

## Neil Shafer Oatsvall

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www.neiloatsvall.com

### **EDUCATION**

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- 2013 University of Kansas (Lawrence, KS), Ph.D. History
- 2008 North Carolina State University (Raleigh, NC), M.A. History
- 2005 University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill, NC), B.A. Asian Studies; B.A. History
- 2004 International Christian University (Mitaka, Tokyo, Japan), Study of Japanese Language and Culture  
国際基督教大学（三鷹市、東京都、日本）

### **POSITIONS HELD**

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- 2021-pres. Triangle Math and Science Academy (Cary, NC)  
High School Social Studies Teacher  
Grade Level Chair
- 2005-2010; North Carolina Governor's School, East Campus (Raleigh, NC)  
2022 Lead Social Science Instructor, 2010  
Social Science Instructor, 2009  
Area II Instructor, 2008, 2022  
Office Assistant, 2007  
Teaching Assistant/Counselor, 2005-2006
- 2015-2021 Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts (Hot Springs, AR)  
Chair, Arts and Humanities Department, 2020-2021  
History and Social Science Instructor, 2015-2021
- 2017 University of Arkansas at Little Rock (Little Rock, AR)  
Adjunct Instructor
- 2011- 2015 Allen Community College (Burlingame, KS)  
Adjunct Instructor
- 2013 Appalachian State University (Boone, NC)  
Visiting Lecturer

- 2008-2011 University of Kansas (Lawrence, KS)  
Assistant Instructor, Summer 2011  
Graduate Teaching Assistant, 2008-2011
- 2006-2009 North Carolina State University (Raleigh, NC)  
Teaching Assistant, 2006-2009  
Graduate Assistant, 2007

### **Courses Taught or Assisted**

American Studies  
Environmental History/Environment and History  
Global Environment I/II  
History of the Modern Middle East  
History of the Peoples of Kansas  
Humanities Capstone Research  
Japanese History and Culture  
Japanese Language I/II  
Research in the Park  
Revolution and Social Change in World History  
Themes in Global History  
Time Travel  
United States Government  
United States History to/from 1865/1877  
Western Civilization II  
World History and Geography (Pre-AP)

### **PUBLICATIONS**

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#### **Book**

*Atomic Environments: Nuclear Technologies, the Natural World, and Policymaking, 1945-1960*  
February 2023 with the University of Alabama Press, in the series entitled  
NEXUS: New Histories of Science, Technology, the Environment, Agriculture,  
and Medicine  
<https://www.uapress.ua.edu/9780817321468/atomic-environments/>

#### **Peer-Reviewed Articles & Book Chapters**

- 2019 “Bottling Nature’s Elixir: The Mountain Valley Spring Water Company,  
Environment, Health, and Capitalism,” *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, 78:1  
(Spring 2019): 1-31

- 2018 “‘The devil was in the Englishman that he makes everything work’: Implementing the Concept of ‘Work’ to Reevaluate Sugar Production and Consumption in the Early Modern British Atlantic World” (with Vaughn Scribner), *Agricultural History*, 92:4 (Fall 2018): 461-490
- 2018 “Advertising Indians,” *Gastronomica: The Journal of Critical Food Studies*, 18:2 (Summer 2018): 11-18
- 2015 “Weather, Otters, and Bombs: Policymaking, Environmental Science, and U.S. Nuclear Weapons Testing, 1945-1958,” in *Proving Grounds: Weapons Testing, Militarized Landscapes, and the Environmental Impact of American Empire*, Edwin Martini, ed., Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2015: 43-74
- 2014 “Atomic Agriculture: Policymaking, Food Production, and Nuclear Technologies in the United States, 1945-1960,” *Agricultural History*, 88:3 (Summer 2014): 368-387
- 2013 “Trees Versus Lives: Reckoning Military Success and the Ecological Effects of Chemical Defoliation During the Vietnam War,” *Environment and History*, 19:4 (November 2013): 427-458
- 2012 “Making Bacon: Death, Mechanization, and the Ecology of Pig Breeding in the United States, 1900-1960,” *Essays in History*, 46 (2012)  
<https://essaysinhistory.com/articles/abstract/10.25894/eih.241/>

### Articles in Progress

“Aircraft Nuclear Propulsion, or The Billion-Dollar Debacle”  
 Forthcoming July 2023 at *Journal of Military History*

“The Agricultural Poet: Recapturing Kenji Miyazawa’s Rural and Agricultural Roots”  
 Revise and resubmit at *The Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus*

