

**Gregory S. Wilson**  
University of Akron  
Department of History  
Akron, OH 44325-1902  
330-972-8575  
[gwilson@uakron.edu](mailto:gwilson@uakron.edu)

### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

Distinguished Professor, University of Akron, 2024-present.  
Professor, University of Akron, 2016-2024.  
Associate Professor, University of Akron, 2007-2016.  
Assistant Professor, University of Akron, 2001-2007.

Research and teaching interests include modern U.S. political, labor, and environmental history; public history; Ohio history; and the scholarship of teaching and learning.

### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2001. Major Field: Modern U.S. history.  
M.A., George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, 1993. U.S. and Public History.  
B.A., Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA, 1990. History.

### **GRANTS, HONORS AND AWARDS**

Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Research Award, 2024.  
Excellence in Community Engaged Teaching Award, University of Akron Center for Experiential Learning, 2024.  
Akron Community Engaged Scholar (University of Akron Center for Experiential Learning), 2023 - present.  
Canada Social Science and Humanities Research Council, 2020 (renewable through 2027).  
Virginia Foundation for the Humanities Fellowship, 2016.  
Virginia Historical Society, Mellon Grant, 2016.  
Professional Development Leave, 2007 (Spring); 2016-17; 2024 (Spring).  
Faculty Research Grant, University of Akron, 2003, 2015, 2022.  
Ohio Academy of History, Public History Award, 2010.  
Teaching American History Grant, Department of Education, 2005, 2008, 2010.  
Campus Partner Award, College of Education, University of Akron, 2007.  
Professional and Community Service Award, University of Akron, 2006.  
Early Career Achievement Award, University of Akron, 2003.

### **PUBLICATIONS: BOOKS**

*Poison Powder: The Kepone Disaster in Virginia and Its Legacy*. Environmental History and the American South. University of Georgia Press, 2023. (Finalist – Philip Reed Environmental Writing Award, Southern Environmental Law Center).  
*Ohio: A History of the Buckeye State* (with Kevin F. Kern). West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013; 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2023.  
*Above the Shots: An Oral History of the Kent State Shootings* (with Craig Simpson). Kent: Kent State University Press, 2016.  
*Communities Left Behind: The Area Redevelopment Administration, 1945 – 1965*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2009.

### **PUBLICATIONS: OTHER**

- “Ohio: At the Heart of History,” with Kevin Kern, in *East Meets (Mid)West: Exploring an American Regional Divide*, Jon K. Lauck and Gleaves Whitney, eds., Kent State University Press, March 2025, 68-89.
- “Worker Ownership in North America: The Cases of Weirton Steel (West Virginia) and Algoma Steel (Ontario),” (with Steven High), in *Labor History*, Feb. 2024:  
DOI: [10.1080/0023656X.2024.2319286](https://doi.org/10.1080/0023656X.2024.2319286)
- “Transitions of State Management of Industrial Decline in North America and Western Europe,” (with Stefan Berger, Lachlan MacKinnon, and Pascal Raggi), forthcoming in *The Politics of Industrial Closure* (University of Toronto Press), 2025.
- “The State of Ohio History: Roundtable Discussion (Introduction),” *Ohio History*, 123, no. 2 (Fall 2016): 7-8. (<https://oaks.kent.edu/ohj/fall2016>)
- “Deindustrialization,” in Wanda Rushing, ed., *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, Volume 15: Urbanization*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2010, 44-7.
- “The City and Public History,” *Journal of Urban History*, 36, no. 1 (January 2010):81-92.
- “Deindustrialization, Poverty, and Federal Area Redevelopment in the United States, 1945 – 1965,” in *Beyond the Ruins: The Meanings of Deindustrialization*, Jefferson Cowie and Joseph Heathcott, eds., foreword by Barry Bluestone, Cornell University Press, 2003, 181-200.
- “‘Our Chronic and Desperate Situation’: Pennsylvania, Deindustrialization, and the Emergence of Redevelopment Policy in the United States, 1945 – 1965,” *International Review of Social History*, Vol. 47, 2002, 137-58.

