

JAMES H. JOHNSON

Professor of History
Boston University

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Education

Ph.D.	University of Chicago	History	1988
M.A.	University of Chicago	History	1983
B.A.	University of Oklahoma	Letters	1982

Current and Past Positions

Chair, Department of History	Boston University, 2022-present
Professor of History	Boston University, 2011-present
Associate Professor of History	Boston University, 1997-2010
Assistant Professor of History	Boston University, 1990-1997
Instructor, Humanistic Studies	St. Mary's College, 1987-1989

Books

Paris Concealed. Masks in the City of Light (University of Chicago Press, 2025)
A Cultural History of Ideas in the Age of Empire (1800-1920) [editor, vol. 5 of *A Cultural History of Ideas*] (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2023)
Venice Incognito. Masks in the Serene Republic (University of California Press, 2011)
Listening in Paris. A Cultural History (University of California Press, 1995)

Awards for *Venice Incognito*

George L. Mosse Award, American Historical Association, 2011
(Intellectual and Cultural History of Europe since the Renaissance)
Oscar Kenshur Book Prize, Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies (Indiana University),
2011 (Eighteenth-century Studies in any region or field)

Awards for *Listening in Paris*

Herbert Baxter Adams Award in European History, American Historical Association,
1995 (European History from 1815 to the present)
Jacques Barzun Prize in Cultural History, American Philosophical Society, 1995
(American or European Cultural History)

Awards for *A Cultural History of Ideas* (6 vols.)

2023 Prose Award: Reference Works - Humanities, American Association of Publishers,
2023
2023 Prose Award Finalist: World History, American Association of Publishers, 2023

Teaching Awards

Gitner Family Teaching Award, Boston University Department of History, 2014
Honors Program Teaching Award, Boston University College of Arts and Sciences,
2001, 2004
Metcalf Prize for Excellence in Teaching, Boston University, 1996

Administrative Experience / Endowed Chair

Chair, Department of History, Boston University	2022-present
Visiting Head Lecturer on Social Studies & Course Director, SS 10a Harvard University	Fall, 2018
Director, Boston University's <i>Conversations in the Arts & Ideas</i> (Guest speakers: Zadie Smith, Werner Herzog, Teju Cole, Bill T. Jones, Marilynne Robinson, David Grann)	2017-present
Director, Boston University Trustee Scholars Program	2012-2019
Assistant Dean, Boston University, College of Arts and Sciences, Director of the Core Curriculum	2001-2007
N. E. H. Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Humanities	1999-2002

Fields and Concentrations

European Intellectual and Cultural History
History of Venice
French History
Music History

Articles, Chapters, Introduction, and Recording

Foreword to *Mobility and Masks: Cultural Identity in Travel Literature* (Ilex Press [a subsidiary of Hachette UK], 2024)

"The Landscape Within: On Writing Histories of Experience," in *The Art of Listening and its Histories* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018)

"Casanova's World: Identity, Theater, and the Mask," in *The Pursuit of Pleasure: Casanova's Europe* (Boston: MFA Publications, 2018)

"Urban Development and the Culture of Masked Balls in Nineteenth-Century Paris," *Journal of Urban History* 40, no. 4 (Fall, 2013)

"The Face of Imposture in Post-Revolutionary France," *French Historical Studies* 55, no. 2 (Spring 2012): 291-320

"Some Musical Aspects of Charles-Germain de St. Aubin's *Livre de caricatures*," *Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century* (2012): 215-32

"Sincerity and Seduction in *Don Giovanni*," *Expositions*, vol. 1, no. 2 (Winter, 2007): 49-66

"Useful Myths in the Nineteenth Century. Venice in Opera," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, vol. 36, no. 3 (Winter, 2006): 533-54

"Deceit and Sincerity in Early-Modern Venice," *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, vol. 38, no. 3 (2005): 399-415

"Music in Europe, 1500-1800," in *Europe 1450 to 1789: Encyclopedia of the Early Modern World*, ed. Jonathan Dewald (Charles Scribner's Sons, 2004)

