in *The History of Cartography*, vol. 6, *Cartography in the Twentieth Century*, ed. Mark Monmonier (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015).

“Map Collecting, Treasure Houses, and Civic Influences on the Emergence of the History of Cartography in the United States,” in *People, Places, and Idea in the History of Cartography*, ed. Michael Heffernan, supplement to *Imago Mundi*, ed. Michael Heffernan (London: Imago Mundi Ltd., 2014).

“Road Map,” in *Mapping Latin America*, ed. Jordana Dym and Karl Offen (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011).

Editor, *The Imperial Map: Cartography and the Mastery of Empire* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009).

Co-editor and contributor, with Robert W. Karrow, Jr., *Maps: Finding Our Place in the World* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007). Contributed chapter: “Finding Our Way in the World.”

“Colorado River,” “Niagara Falls,” and “Jedediah Smith,” in *The Oxford Companion to World Exploration*, ed. David Buisseret (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007).

Editor and contributor, *Cartographies of Travel and Navigation* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006). Contributed chapter: “Directions and Destinations: Mapping and Making an American Motorized National Space.”

(with Daniel Block) “The Shifting Agendas of Midwestern Official State Highway Maps.” *Michigan Historical Review*, 31, 1 (Spring 2005): 123-65; revised and reprinted in *Mapping in Michigan & The Great Lakes Region*, ed. David I. Macleod, 287-318 (East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2007).

“Mercator, Gerardus,” *The World Book Encyclopedia* (2005).

“Historic Maps in K-12 Classrooms” (Project Director). Educational website supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities ([www.newberry.org/k12maps](http://www.newberry.org/k12maps); launched 2004).

“American Promotional Road Mapping in the Twentieth Century.” *Cartography and Geographic Information Science* 29, 3 (July 2002): 175-91.

(with Robert W. Karrow, Jr.) *Cartographic Treasures of the Newberry Library*. Exhibition catalogue. Chicago: The Newberry Library, 2001.

“Private Journeys on Public Maps: A Look at Inscribed Road Maps.” *Cartographic Perspectives* 35 (Winter 2000): 27-47.

Editor, *Cartography and Statecraft: Studies in Governmental Mapmaking in Modern Europe and its Colonies*. Guest edited monograph published as *Cartographica* vol. 35, no. 3-4, Autumn/Winter 1998.

"From Books with Maps to Books as Maps: The Editor in the Creation of the Atlas Idea." In *Editing Early and Historical Atlases*, ed. Joan Winearls. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1995.

"The Structuring of Political Territory in Early Printed Atlases." *Imago Mundi* 47 (1995): 138-54.

"Blazing a Well-Worn Path: Cartographic Commercialism, Highway Promotion, and Automobile Tourism in the United States, ca.1880-1930." In *Introducing Cultural and Social Cartography*, ed. Robert Rundstrom, 10-20. *Cartographica* monograph no. 44. *Cartographica* 30, 1 (Spring 1993).

"Selling Maps, Selling Highways: Rand McNally's 'Blazed Trails' Program." *Imago Mundi* 45 (1993): 77-89.

(with Michael P. Conzen and David T. Thackery) *Illinois County Landownership Map and Atlas Bibliography and Union List*. Springfield: The Illinois Cooperative Collection Management Coordinating Committee, The Illinois Board of Higher Education, 1991.

## MAJOR EXHIBITIONS

(with Diane Dillon) *Make Big Plans: Daniel Burnham's Vision of An American Metropolis*, traveling photo-panel exhibition, metropolitan Chicago, June-December, 2009.

(with Robert W. Karrow, Jr. and Diane Dillon) *Maps: Finding Our Place in the World*, The Field Museum, Chicago, November 2007-January 2008; and The Walters Art Museum, March-June 2008.

(with Robert W. Karrow, Jr.) *Ptolemy's Geography and Renaissance Cartographers*, The Newberry Library, November 2007-February 2008.

(with Robert W. Karrow, Jr.) *Cartographic Treasures of the Newberry Library*, The Newberry Library, October 2001-January 2002.