“The Worth of the Land: Amchitka Island and Nuclear Testing”  
 In progress

### Non-Peer Reviewed Publications

2014- “On This and That,” professional blog  
 pres. <http://www.neiloatsvall.com/blog/>

2020 “2020 as a ‘Normal Accident,’” *The Short Rows*, 19 November 2020.  
<https://www.aghistorysociety.org/ahs-blog/oatsvall-2020-as-a-normal-accident>

- 2020 “Peace Project: A Shared Dialogue between Japanese and American High School Students,” with Yusuke Masagaki, Junichi Nukano, Haruyo Yoshida, and Elizabeth Brown, 30 April 2020  
ピースプロジェクト：ヒロシマを巡る日米高校生の対話
- 2018 Review of *Hoptopia: A World of Agriculture and Beer in Oregon’s Willamette Valley*, by Peter A. Kopp. *Agricultural History*, 92.2 (Spring 2018): 280-282
- 2017 Review of *Atomic Geography: A Personal History of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation*, by Melvin R. Adams. *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, 118:3 (Fall 2017): 438-439
- 2017 “Growing Your Wolf Pack: Why Collaboration is ‘Worth It’ in Historical Scholarship,” (With Vaughn Scribner), Guest Post for *The Junto: A Group Blog on Early American History*, 20 February 2017  
<https://earlyamericanists.com/2017/02/20/guest-post-growing-your-wolf-pack-why-collaboration-is-worth-it-in-historical-scholarship/>
- 2016 “Advertising Nature and Health: The Mountain Valley Water Company, 1871-2015,” *The Record* (Hot Springs: Garland County Historical Society, 2016): 5.1-5.10
- 2016 Review of *Militarizing the Environment: Climate Change and the Security State*, by Robert P. Marzec. *Technology and Culture*, 57:4 (October 2016): 1034-1035

### Consulting and Interviews

- 2023 Greenhouse Environmental Humanities Book Talks, Hosted by Dolly and Finn Arne Jørgensen, 27 March 2023  
<https://newnatures.org/greenhouse/events/booktalk/online-book-talk-oatsvall-atomic-environments/>
- 2023 “Nuclear Nature and the Cold War Environment,” Podcast interview with *Modern Scholar Podcast*, hosted by Philip Shackelford, 14 February 2023 (Season 3)  
<https://modernscholarpodcast.com/episodes>
- 2020 Mindy Castile, “How Arkansas failed a generation of students on Civil War education,” *Hot Springs Village Voice*, 3 December 2020.  
<https://www.commercialappeal.com/story/news/education/2020/12/03/arkansas-failed-students-civil-war-teaching/5971595002/>
- 2020 America’s Test Kitchen podcast *Proof*, Season 4, Episode 1, “Atomic Peanuts and Gamma Grapefruit,” 10 April 2020.  
<https://www.americastestkitchen.com/podcasts/proof>

- 2019 “Rhizomes: An Interview with Neil Oatsvall,” *Network in Canadian History & Environment | Nouvelle initiative Canadienne en histoire de l’environnement*, 5 November 2019  
<https://niche-canada.org/2019/11/05/rhizomes-an-interview-with-neil-oatsvall/>
- 2015 “Q&A with ‘Proving Grounds’ author Neil Oatsvall”  
 Guest post for University of Washington Press Blog, 20 May 2015  
<http://uwpressblog.com/2015/05/20/q-and-a-with-proving-grounds-author-neil-oatsvall/>

## **PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCE ACTIVITY**

### **Papers Presented**

- 2021 “Recapturing Kenji Miyazawa's Rural and Agricultural Roots,” Annual Meeting of the Agricultural History Society, online, 1-5 June
- 2020 “Recapturing Kenji Miyazawa's Rural and Agricultural Roots,” Annual Meeting of the Agricultural History Society, Knoxville, TN, 3-6 June (accepted but canceled due to COVID-19)
- 2019 “When do we start?” History lecture at Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts—Tennoji High School affiliated with Osaka Educational University’s Peace Project, Osaka, Japan, 23 October  
 アーカンソー文理数高校—  
 大阪教育大学附属高等学校天王寺校舎のピースプロジェクト
- 2019 “Mountain Valley Water: A Company for the Ages.” Keynote Speaker, Sunrise Rotary Club, Hot Springs, AR, 15 October
- 2017 “Bottling the Elixir: The Mountain Valley Spring Water Company, Environment, Health, and Capitalism.” Science & Arts Café Lecture, Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts, 9 November
- 2016 “Bottling the Elixir: The Mountain Valley Spring Water Company, Environment, Health, and Capitalism.” Annual Meeting of the Agricultural History Society, New York City and Briarcliff Manor, NY 23-25 June
- 2016 “Bottling the Elixir: The Mountain Valley Spring Water Company, Environment, Health, and Capitalism.” Invited presentation at Hendrix College, Conway, AR, 2 March
- 2015 “The Billion-Dollar Debacle: Why the Aircraft Nuclear Propulsion Project Never Got Off the Ground.” International Biennial Conference of the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society, Chicago, IL 30 October-1 November

