

## Dr. Geoff Bil

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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2019- Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Delaware
- 2018-2019 Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Humanities Institute, LuEsther T. Mertz Library, New York Botanical Garden
- 2015 Adjunct Instructor, Department of History, University of British Columbia

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### EDUCATION

- 2018 PhD, History, University of British Columbia
- 2008 MA, History, McMaster University
- 2006 BA (Honours), History, University of Victoria

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### PUBLICATIONS

#### Books

- *Indexing the Indigenous: Plants, Peoples and Empire*, Johns Hopkins University Press (manuscript submitted, publication expected 2023).

#### Articles & Book Chapters

- [2022] “A Discussion on the Treatment of Indigeneity in *Twin Peaks* with Geoff Bil: An Interview,” with Rob E. King, in King, Austin Allison, Christine Self and Robert G. Weaver, eds., *The American West of David Lynch’s Filmography and in Twin Peaks: Essays on Regional Identity, Narratives, and History* (McFarland Books) (in copyedits).
- [2022] “Introduction: Colonial Histories of Plant-based Pharmaceuticals,” with Jaipreet Viridi, *History of Pharmacy and Pharmaceuticals* 63:2 (in press).

- 2022 “The Representation of Plants,” in *A Cultural History of Plants*, vol. 6: *A Cultural History of Plants in the Modern Age*, ed. Stephen Forbes (Bloomsbury), pp. 171-91.
- 2020 “Tangled Compositions: Botany, Agency and Authorship aboard HMS *Endeavour*,” *History of Science* (Online before print: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0073275320971109>).
- 2018 “Imperial Vernacular: Phytonymy, Philology, and Disciplinarity in the Indo-Pacific,” *British Journal for the History of Science* 51:4, pp. 635-58.
- 2016 “Between Māori and Modern? The Case of Mānuka Honey,” in *Appreciating Local Knowledge*, ed. Elisabeth Kapferer, Andreas Koch and Clemens Sedmak (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing), pp. 61-76.
- 2016 “Tensions in the World of Moon: *Twin Peaks*, Indigeneity and Territoriality,” *Senses of Cinema* 79.

### Edited Collections

- 2022 “Colonial Histories of Plant-Based Pharmaceuticals,” with Jaipreet Viridi, special issue for *History of Pharmacy and Pharmaceuticals* 63:2 (in press).

### Edited Collections in Progress

- *Plants*, with Tina Gianquitto, vol. 3 in *Gender, Colonialism, and Science, 1750-1950: A Cross-Cultural Compendium of Primary Sources*, 5 vols. (London: Routledge) (under contract, to be published 2025).
- *A Cultural History of Nature in the Nineteenth Century* (London: Bloomsbury) (under contract, to be published 2024).

### Essay Reviews

- 2020 “Boas in the Age of BLM and Idle No More: Re-evaluating the Boasian Legacy,” *History of Anthropology Newsletter*.

### Book Reviews

- 2021 Review of Margaret M. Bruchac, *Savage Kin: Indigenous Informants and American Anthropologists* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2018), in *AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples* (Online before print: <https://doi.org/10.1177/11771801211045466>).
- 2021 Review of Jacalyn Duffin, *Stanley’s Dream: The Medical Expedition to Easter Island* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2019), in *Canadian Bulletin for the History of Medicine* 38:2, pp. 465-8.

- 2018 Review of Michael Adas, *Machines as the Measure of Men: Science, Technology, and Ideologies of Western Dominance*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2014 [1989]), in *H-War*.
- 2018 Review of Timothy P. Barnard, *Nature's Colony: Empire, Nation and Environment in the Singapore Botanic Gardens* (Singapore: National University of Singapore Press, 2016), in *Plant Science Bulletin* 64:2, pp. 130-1.
- 2018 Review of Alan Bewell, *Natures in Translation: Romanticism and Colonial Natural History* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2017), in *Annals of Science*, 75:1, pp. 64-5.
- 2018 Review of Christopher Baxter, Michael L. Dockrill, and Keith Hamilton, eds. *Britain in Global Politics Volume I: From Gladstone to Churchill* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), in *H-War*.
- 2017 Review of Tom Kennett, *The Lord Treasurer of Botany: Sir James Edward Smith and the Linnean Collections* (London: Linnean Society, 2016), in *British Journal for the History of Science* 50:3, pp. 549-51.
- 2015 Review of Martin Priestman, *The Poetry of Erasmus Darwin: Enlightened Spaces, Romantic Times* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2013), in *British Journal for the History of Science* 48:3, pp. 516-17.