### **PEER REVIEWED PUBLIC HISTORY PROJECTS**

- “Deindustrialization and the Politics of Our Time.” Co-Investigator, Coordinating Committee Member, and Research Coordinator. Canada Social Science and Research Council Grant, 2020 – 2027 (<https://deindustrialization.org/>). Multi-year, transnational project investigating the deindustrialization and its multifaceted consequences in the United States, Europe, and Canada. **(Total grant: \$2.5 million)**
- University of Akron Sesquicentennial Oral History Project, 2020. Co-coordinator, student supervisor. (<https://tinyurl.com/2p9xfbs8>). Experiential Learning Recognition Award, University of Akron, 2021. Merit Award, Society of Ohio Archivists, 2021 ([https://ohioarchivists.org/committees/membership-awards/merit\\_award/](https://ohioarchivists.org/committees/membership-awards/merit_award/)).
- “The Times They Were A’Changin’”: Akron Remembers 1968,” Content Coordinator/Student Supervisor, Oral history and museum exhibit, Lock 3 History Museum, Akron, 2008 (<https://tinyurl.com/56cvdpf6>). Ohio Academy of History Public History Award, 2010 (<https://www.ohioacademyofhistory.org/2013/03/19/public-history-award/>).
- Teaching American History. Co-Writer and Content Advisor for three Teaching American History grant projects. **(Total combined: nearly \$3 million)**: “Teaching American History: The Akron Plan” (2005-08); “Ohio as America” (2008-13, <http://cybersummit.org/Resources/TAH/>), and “The Meaning of Freedom” (2010-14, <https://www.starkcountyesc.org/programs/teaching-american-history>). Projects funded by the Department of Education to promote intensive content training for social studies teachers in Akron, Summit County and Stark County.

### **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

Research for the “Deindustrialization and the Politics of Our Time” project includes editing “Deindustrialization and the Environment;” book chapters “The Krejci Dump: Tracking the Toxic Residues of Deindustrialization,” and “Race and Deindustrialization: Puerto Ricans in Lorain and the Mahoning Valley.”

### **OTHER PUBLIC HISTORY AND RELATED PROJECTS**

“Valley View: Report on Landowners”: Classroom research project on biographies of landowners in the Valley View area for Summit Metro Parks (Akron, OH), January, 2025.

- Contributor, Green Book Cleveland (<https://greenbookcleveland.org/>). Researched, wrote entries, and coordinated work of graduate students for digital history of Black leisure, tourism, and recreation in NE Ohio, 2023-24.
- Blog Post: “The End for Weirton Steel?”: <https://deindustrialization.org/the-end-for-weirton-steel/>, February 2024.
- Op-Ed, (with Joseph Maroon, Virginia Environmental Endowment), “The Kepone Disaster: History, Reflection, and Relevance,” *Richmond Times Dispatch*, September 28, 2017.
- Co-Founder and Publication Director, *Northeast Ohio Journal of History*, 2001 – 2016. Directing the publication of web-based journal as part of Northeast Ohio Research Consortium. See <http://blogs.uakron.edu/nojh/>
- On-air Commentator, *Nine Long Days: TR’s Journey to the White House*, produced by WMHT (New York), 2014. See <http://video.wmht.org/video/2365323756/>
- Panzner Wetlands/Copley Swamp Interdisciplinary Studies. Co-developed with UA faculty and students from Biology, Geography, and History an ongoing teaching, research and public history project, 2013 – present. See [https://www.facebook.com/CopleySwamp?ref=aymt\\_homepage\\_panel](https://www.facebook.com/CopleySwamp?ref=aymt_homepage_panel)
- Rubber City Revisited. Digital humanities project ongoing with local historical professionals and students detailing the history of Akron, particularly its built environment, 2014 – present. See <https://blogs.uakron.edu/rubbercityrevisited/>
- Consultant, Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Participated in panel to recommend new interpretative framework for the Ohio & Erie Canal Visitors Center. 2012.
- On-air Commentator, *The States: Ohio*, The History Channel, 2007.