- 2015 “The Billion-Dollar Debacle: Why the Aircraft Nuclear Propulsion Project Never Got Off the Ground.” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Environmental History, Washington, D.C., 18-22 March
- 2014 “Landscapes of Consumption: How Rum Punch Integrated Slavery and Caribbean Environments into Colonial American Taverns,” with Vaughn Scribner. Annual Meeting of the Agricultural History Society, Provo, UT, 19-22 June
- 2013 “Chemical Diplomacy: Politics By Other Means.” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Environmental History, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 3-6 April
- 2012 “Atomic Farming: The Atom, Agriculture, and the Hopes for Technology.” Annual Meeting of the Agricultural History Society, Manhattan, KS, 6-9 June
- 2011 “Trees Versus Lives: Reckoning Military Success and the Ecological Effects of Chemical Defoliation During the Vietnam War.” University of Kansas Hall Center, Nature and Culture Seminar, 10 November
- 2010 “‘The Hog is the Most Plastic of All Farm Animals’: Pig Breeding and the Construction of an Ideal Pig, 1900-1960.” 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Missouri Conference on History, Missouri State Archives and the Missouri Museums Association, Jefferson City, MO, 14-16 April
- 2009 “Chemical Diplomacy During the U.S.-Vietnam War.” Second KU-MU Graduate History Conference, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, 3-4 April
- 2008 “Chemical Diplomacy and Its Ill Effects on U.S. Political Relations.” Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Graduate Conference,” Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, 11-12 April
- 2008 “When Sports Redefined the Color Barrier: North Carolina State College's Desegregation Through the Lens of Athletics.” Fourth Annual North Carolina Graduate Student History Conference, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, 16 February

### **Panels Organized**

- 2019 “The Place of Agricultural History in the History Curriculum,” Annual Meeting of the Agricultural History Society, Washington, D.C., 6-8 June
- 2016 “Keep on Truckin’: Commodity Flows Between Urban Markets and Rural Agroecosystems.” Chair and commentator: David Vail. Annual Meeting of the Agricultural History Society, New York City and Briarcliff Manor, NY 23-25 June

- 2015 “An Appetite for Energy: Power Production, Policy, and Environment in the Twentieth-Century United States.” Chair: Lisa Brady. Annual Meeting of the American Society for Environmental History, Washington, D.C., 18-22 March
- 2012 “Agricultural Panaceas.” Chair and commentator: Sara Gregg. Annual Meeting of the Agricultural History Society, Manhattan, KS, 6-9 June
- 2012 “The Wonders of Chemistry.” Chair and commentator: Joe Anderson. Annual Meeting of the Agricultural History Society, Manhattan, KS, 6-9 June

### **Other Conference Activity**

- 2023 “Leadership and Legacy: Lessons from George Washington, George Washington Teacher Institute Summer Residential Program, Mount Vernon, VA, 1-5 August
- 2023 “American Indian History since 1890,” Gilder Lehrman Institute Teacher Seminar led by Brenda Child, Gettysburg, PA, 16-19 July
- 2020 “Martha Washington and the Women of the 18th Century,” George Washington Teacher Institute Summer Residential Program, Mount Vernon, VA, 28 July – August 1 (accepted but canceled due to COVID-19)
- 2020 Chair, panel discussion of film “Samurai in the Sky: A Story of Reconciliation,” Hot Springs, AR, 1 March. Other participant Elizabeth Brown
- 2019 Roundtable Participant, “The Place of Agricultural History in the History Curriculum,” Annual Meeting of the Agricultural History Society, Washington, D.C., 6-8 June. Other participants Jenny Barker-Devine, Pamela Riney-Kehrberg, David Vail, Margaret Weber
- 2018 Roundtable Participant, Arkansas Peace Week/Hendrix College Interfaith Discussion Panel on Social Movements. Conway, AR, 20 September. Chaired by Tristan Norman. Other participants Stella Čapek, Deborah Skok, Malik Saafir
- 2017 Invited participant, 54th National-International Education Research Conference hosted by Iwate Prefecture, Hanamaki, Iwate Prefecture, Japan, 8-9 August  
第54回全国国際教育研究大会岩手大会、花巻市、岩手県、日本  
43rd Tohoku Area High School International Education Research Conference hosted by Iwate Prefecture, Hanamaki, Iwate Prefecture, Japan, 8-9 August  
第43回東北地区高等学校国際教育研究大会岩手大会、花巻市、岩手県、日本
- 2017 Chair and Commentator, “Knowledge and Power in Agricultural Systems.” Annual Meeting of the Agricultural History Society, Grand Rapids, MI, 8-10 June

