

Benjamin W. Goossen

Curriculum Vitae

Assistant Professor of International History
Boston University

156 Bay State Road, Room 305, Boston, MA 02215
Phone: 785-215-0687 | Email: goossen@bu.edu
Website: bengoossen.com

Employment

- 2024 – **Boston University**
Assistant Professor of International History

Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies
- 2023-24 **George Mason University**
Assistant Professor of Environmental History and Conflict Resolution

Department of History and Art History
Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution

Education

- 2021 **Harvard University**
Ph.D., History
- 2016 **Harvard University**
Master of Arts, History
- 2013 **Swarthmore College**
Bachelor of Arts
History, German Studies

* With Highest Honors

Publications

Books

- *Project Planet: A History of the 1957-1958 International Geophysical Year* (in preparation).
- 2017 *Chosen Nation: Mennonites and Germany in a Global Era* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2017). Paperback 2019.
- * European Studies Book Award, Shortlisted, Council for European Studies

Review Essay

- 2023 “Europe’s Final Frontier: Astroculture and Planetary Power Since 1945,” *Contemporary European History* 32, no. 3 (2023): 475-488.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2021 “The Making of a Holocaust Denier: Ingrid Rimland, Mennonites, and Gender in White Supremacy, 1945-2000,” *Antisemitism Studies* 5, no. 2 (2021): 233-265.
- 2021 “Terms of Racial Endearment: Nazi Categorization of Mennonites in Ideology and Practice, 1929-1945,” *German Studies Review* 44, no. 1 (2021): 27-46.
- 2020 “A Benchmark for the Environment: Big Science and ‘Artificial’ Geophysics in the Global 1950s,” *Journal of Global History* 15, no. 1 (2020): 149-168.
- 2011 “‘Like a Brilliant Thread’: Gender and Vigilante Democracy in the Kansas Coalfield, 1921-1922,” *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* 34, no. 3 (2011): 206-223.
- * Edgar Langsdorf Award, Kansas Historical Foundation

Awards, Grants, and Fellowships

- 2023 Global Faculty Fellow, John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies, Free University Berlin
- 2022-23 Postdoctoral Researcher and the Rank of Instructor, Institute for the Formation of Knowledge, University of Chicago

2022-23	Research Fellow, Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine
2022	Balzan Fellowship in Global Environmental History, Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS), Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
2021-22	Fellowship in the History of Space Technology, American Historical Association and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
2021	Delancy K. Jay Prize, Harvard University
2021	Betty M. Unterberger Dissertation Prize, Honorable Mention, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR)
2020-21	Max Weber Fellowship, European University Institute
2019-20	Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard University
2019	Daniel and Florence Guggenheim Fellowship, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum
2019	Canada Dissertation Research Fellowship, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University
2018	Laureate Research Program in International History, University of Sydney
2018	Deakin-Royce Graduate Research Fellowship, Harvard Committee on Australian Studies
2017-18	Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship, Committee on General Scholarships, Harvard University
2018	O’Friel Dissertation Research Grant, Asia Center of Harvard University
2017-18	Krupp Foundation Dissertation Research Fellowship, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard University (declined)
2017	Summer Travel Grant, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University
2017	Summer Research Travel Grant, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University (declined)
2016-20	Summer Research Grants, History Department, Harvard University
2016	Clive Fellowship, History Department, Harvard University

- 2015 Summer Predissertation Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University
- 2015 Conference Grant, Graduate Student Council, Harvard University
- 2013-14 Fulbright Scholarship, Freie Universität Berlin
- 2013-14 Study Scholarship, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) (declined)
- 2013 Lang Award, Faculty of Swarthmore College
- 2013 Paul Beik Prize, History Department, Swarthmore College
- 2012 Beinecke Scholarship
- 2012 German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

Teaching

Boston University, Assistant Professor

- 2025 “Global Energy History,” IR 587, Pardee School of Global Studies, Fall 2025.
- 2025 “History of the Climate Crisis,” IR 322, Pardee School of Global Studies, Spring 2025.
- 2025 “Environment and Empire,” IR 537, Pardee School of Global Studies, Spring 2025.

George Mason University, Assistant Professor

- 2024 “Environment and Empire,” HIST 615 / 635, Department of History and Art History, Spring 2024.
- 2024 “Environmental Movements,” CONF 399, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Spring 2024.
- 2023 “History of the Climate Crisis,” HIST 387, Department of History and Art History, Fall 2023.

University of Chicago, Faculty Instructor

- 2023 “Self, Culture, and Society,” SOSC 12600.2, Spring Quarter 2023.