### **RECENT BOOK REVIEWS**

- Hillbilly Highway: The Transappalachian Migration and the Making of a White Working Class*, Max Fraser, in *Middle West Review*, Spring 2025, forthcoming.
- The Making of Environmental Law* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), Richard J. Lazarus, in *H-Environment*, October 2023 (<https://networks.h-net.org/group/reviews/20008862/wilson-lazarus-making-environmental-law>).
- Polonium in the Playhouse: The Manhattan Project’s Secret Chemistry Work in Dayton, Ohio*, Linda Thomas, in *Ohio History* (127:1), Spring 2020, 122-24.
- After Coal: Stories of Survival in Appalachia and Wales*, Tom Hansell, in *Journal of Southern History* (85:4), November 2019, 956-57.
- 67 Shots: Kent State and the End of American Innocence*, Howard Means, in *Journal of Military History*, (81:2), April 2017, 616-17.
- Environmental Activism and the Urban Crisis*, Robert R. Gioielli, in *Journal of American History*, (102:1), June 2015, 307.
- The CCC in the Cuyahoga Valley*, Kenneth J. Bindas et al., in *Northwest Ohio History*, (82:1), Fall 2014, 85-7.
- The Life of Pennsylvania Governor George M. Leader: Challenging Complacency*, Kenneth C. Wolensky, in *Oral History Review*, (40:2), Summer/Fall 2013, 475-77.
- DDT & the American Century: Global Health, Environmental Politics, and the Pesticide that Changed the World*, David Kinkela, in *Journal of World History*, (24:1) March 2013, 250-53.

### **RECENT CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

- “What is Environmental History and Why Does it Matter?”, Integrated Bioscience Seminar, University of Akron, February 2025.
- “Deindustrialization: Race and Caste,” Panel Presentation (virtual), Deindustrialization and the Politics of Our Time, November 2024.
- “Misinformation Society,” Panel Discussion, Cummings Center, Institute for Human Science and Culture, Akron, OH, October, 2024.
- “An American Tragedy: Kent State on the Page,” Invited Panelist to Review Brian VanDeMark’s *Kent State*, Kent State University, Kent, OH, September 2024.

- “Campus Protest: Then and Now,” PEN America and UC Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement, Virtual session, May 2024.
- “Innovation and Reinvention: Doing Public History in Postindustrial Communities,” Working Group for National Council on Public History, Salt Lake City, UT, April 2024.
- “Toxic Legacy,” Virginia Festival of the Book, Charlottesville, VA, March 2024.
- “Deindustrializing Workers and Places,” Chair, Roundtable Panel, Deindustrialization and the Politics of Our Time, Virtual, March 2024.
- “Employee Ownership and the Steel Industry: Weirton Steel;” and “The State and Deindustrialization,” DePOT Annual Conference, Cape Breton, CA, June 2023.
- “Worker Health and the Kepone Disaster in Virginia,” Invited Presentation, Scientific Symposium on Chlordecone, National Scientific Steering Committee (France), Guadeloupe, December 2022.
- “Deindustrialization and the Study of Labor History,” Invited Presentation for Roundtable on “Labor Then and Now,” Center for Working Class Studies, Youngstown State University, November 2022.
- “Deindustrialization and the Politics of Our Time,” Coordinating Committee for Annual Meeting; Panel Chair: “Political Economy of Deindustrialization,” Ruhr, Germany, August 2022.
- “Greening and Deindustrialization: The U.S. Context,” Workshop Presentation (Virtual), Deindustrialization and the Politics of Our Time, January 2021.
- “The Kent State Shootings: Fifty Years On,” Ohio Humanities Council Speakers Bureau, 2020-21. (Virtual events in Ohio).
- “Reparative Work in the Past, Present, and Future of Chlordecone (Kepone),” Panel Presenter and Organizer, American Society for Environmental History, Ottawa, CA, 2020. (Conference canceled, Covid-19).
- “The Kepone Disaster in Virginia,” Video presentation, Chlordecone Through the Prism of Human and Social Sciences, University of Paris, Dauphine, 2019.
- “Toxic Dust: The Virginia Kepone Disaster,” Panel Presentation, American Society for Environmental History, Columbus, OH, 2019.
- “Border Narratives: Oral Histories with Refugees,” Panel Chair, Oral History Association, Montreal, Canada, October 2018.
- “Toxic Dust: The Virginia Kepone Disaster,” Banner Lecture Series, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, VA, October 2017.
- “Years Most Unreal: Understanding the Sixties on Ohio’s College Campuses,” Roundtable Presenter/Organizer, Ohio Academy of History, Columbus, OH, April 2017.
- “Toxic Dust: The Virginia Kepone Disaster,” Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, Richmond, VA, November 2016.
- “The State of Ohio History,” Roundtable Organizer and Chair, Ohio Academy of History, Ada, OH, March 2015.
- “Panzner Wetlands/Copley Swamp: An Interdisciplinary Teaching, Research and Public History Project,” Roundtable Panelist, “Environmental History Lab: Methods and Beyond,” American Society of Environmental History, Washington, DC, March 2015.
- “Pedagogy in a Postindustrial City: Doing Public History in Akron,” invited presentation, Deindustrialization and Its Aftermath: Class, Culture, and Resistance, Concordia University, Montreal, CA, May 2014.