#### Other Writing

- 2019 "First Report the Findings: Genuine Balance when Reporting CTE," with Stephen Casper et al., *Lancet Neurology* 18:6, pp. 522-3.
- 2019 "Decolonizing HPS: A Reading List," with Sarah Qidwai and Letitia Meynell, *Communiqué: Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science Newsletter* 100, pp. 31-2.
- 2019 "In Conversation: Kim Tallbear," *Communiqué: Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science Newsletter* 99, pp. 5-12.
- 2019 "Panel Report: Pacific Science in Transnational and Translocal Perspective," *Pacific Circle Bulletin* 43, pp. 9-10.

#### Selected Posts at *The Clover and the Fern*

- 2019 "The Mystery of Puka" (<https://thecloverandthefern.com/2019/03/17/the-mystery-of-puka/>).

- 2018 “Confronting Indigenous Marginalization in Hawaiian Colonial Science”  
(<https://thecloverandthefern.com/2018/05/13/confronting-indigenous-marginalization-in-hawaiian-colonial-science/>).
- 2018 “Reflections on *Georgia O’Keeffe: Visions of Hawai’i*”  
(<https://thecloverandthefern.com/2018/12/02/reflections-on-georgia-okeeffe-visions-of-hawaii/>).

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## SELECTED GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

### External Awards

- 2020 Bordin-Gillette Fellowship, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan (\$2000 USD)
- 2018 Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine Research Fellowship (\$3100 USD)
- 2011 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement (\$6000 CAD)
- 2009 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship (\$105,000 CAD)
- 2009 Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Government of Ontario (awarded but declined) (\$60,000 CAD)
- 2007 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Canada Graduate Scholarship – Master’s (\$17,500 CAD)
- 2007 Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Government of Ontario (awarded but declined) (\$15,000 CAD)

### Residential Fellowships

- 2016 Newberry Consortium in American Indian Studies Summer Institute, “Writing Indigenous Histories: Print, Material, and Digital Sites of Memory,” Newberry Library
- 2013 Visiting Research Fellow, School of history, Art History and Philosophy, University of Sussex
- 2011-2012 Scholar in Residence, Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies, Victoria University of Wellington

Other Awards

- 2019 History of Science Society travel grant (\$350 USD)
- 2018 History of Science Society travel grant (\$211 USD)
- 2018 Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science travel grant (\$980 CAD)
- 2016 Three Societies Meeting in the History of Science travel grant (\$400 CAD)
- 2016 Native American and Indigenous Studies Association travel grant (\$250 USD)
- 2014 “Cultures in Contact” Graduate Research Grant, Department of History, University of British Columbia (\$2000 CAD)
- 2013-2015 Summer Research and Writing Fellowships, Department of History, University of British Columbia (\$10,700 CAD)
- 2012-2015 Faculty of Arts Graduate Awards, University of British Columbia (\$18,375 CAD)
- 2010 Summer Institute in Material Culture, Canada Science and Technology Museum (\$547 CAD & lodging)
- 2007 Graduate Scholarship, Department of History, McMaster University (\$6000 CAD)
- 2006 Grotius Award in Modern History, Department of History, University of Victoria (\$187 CAD)
- 2005 Michiel Horn Scholarship, University of Victoria (\$2500 CAD)

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**PRESENTATIONS**Invited Talks

- 2021 “Imperial Vernacular: Phytonymy, Philology and Disciplinarity in the Indo-Pacific, 1800-1900,” Global Epistemologies and Ontologies research project, Wageningen University.
- 2020 (Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic) “The Making of an Imperial Onomastics: Botany and Territoriality in Nineteenth-Century Aotearoa New Zealand,” Indigenous Knowledge-Brokers, Natural History Collecting, and Environment seminar series, SouthHem project, European Research Council, University College Dublin.
- 2019 “Empire on the Line: Botanical Ethnology and Social Distance in Late-Eighteenth-Century Tahiti,” Anthropology and Environmental Studies, Bard College.

- 2019 “Fields of Empire: Science and Ethnoscience in Twentieth-Century Southeast Asia,” Department of History, University of Delaware.
- 2018 “Jack of All Trades, Master of None? Ethnobotany and Interdisciplinarity in Historical Context,” Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Delaware.
- 2018 “Troubled Translations: Ethnoscience and Empire in Twentieth-Century Philippines,” Humanities Institute seminar series, LuEsther T. Mertz Library, New York Botanical Garden.
- 2013 “Indexing the Indigenous: Plants and Peoples in Transcolonial Context,” Department of History seminar series, University of Sussex.
- 2012 “‘As Clover Killed the Fern’: Ethnobotany and Enchantment in New Zealand Anthropology,” Anthropology department, Victoria University of Wellington.
- 2012 “The Nature of Ethnology: Plants and Peoples from Colenso to Katherine Mansfield,” Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies, Victoria University of Wellington.