- 2017 Roundtable Participant, "Teaching Environmental History in High Schools: Future Possibilities." Annual Meeting of the American Society of Environmental History, Chicago, IL, 29 March-2 April. Chaired by Graeme Wynn. Other participants Clinton Colgrove, Kerri Keller Clement, Megan Jones, Darren Frederick Speece
- 2016 "The Era of George Washington." Gilder Lehrman Institute Teacher Seminar led by Gordon Wood and Gloria Sesso, Mt. Vernon, VA, 10-16 July

## **AWARDS & GRANTS**

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- 2020 Arvest Bank "We Love Teachers" Winner
- 2020 Arkansas History Teacher of the Year, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
- 2018 Butler Center Confinement Sites Field Trip Grant, Arkansas Humanities Council
- 2015 Travel Grant, American Society for Environmental History
- 2012 Travel Grant, Agricultural History Society
- 2010 Department Service Award, University of Kansas Department of History
- 2010 Gagliardo Award, University of Kansas Department of History

## **SERVICE**

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### **Service to Institution**

- 2021-pres. Triangle Math and Science Academy  
Grade Chair  
Club Advisor  
American Sign Language Club, High School and  
Elementary School Chess Club



- 2015-2021     Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts  
                   Club Advisor  
                   Chess Club, 2015-2021 (Chess Association for Arkansas  
                   Schools, 3<sup>rd</sup> place state team 2021, 5<sup>th</sup> place state team  
                   2019; 3<sup>rd</sup> place state team 2018, 3<sup>rd</sup> place state team 2017;  
                   Arkansas State Scholastic Championship, 1<sup>st</sup> place team  
                   2018, 1<sup>st</sup> place team 2017)  
                   SOUL (Society of Unity and Love) Club, 2019-2021  
                   Quiz Bowl assistant coach, 2018-2021  
                   Minecraft Club, 2018-2020  
                   Anime Club, 2016-2017  
                   Japanese Culture Appreciation Club, 2016-2017  
                   Governing Council  
                   President, 2020-2021; Future President, 2019-2020;  
                   Humanities Representative, 2016-2017  
                   Arts and Humanities Research Capstone Symposium, co-organizer,  
                   2019-2021  
                   Readmit Committee, 2021  
                   Human Resources/Payroll Manager Search Committee, 2019  
                   Teaching and Learning Committee, 2017-2018  
                   Music Instructor Search Committee, 2018  
                   Licensed Professional Counselor Search Committee, 2017-2018  
                   Japanese Language Instructor Search Committee, 2017  
                   Long-Range Planning Committee, 2015-2016
- 2010-2012     University of Kansas  
                   History Graduate Student Organization,  
                   President, 2011-2012  
                   Webmaster, 2010-2012

### **Students Supervised**

- 2022     Ghaida Fadah, “Minding the Racial Gap: A Comparative History of Black and  
           White Experiences During Hot Spring AR Schools: 1952-1972”
- 2022     Robert Neilson, “The Mad Emperor of San Francisco: An Analysis of America’s  
           First and Only Emperor”  
           Second Place in History, 2021 ASMSA Arts and Humanities Research  
           Capstone Symposium
- 2022     Luna Mae Solleder, “Designing Tranquility: How Architects Use Style to Invoke  
           an Emotional Response”  
           Third Place in History, 2021 ASMSA Arts and Humanities Research  
           Capstone Symposium
- 2021     Kaletra Arnold, “Democracy’s Capability of Self-Regulation: A Comparison of  
           the United States’s Reaction After the Civil War and Germany’s After World War  
           II”  
           First Place in History, 2021 ASMSA Arts and Humanities Research  
           Capstone Symposium