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

United States since 1877 (FTF and online)  
 Ohio History (FTF and online)  
 Historical Methods  
 Introduction to Public History  
 Oral History

History, Communities, and Memory  
 American Environmental History  
 The United States Since 1945  
 The U.S. in the 1960s  
 Graduate Research and Writing Seminar

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE****Non-UA Related**

National Endowment for the Humanities, grant evaluator, 2022.

Ohio Humanities Council, Speaker's Bureau, 2003-05; 2019-2021.

Ohio Academy of History: Distinguished Service Award Committee, 2015 – 2018; Teaching Award Committee, 2006 – 2010; Public History Committee, 2001 – 2007.

Manuscript Reviewer, *Ohio History*, 2012-present; Kent State University Press, 2012-present; University of Akron Press, 2014-present; *Journal of Student Centered Teaching*, 2003 – 2010; *Northeast Ohio Journal of History*, 2002-2016.

Akron Public Schools Social Studies Steering Committee, 2002 – 12.

Department of Education Teaching American History Program, grant evaluator, 2003.

**UA Related**

Internship Coordinator, History department, 2016-present.

Graduate Director, History department, 2020 – present.

University of Akron Press Board, 2018-present.

BCAS Professional Development Leave Committee, 2024.

University Libraries, Promotion to Professor Committee, 2022.

Buchtel College Council, University of Akron, 2014-2016.

General Education Reform, Social Sciences Committee, 2015-16.

Faculty Senate, University of Akron, 2010-11.

Department of History Committees: RTP Committee (Chair); Technology (Chair), Graduate, Undergraduate, Latin American Search Committee; Asian History Search, Chair's Advisory Committee; Chair Search Committee; World History Committee; Assessment Coordinator.

College of Education, Department of Instructional and Curricular Studies search committee, 2006.

**GRADUATE ADVISING**

Dissertation Director, Thomas Weyant, "Your Years Here Have Been Most Unreal: Political and Social Activism during the Vietnam War Era at Northern Appalachian Universities," 2012 – 2016. Ph.D. conferred 2016.

Dissertation Director, Christa Adams, "Bringing "Culture" to Cleveland: East Asian Art, *Sympathetic Appropriation*, and the Cleveland Museum of Art, 1914-1930," 2014 – 2015. Ph.D. conferred 2015.

Dissertation Director, Matthew Hiner, "Nationalization and Deregulation: The Creation of Conrail and the Demise of the Interstate Commerce Commission, 1973-1984" 2001- 2006. Ph.D. conferred 2006.

Dissertation Reader, John Henris, "Agriculture and Reform in the Antebellum North," 2006-2009.

Dissertation Reader, Jim Koshan (Kent State), "The IWW, Immigrant Labor, and Industrial Unionism in the Pittsburgh District, 1909-1913," 2005.

M.A. Thesis Director, Kalwant Johal, "The Battle Over the Kent State Shootings and the Monopoly of Memorialization," 2009.

Served on numerous comprehensive committees for MA and Ph.D. students.