2022 “The Nuclear Age,” CHSS 34200 / HIST 38608 / KNOW 32200, Fall Quarter 2022.

Harvard University, Teaching Fellow

2017 “Ancestry: Where Do We Come from and Why Do We Care?” (United States and the World 43), Prof. Maya Jasanoff, Program in General Education, Harvard University, Spring Semester 2017.

* Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University

2016 “Fin-de-Siècle Vienna” (History 82B), Prof. Alison Johnson, Department of History, Harvard University, Fall Semester 2016.

* Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University

Thesis Advisor

2023 Russell Heibel, “Unintended Protection Factor: Fallout Shelters and Their Influence on the Public Perception of Nuclear Weapon Tests” (Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences, University of Chicago, 2023).

* Master’s Thesis Award, Institute on the Formation of Knowledge

Selected Academic Presentations

2025 “Earth Science and the Anthropocene,” Anthropocene History Symposium, Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, April 23-25, 2025.

2025 “A Manhattan Project for the Planet: Cold War, Decolonization, and Earth Science in the 1950s,” Center for European Studies, Harvard University, April 9, 2025.

2025 “Inventing Earth: A New History of the 1957-1958 International Geophysical Year,” Pardee Seminar, Boston University, March 24, 2025.

2025 “Teaching the History of the Climate Crisis,” New Faculty on Tap, Boston University, February 20, 2025.

2024 “Fractured Planet: Earth Science and Divided Germany,” German Studies Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, September 26-29, 2024.

- 2024 “Project Plant: Earth Science and the Remaking of Global Order, 1945-1972,” German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C., May 15, 2024.
- 2024 “Lessons and Legacies from the International Geophysical Year,” International Lunar Year Coordination Group, Washington, D.C., May 6, 2024.
- 2024 “Environmental Crisis and the Writing of History,” Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, George Mason University, Arlington, Virginia, March 27, 2024.
- 2023 “Earthbound: A History of the 1957-1958 International Geophysical Year,” Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, November 17, 2023
- 2023 “Inventing Planet Earth: A History of the 1957-1958 International Geophysical Year,” John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies, Free University Berlin, Berlin, Germany, June 5, 2023.
- 2023 “Geosciences and the Cold War: Reconsidering a Paradigm,” KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden, June 1, 2023
- 2023 “Antje Brons als Historikerin: Ein Leben zwischen Glaube und Nation,” Ev. Kirchengemeinde Kirche St.-Peter und Paul auf Nikolskoe, Berlin, Germany, May 28, 2023.
- 2023 “Earth After Empire: Planetary Knowledge and Globalization since 1945,” Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, April 24, 2023
- 2023 “The Year of the Earth: A Planetary History,” Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine (CHSTM), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 10, 2023.
- 2023 “Reflections on the History of Mennonites and Nazism,” Beechy Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation Lecture, Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana, March 14, 2023.
- 2023 “Global Environmental History,” February 2, 2023, George Mason University.
- 2023 “Earth After *Lebensraum*: Situating Climate Science in Divided Germany,” Central European History Society Presidential Panel, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, January 5–8, 2023.
- 2022 “On Not Governing the Planet: Earth Science and International Disorder in the Global Cold War,” University of Amsterdam, June 2, 2022.

- 2022 “Empire and Environment in the Global Cold War,” University of Heidelberg, May 12, 2022.
- 2022 “The Iron Curtain and the Measure of Earth,” Freiburg Institute for Advanced Study, University of Freiburg, March 21, 2022.
- 2022 “Mapping after Hitler: German Geodesy, Spaceflight, and the Cold War, 1945-1973,” NASA History Office, Washington, D.C., February 9, 2022.
- 2021 “Dove and Swastika: Collaboration between MCC and the Nazi Regime, 1933-1942,” University of Winnipeg, October 1, 2023.
- 2021 “Beyond Planetary Consciousness: International Cooperation and Climate Change,” European University Institute, Florence, Italy, June 16-18, 2021.
- 2020 “The White Continent: Cold War Antarctica as a Bulwark against Decolonization, 1959-1963,” Sciences Po-LSE Seminar in Contemporary International History, Paris, France, October 21, 2020.
- 2020 “Geophysics and International Relations in the Early Cold War,” European University Institute, Florence, Italy, September 29, 2020.
- 2019 “New Moons: The Space Race Goes Global, 1950-1967,” Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, Washington, D.C., May 1, 2019.
- 2019 “‘We Have Met the Enemy and He Is Us’: Cold War Geophysics and the Roots of Environmental Crisis,” Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, December 6, 2019.
- 2019 “The Year of the Earth (1957-1958): Cold War Science and the Making of Planetary Consciousness,” Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, Washington, D.C., February 11, 2019.
- 2018 “Making Antarctica Environmental in the Global Cold War, 1950s-1960s,” Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia, November 12, 2018.
- 2018 “The Year of the Earth (1957-1958): Cold War Science and the Making of Planetary Consciousness,” University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia, October 23, 2018.
- 2018 “Fixing Germandom: The Nazi Fight Against Mennonite Trans-Racialism, 1930-1945,” German Studies Association, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, September 27-30, 2018.