#### Workshops and Symposia Organized

- 2021 “Plants in Translation: Global Diasporas and Local Entanglements” Zoom workshop (with Tamara Caulkins).
- 2021 Three-part symposium, “Interactions and Interchanges in the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine,” with Hugh Slotten and Hamish Spencer, International Congress of History of Science and Technology, Prague, CZ.

#### Panels Organized

- 2020 (Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic) Roundtable discussion on *Stanley’s Dream: The Medical Expedition to Easter Island*, by Jacalyn Duffin, Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science and Canadian Society for History of Medicine.
- 2019 “Pacific Science in Transnational and Translocal Perspective,” History of Science Society, Utrecht, NL, sponsored by the Pacific Circle.
- 2018 “Indigenous and Environmental Knowledges in Translation,” History of Science Society, Seattle, US.
- 2016 “Plants and Print,” Three Societies Meeting: BSHS-CSHPS-HSS, University of Alberta.

Papers Presented

- 2021 “From Ethnoscience to Ethnology—and Back Again: Plant Nomenclature, Translation and Territoriality in Aotearoa New Zealand,” International Congress of History of Science and Technology, Prague, CZ.
- 2021 “Opening Remarks,” with Tamara Caulkins, “Plants in Translation: Global Diasporas and Local Entanglements” Zoom workshop.
- 2019 “From Ethnoscience to Ethnology—and Back Again: Mātauranga Māori and Settler Epistemology in Historical and Contemporary Perspective,” Encounters and Exchanges: Exploring the History of Science, Technology and Mātauranga, University of Otago and Tōtaranui 250 Trust, Blenheim, NZ.
- 2019 “Cultivating Resistance: Ethnoecology, Anticolonialism and Indigenous Territoriality in Twentieth-Century Southeast Asia,” History of Science Society, Utrecht, NL, sponsored by the Pacific Circle.
- 2019 “Troubled Translations: Science and Ethnoscience in Twentieth-Century Southeast Asia,” Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, University of British Columbia.
- 2018 “Troubled Translations: Ethnoscience and Empire in Twentieth-Century Philippines,” History of Science Society, Seattle, US.
- 2018 “‘As clover killed the fern’: The History and Memory of ‘Ecological’ Imperialism in Aotearoa New Zealand,” Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Regina.
- 2016 “Imperial Vernacular: Phytonyms and Philology in the Indo-Pacific, 1800-1900,” Science and Islands in the Indo-Pacific World, Cambridge University.
- 2016 “Enchanted Ethnobotany: Plant Names and Print Culture in Romantic Natural History,” Three Societies Meeting: BSHS-CSHPS-HSS, University of Alberta.
- 2016 “Imperial Vernacular: Onomastics, Empire and Intellectual Property, 1800-Present,” American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, US.
- 2016 “Empire of Fear: Ethnobotany, Onomastics and Trust from India to Aotearoa New Zealand, 1848-1867,” Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Calgary.
- 2016 “Botany, Indigeneity, and Intellectual Property in Aotearoa New Zealand, 1800-present,” Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

- 2016 “Edward Ayer, Indigenous Collections, and American Colonialism in the Philippines,” Newberry Consortium in American Indian Studies Conference, Newberry Library.
- 2015 “Enlightenment Ethnobotany: Plants, Print and Practice in the Late-Eighteenth-Century Pacific,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, San Francisco US; and British Society for the History of Science, Swansea University.
- 2015 “‘Far beyond language!’: Colonial Botany, Indigenous Knowledge, and Romantic Print Culture,” British Association for Romantic Studies, Cardiff University.
- 2015 “‘A sort of evil out there’: *Twin Peaks* and Indigenous Representation, 25 Years Later,” I’ll See You Again in 25 Years: The Return of *Twin Peaks* and Generations of Cult TV, University of Salford.
- 2014 “From Ethnoscience to Ethnology: Indigenous Plant Names in Imperial Context,” British Society for the History of Science, University of St. Andrews.
- 2013 “Between Māori and Modern? The Case of Mānuka Honey,” Appreciating Local Knowledge, University of Salzburg.
- 2013 “What’s in a (Plant) Name? The Māori-Latin Index and Scientific Botany in New Zealand,” Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Victoria.
- 2012 “John Buchanan and Māori Plant Knowledge in Imperial Context,” A Celebration of John Buchanan FLS (1819-1898), University of Otago.
- 2012 “‘Must the Karaka-trees be Hidden?’ Katherine Mansfield and the Indigenous,” Midwest Conference on British Studies, University of Toronto.
- 2011 “Racial Ambivalence, Colonial Governance: Boers, British, and the Scientific Construction of Whiteness in Colonial South Africa,” Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies, University of Washington.
- 2008 “Power or Pleasure? The Value of Science in Colonial New Zealand,” Imperialisms: New and Old, Wilfrid Laurier University.