*Paper Trails: Maps, Highways, and American Journeys in the Twentieth Century*, The Newberry Library, September- December 1996

(with David Buisseret and Robert W. Karrow, Jr.) *Two-by-Two: Twenty-Two Pairs of Maps from the Newberry Library Illustrating 500 Years of Western Cartographic History*, The Newberry Library, June-August 1993.

(with David Buisseret) *Monarchs Ministers & Maps*, The Newberry Library, October-December 1985.

## **SELECT RECENT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND GRANTS**

Co-director (with Peter Nekola), “Reading Material Maps in the Digital Age,” NEH summer seminar for school teachers, July-August 2018.

Organizer and Chair, “Maps, Their Collecting and Study: A Fifty Year Retrospective,” the Nineteenth Kenneth Nebenzahl Lectures in the History of Cartography, held in conjunction with the annual meeting, International Map Collectors Society (IMCoS), October 2016.

Co-director (with Jordana Dym), “Mapping, Text, and Travel,” NEH summer seminar for college and university faculty, July-August 2016.

Co-director (with Kathleen Brosnan), “Mapping Nature across the Americas,” NEH summer institute for college and university faculty, July-August 2014.

Organizer and chair, “The War of 1812 and American Cartography,” the Eighteenth Kenneth Nebenzahl, Jr., Lectures in the History of Cartography, October 2013.

Project Director (Ernesto Capello and Julia Rosenbaum, organizers), “Pictures from an Expedition: Aesthetics of Cartographic Exploration in the Americas,” symposium supported in part by the Terra Foundation for American Art, June 2014

Co-director (with Diane Dillon), “Envisioning America in Maps and Views,” NEH summer seminar for school teachers, July-August 2011.

Project Director, “Mapping Movement in American History and Culture,” a Web-based archive and resource supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, under development, 2010-present.

Organizer and chair, “Mapping the Transition from Colony to Nation,” the Seventeenth Kenneth Nebenzahl, Jr., Lectures in the History of Cartography, November 2010.

Co-director (with Diane Dillon), “Mapping and Art in the Americas,” NEH summer institute for college and university faculty, July-August 2010.

Project Director, “Make Big Plans: Daniel Burnham’s Vision of An American Metropolis,” traveling photo-panel and online exhibition and Web resource (under development), 2009-2010, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Co-director (with Gerald Danzer), “Developing Cartographic Literacy with Historic Maps,” NEH summer seminar for schoolteachers, forthcoming, June-July 2009.

Co-organizer, Annual Meeting, The Society for the History of Discoveries, Chicago, November 2007.

Co-organizer (with Richard Talbert), “Ancient Perspectives: Maps and Their Place in Ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece and Rome,” the Sixteenth Kenneth Nebenzahl, Jr., Lectures in the History of Cartography, November 2007.

Co-director (with Gerald Danzer), “Developing Cartographic Literacy with Historic Maps,” NEH summer seminar for schoolteachers, July-August 2007.

Organizer and Chair, “Reading Popular Cartography,” thematic paper sessions at the Association of American Geographers, Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Chicago, March 2006

Co-director (with Gerald Danzer), “Developing Cartographic Literacy with Historic Maps,” NEH summer seminar for schoolteachers, June-July 2005.

Organizer, “The Imperial Map,” the Fifteenth Kenneth Nebenzahl, Jr., Lectures in the History of Cartography, October 2004.

Director, “Reading Popular Cartography,” an NEH summer institute for school teachers, July-August 2004

Project Director (Anne Knowles, convener and chair), “History and Geography: Assessing the Role of Geographical Information in Historical Scholarship,” a symposium supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities, March 2004.

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Secretary, International Society for the History of the Map, 2017-18

Program Selection Committee Chair, International Conference on the History of Cartography, Ghent, Belgium, July 2015

Chicago Map Society, Board of Directors, 1989-

Academic Council, The Newberry Library, 1995-present

Board of Review, Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education, University of Southern Maine, 2007-present (chair, 2014-15)

Board of Review, The Norman Leventhal Map Center, Boston Public Library, 2008-present

Board of Directors, Imago Mundi, Ltd., 2012-present