- 2018 "Mennonite Scholarship in the Third Reich: From Knowledge Production to Genocide," Mennonites and the Holocaust, North Newton, Kansas, March 16-17, 2018.
- 2018 "Chosen Nation: Mennonites and Germany in a Global Era," Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai, India, February 28, 2018.
- 2017 "Religion and Science in Global History," Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima, Peru, September 14-15, 2017.
- 2017 "The Year of the Earth (1957-1958): Cold War Science and the Making of Planetary Consciousness," American Institute of Physics, August 2, 2017.
- 2017 "Chosen Nation: Mennonites and Germany in a Global Era," Harvard Book Store, Cambridge, Massachusetts, May 5, 2017.
- 2017 "Taube und Hakenkreuz: Verhandlungen zwischen der NS-Regierung und dem Mennonitischen Zentralkomitee in Bezug auf die Chacokolonien," Symposium on Mennonites and Nazism in Paraguay, Filadelfia, Paraguay, March 10-11, 2017.
- 2016 "'Only One Earth': The Biosphere in Global Thought from the International Geophysical Year to the UN Conference on the Human Environment," Environment, Society, and the Making of the Modern World, Stockholm, December 14-16, 2016.
- 2016 "Religious Nationalism in an Age of Globalization: A Case Study," Lab-Mundi, University of São Paulo, Brazil, March 3-5, 2016.
- 2015 "Measuring Mennonitism: Blood, Bodies, and Racial Science in Nazi Germany," Mennonites, Medicine, and the Body Conference, University of Winnipeg, October 23-24, 2015.
- 2015 "Polycentric Peoplehoods: Mennonitism, Germanness, and the Malleability of Modern Nationalism," German Studies Association, Washington, D.C., October 1-4, 2015.
- 2015 "Das Völklein und das Volk: Mennoniten und Nationalismus in Deutschland vor 1933," Conference on Mennonites in the Third Reich, Münster, Germany, September 25-27, 2015.
- 2015 "Between Activism and Indifference: Religious Nationalism in the Twentieth Century," Symposium for Pieter Judson, Swarthmore College, May 20, 2015.
- 2015 "Mennonite Bodies and Racial Hygiene in the Third Reich," History of Medicine Working Group, Harvard University, February 2, 2015.

Book Reviewer

- 2024 *Environment and History*
- Royden Loewen, *Mennonite Farmers: A Global History of Place and Sustainability* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2021).
- 2024 *Antisemitism Studies*
- Mark Jantzen and John Thiesen, eds., *European Mennonites and the Holocaust* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020).
- 2016 *Nova Religio*
- Jacob J. Neufeld, *Path of Thorns: Soviet Mennonite Life under Communist and Nazi Rule* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018).

Peer Reviewer

- 2024 Polity Press
- 2023 *Journal of World History*
- 2022 *Media+Environment*
- 2020 *Fascism: Journal of Comparative Fascist Studies*
- 2020 *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*
- 2019 *The Latin Americanist*
- 2017 *Comparative Studies in Society and History*
- 2016 *Western Historical Quarterly*

Service

- 2025-27 Committee on the Jerry Bentley Prize in World History, American Historical Association
- 2025 Graduate Admissions Committee, Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University
- 2023-24 Alumni and Media Relations Committee, Department of History and Art History, George Mason University
- 2023 Undergraduate Thesis Prize Selection Committee, Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, University of Chicago

Public Writing

2020	<i>Tablet Magazine</i>
2019	<i>Boston Review</i>
2017	<i>Religion News Service</i>
2017	<i>Winnipeg Free Press</i>
2017	<i>Princeton University Press</i> blog
2017	<i>United Nations History Project</i>
2015	<i>Journal of the History of Ideas</i> blog
2013	<i>Waging Nonviolence</i>

Media Appearances

2023	<i>Deutsche Welle</i>
2013	<i>Waging Nonviolence Radio</i>

Affiliations

American Geophysical Union
American Historical Association
American Society for Environmental History
Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
German Studies Association
History of Science Society
Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations

Research Languages

English, French, German, Russian, Spanish