- 2021 Treasure Hollis, "From Courtroom to Center Stage: The Portrayal of Female Violence, Emotion, and the Media in Maurine Dallas Watkins's *Chicago*"
- 2021 Amanda Smothers, "Analysis of Informal Comedic Use of Language Formality" Second Place in Literature, 2021 ASMSA Arts and Humanities Research Capstone Symposium
- 2020 Jenna Allemann, "Steam, Scoreboards, and Scarface: A Look into the Facts and Myths of Downtown Hot Springs"
- 2020 Chloe Biermann, "Fashion and Fancy Dress: Elite Expressions of Masculinity Through Costuming" Outstanding Humanities Junior, ASMSA Overall Winner in Humanities, 2019 ASMSA Arts and Humanities Research Capstone Symposium First Place in History, 2019 ASMSA Arts and Humanities Research Capstone Symposium Dan A. Benton Humanities Award for outstanding student in history
- 2020 Amanda Carson, "Generating Steam: Exploring the Public's Present and Historical Opinion of Nuclear Power Through a Case Study on Arkansas Nuclear One" Second Place in History, 2019 ASMSA Arts and Humanities Research Capstone Symposium
- 2020 Joseph Jilek, "A Natural State of Climate: Arkansas, Climate Change, Rice, and Aquaculture"
- 2019 Malik Barnes, "Discovering the Ticks" (with J.T. Bradish) Third place in Environmental Science, 2019 ISEF Arkansas West Central Regional Science Fair
- 2019 Joseph (J.T.) Bradish, "Discovering the Ticks" (with Malik Barnes) Third place in Environmental Science, 2019 ISEF Arkansas West Central Regional Science Fair
- 2019 Sarah (Jasper) Overcast, "A Walk Down Bathhouse Row: A Cartographical Chronology of Hot Springs National Park." <https://sites.google.com/site/hospbathhouserow/home>
- 2019 Abby Rich, "'Here nature calls': An Examination of the History of Healing Properties of Thermal Waters in Hot Springs."
- 2019 Adam Davis, "When Bananas Grew in Arkansas: A History of Invasive and Exotic Species in Hot Springs National Park." Second place in History, 2018 ASMSA Senior Research Symposium
- 2018 Logan Bailey, "Atomic Bomb Cinema: How the A-Bomb Exploded Across the Silver Screen." Second place in Arts & Literature, 2018 ASMSA Senior Research Symposium
- 2018 Sabah Ismail, "'Remember the Ladies': The Evolution of the First Ladies of the United States." Dan A. Benton Humanities Award for outstanding student in history Third place in History, 2018 ASMSA Senior Research Symposium

- 2018 Kavi Modi, "An Analysis and Representation of Romanticism."  
Second place in Fine Arts: Music, 2018 ASMSA Senior Research Symposium
- 2017 Madison Brown, "Slot Springs: The History of Gambling in Hot Springs, AR."  
Overall Winner in Humanities, 2017 ASMSA Senior Research Symposium  
First Place in History, 2017 ASMSA Senior Research Symposium
- 2017 Joseph Davidson, "Kindling Contagion: Motives for American Weaponization of Smallpox."
- 2017 Diego de los Reyes, "Charting the Hits: An Analysis of Pop Music (from 2006 to 2015)."  
First place in Behavioral and Social Sciences, 2017 Arkansas State Junior Academy of Sciences  
Honorable Mention in Behavioral and Social Sciences, 2017 ISEF Arkansas State Science Fair  
First place in Social Sciences, 2017 ISEF Arkansas West Central Regional Science Fair  
First place in Social Sciences, 2017 Arkansas West Central Regional Junior Academy of Sciences

### **Service to Profession**

Agricultural History Society  
Webmaster, 2019-pres.  
Everett E. Edwards Award Committee, 2022-2026  
Chess Association for Arkansas Schools (CAAS)  
Board member, 2019-2021  
Reader for *Diplomatic History*, *Environmental History*

### **Professional Memberships**

Agricultural History Society (lifetime member)  
American Society for Environmental History  
Arkansas Council for the Social Studies (lifetime member)

### **LANGUAGES**

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French: Certified reading competency by North Carolina State University

Japanese: Moderate speaking and reading fluency (approximately JLPT N3+ equivalent)

Spanish: Language learner