### Discussant

- 2020 “Boas in the Age of BLM and Idle No More: Re-evaluating the Boasian Legacy,” History of Anthropology Working Group, Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine.
- 2019 “System and Sensibility: Indigenous Plant Names between Nature and Artifice,” History of the Biological Sciences Working Group, Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine.



- 2019 *British Journal for the History of Science* special issue: “Science and Islands in Indo-Pacific Worlds,” with Genie Yoo, Earth and Environmental Sciences Working Group, Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine.
- 2015 “Religion, Science, and Sexual Dissidence,” by Joy Dixon, Department of History Seminar Series, University of British Columbia.

### Campus Talks

- 2021 “Research (mis-)Adventures in Science, Colonialism and Indigenous History,” presentation for the undergraduate History Club, University of Delaware
- 2021 “Western Constructions of Indigenous Knowledge: Plants, Peoples and Empire in Aotearoa New Zealand,” guest lecture for Vikramaditya Thakur’s “Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology” course and Carla Guerron-Montero’s “History of Anthropological Theory” course, Department of Anthropology, University of Delaware.
- 2021 “‘As clover killed the fern’: Darwinism and Its Critics in Aotearoa New Zealand,” International Darwin Day Symposium, University of Delaware.
- 2020 On navigating challenges as a new academic faculty member, panel presentation for graduate students, University of Delaware.
- 2020 “Critical Plant Studies and Plant Horror,” guest lecture for Mary Bowden’s “Plants, Animals, and Us” course, Department of English, University of Delaware.
- 2015 “Tempest in a Tea-Tree? Colonial Plant Nomenclature in New Zealand, 1769-present,” keynote speaker, History Students Association, University of British Columbia.

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### University of Delaware, Department of History

Race and Racism: Global History and Representation (Spring and Fall 2021).

Cross-listed with Africana Studies, Anthropology, English, Geography, and Women and Gender Studies.

Europe and the World II (Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021).

Plagues and Peoples (Spring 2021, Spring 2022).

History of Science (Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022).

Modern Britain (Winter 2020).

Plants, Peoples and Empire (Fall 2019).

University of British Columbia, Department of History

Early Twentieth-Century Britain (Winter 2015).

(As teaching assistant). History of India (Fall 2015).

(As teaching assistant). Indigenous Peoples in a Local and Global World (Winter 2013).

McMaster University, Department of History

(As teaching assistant). The Soviet Union (Winter 2008).

(As teaching assistant). Science and Technology in World History (Fall 2007).

Other

2018 “Decolonizing Natural History,” guest lecture for Frederica Bowcutt’s and Tamara Caulkins’ “The Nature and Culture of Natural History” course, Environmental Studies program, Evergreen College.

2014 Supply High School Teacher, New Directions Education, Liverpool, UK.

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**REVIEWING & CONSULTING EXPERIENCE**

Reviewer

*Comparative Studies in Society and History* (once).

Johns Hopkins University Press (once).

National Endowment for the Humanities (once).

*Plant Science Bulletin* (twice).

*Science, Technology, & Human Values* (once).

Consultant

*Greenstone Lies* (transmedia project based in Auckland, NZ).

Taylor & Francis (once).

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**SERVICE**University of Delaware

- 2022- Co-Director, Hagley Program in the History of Capitalism, Technology, and Culture
- 2022- Graduate Studies Committee, Department of History
- 2021- Faculty Advisor, History Club
- 2019- Hagley Program in History of Capitalism, Technology, and Culture Committee, Department of History
- 2020- Indigenous Programming subcommittee
- 2020-2021 Decolonizing the Syllabus subcommittee
- 2020 Chair, Global History of Racism course creation interdisciplinary subcommittee
- 2019 Social Committee, Department of History

Service to Profession

- 2019- Coordinating Committee, History of Science Society Earth and Environment Forum
- 2019- International Advisor, British Society for the History of Science
- 2020-2021 Bidding Proposal Committee, to host the International Congress for Science and Technology at University of Otago
- 2020-2021 Associate Editor, *Communiqué: Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science Newsletter*
- 2019-2020 Program Committee, Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science annual meeting (Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic)
- 2019-2020 Program Committee, Twitter conference: Global and International Histories of STEM, British Society for the History of Science

University of British Columbia

- 2009-2018 Graduate Student Committee Representative, Canadian Historical Association, University of British Columbia
- 2010-2011 Burge Honorary Lecture Committee

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## **LANGUAGES**

Fluent: English

Intermediate: French

Basic: Māori, Indonesian, Hawaiian, Dutch, Spanish, German, Greek

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## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Botanical Society of America

British Society for the History of Science

Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science

Forum for History of Human Science

History of Science Society

HPS Rise

Native American and Indigenous Studies Association

Pacific Circle