

John H. Spiers

History Department | Boston College
140 Commonwealth Avenue | Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
john.h.spiers@gmail.com

EDUCATION

- Boston College, Ph.D., History** Chestnut Hill, MA 2013
- Areas of research: U.S. urban and suburban history; environmental studies; city and regional planning; social activism and civic engagement; public policy and governance
 - Dissertation: The Amenities of the Land: Suburbanization and Environmental Concerns in the Washington Metropolitan Area Since 1970
- Clemson University, M.A., History** Clemson, SC 2007
- Areas of research: U.S. women's and gender history; U.S. urban history
 - Thesis: Breaking the Wedding Vows: Woman-Centered Critiques of Marriage, 1963-1982
- Longwood University, B.A., History and Secondary Social Sciences** Farmville, VA 2005

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Boston College, History Department** Chestnut Hill, MA
Ph.D. Candidate and Teaching Fellow Sept. 2011 - present
- Conduct research that has resulted in three presentations at conferences or workshops. Presentation topics: highway planning; open space preservation; local agriculture and economic development
 - Develop and teach a 3 credit hour freshmen-level history course each semester
 - Spring 2012: Imperialism, Decolonization, and the Post-Colonial World
 - Fall 2011: Atlantic World
- Boston College, History Department** Chestnut Hill, MA
Ph.D. Candidate and Teaching Assistant Sept. 2008 - May 2011
- Conducted research that resulted in two articles published in academic journals. Article topics: residential development in Boston; planning of transportation, utilities, and parks
 - Graded assignments and lead four weekly discussion sections for approximately 60-70 students in a freshman-level course
 - Courses included: World History I and II; Europe in the World I and II
- Clemson University, History Department** Clemson, SC
Research Assistant for Dr. Abel A. Bartley May - Nov. 2007
- Created 1000 page database of article summaries from three national newspapers and twelve popular magazines discussing smoking and health issues from 1950 to the present
 - Collected additional information including polling data, abstracts of evening television news stories, and studies of state-mandated education on smoking
- Clemson University, History Department** Clemson, SC
Graduate Grading Assistant Aug. 2005 - May 2007
- Graded assignments for approximately 60 students in a freshman-level history course
 - Courses: Environmental History; History, Science, and Technology; Western Civilization I and II

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Boston College, Asian Studies and Asian American Studies** Chestnut Hill, MA
Graduate Assistant June 2009 - May 2011
- Developed informational and event promotion materials for an interdisciplinary minor and minor concentration
 - Developed and maintained content for a new website
- Boston College, African and African Diaspora Studies** Chestnut Hill, MA
Graduate Assistant Dec. 2007 - Aug. 2009

- Completed routine administrative tasks (e.g. reception, filing/sorting, photocopying, mailings, data entry, written correspondence) and maintained the program's website
- Developed itineraries for faculty job candidates visiting campus

PUBLICATIONS

- "Landscaping the Garden City: Transportation, Utilities, and Parks in Newton, Massachusetts, 1874-1915." Forthcoming in *Historical Geography*.
- "'Planning with People': Urban Renewal in Boston's Washington Park, 1950-1970." *Journal of Planning History*. Vol. 8, No. 3 (August 2009): 221-247.

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- "Rural Land in Suburbia: Public Decision-making and the Creation of the Agricultural Reserve of Montgomery County, Maryland," Social Science Historical Association 2011 Conference, Boston, MA, November 17-20, 2011.
- "Sprawl Blocker or Rural Amenity? The Agricultural Reserve of Montgomery County, Maryland," presented at the Workshop for the History of the Environment, Agriculture, Technology, and Sciences (WHEATS), Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, October 1, 2011.
- "The Long and Winding Road: A History of the Intercounty Connector, 1950-2006," Montgomery County History Conference, Montgomery College - Germantown (Maryland), January 22, 2011.
- "Ameliorating 'An Accidental Circumstance': Public Poor Relief in Boston, 1865-1880," Fourth Biennial Conference of the Urban History Association, University of Houston, November 5-8, 2008.
- "Inhabiting the Motor City: The Detroit Urban League and Housing, 1916-1940," Third Biennial Conference of the Urban History Association, Arizona State University, October 19 – 22, 2006.
- "Leaving Home: The Detroit Urban League and Housing, 1916-1929," 91st Annual Convention of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Atlanta, Georgia, September 25 – October 1, 2006.
- "A Volatile Union: Second Wave Critiques of Psychoanalysis and Marriage," 28th Annual Mid – America Conference, University of Arkansas, September 14 – 16, 2006.
- "'The Burden of Black Women': The Gendered Leadership of W.E.B. Du Bois During the Niagara Movement," *The Niagara Movement and the Dawning of Twentieth Century Civil Rights*, Academic Symposium for the Niagara Movement at Harpers Ferry Centennial Commemoration, Harpers Ferry, WV, August 16-18, 2006.

RESEARCH AWARDS

Boston College, Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy <i>Summer Research Stipend for Graduate Students</i>	2011
Montgomery County Historical Society, Mary Kay Harper Center for Suburban Studies <i>Suburban Studies Fellowship</i>	2010
Boston College, History Department <i>Summer Dissertation Fellowship</i>	2010
Clemson University, History Department <i>Charles Julian Bethea Annual Graduate Student Prize (best paper)</i>	2007

SERVICE

Boston College, Libraries Advisory Committee	Sept. 2008 – May 2011
Women's Studies Committee, Clemson University	Aug. 2006 – May 2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Served on subcommittee to award best student research project prize • Served on subcommittee to award faculty research grant 	