- “Opera in Europe, 1500-1800,” in *Europe 1450 to 1789: Encyclopedia of the Early Modern World*, ed. Jonathan Dewald (Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2004)
- Pianist, Musical Director and Arranger on CD-ROM accompanying Jack R. Censer and Lynn Hunt, *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity. Exploring the French Revolution* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2001)
- “Versailles, Meet Les Halles: Masks, Carnival, and the French Revolution,” *Representations*, vol. 73 (Winter, 2001):89-116
- “Music and the New Cultural History,” *Intellectual History Newsletter*, vol. 16 (1994): 46-53
- “Musical Experience and the Formation of a French Musical Public,” *The Journal of Modern History* (June, 1992): 191-226
- “Revolutionary Audiences and the Impossible Imperatives of Fraternity,” in *Recreating Authority in Revolutionary France*, eds. Bryant T. Ragan and Elizabeth Williams (Rutgers University Press, 1992): 57-78
- “Beethoven and the Birth of Romantic Musical Experience in France,” *Nineteenth-Century Music* (Summer, 1991): 23-35
- “The Encyclopedists and the Querelle des Bouffons: Reason and the Enlightenment of Sentiment,” *Eighteenth-Century Life* (May, 1986): 12-27
- “Antisemitism and Music in Nineteenth-Century France,” *Musica Judaica* (1982-83): 79-97

Book Reviews

- Review of Jacek Blaszkiewicz, *Fanfare for a City: Music and the Urban Imagination in Haussmann’s Paris*, *The Journal of Modern History* (forthcoming)
- Review of Robert A. Schneider, *The Return of Resentment: The Rise and Decline and Rise Again of a Political Emotion*, *The American Historical Review* (March, 2025)
- Review of Mark Everist, *Genealogies of Music and Memory: Gluck in the 19th-Century Parisian Imagination*, *Common Knowledge* (May, 2023)
- Review of Rebecca Dowd Geoffroy-Schwinden, *From Servant to Savant: Musical Privilege, Property, and the French Revolution*, *French History* (May, 2023)
- Review of Leo Damrosch, *Adventurer: The Life and Times of Giacomo Casanova*, H-France (February, 2023)
- Review of Julian Johnson, *Out of Time: Music and the Making of Modernity*, *The Journal of Modern History*, *The Journal of Modern History* (September, 2017)
- Review of Alexandra Hui, *The Psychophysical Ear: Musical Experiments, Experimental Sounds, 1840-1910*, *The Journal of Modern History* (September, 2014)
- Review of Charlotte Guichard, *Les amateurs d’art à Paris au XVIIIe siècle*, *The Journal of Modern History* (December, 2010)
- Review of Margaret Doody, *Tropics of Venice* and Eleanor Selfridge-Field, *Song and Season. Science, Culture, and Theatrical Time in Early Modern Venice* in *Eighteenth-Century Studies* (Summer, 2009)
- Review of Martha Feldman, *Opera and Sovereignty. Transforming Myths in Eighteenth-Century Italy*, *The Journal of Modern History* (June, 2009)
- “Lady of the Libretto,” review of John Rice, *Empress Marie Therese and Music at the Viennese Court, 1792-1807*, *The Times Literary Supplement* (September 3, 2004)
- Review of Sophie Rosenfeld, *A Revolution in Language: The Problem of Signs in Late*

Eighteenth-Century France, *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* (Winter, 2003)

Review of Jeffrey S. Ravel, *The Contested Parterre. Public Theater and French Political Culture, 1680-1791*, *The Journal of Modern History* (December, 2002)

Review of Jane Fulcher, *French Cultural Politics and Music. From the Dreyfus Affair to the First World War*, in *The American Historical Review* (December, 2000)

“The Woman in White,” review of *Lourdes* by Ruth Harris, in *The Boston Globe* (December 26, 1999)

Review of Katharine Ellis, *Music Criticism in Nineteenth-Century France: ‘La Revue et Gazette musicale de Paris,’ 1834-1880*, in *The Journal of Modern History* (September, 1999)

“The Ultimate Romantic,” review of *Victor Hugo* by Graham Robb, in *The Boston Globe* (March 8, 1998)

Review of Richard Etlin, *In Defense of Humanism. Value in the Arts and Letters*, in *The American Historical Review* (December, 1997)

“Composer Under Fire,” review of *Joseph Haydn. Le Mesure de son siècle* by Marcel Marnat, in *The Times Literary Supplement* (September 13, 1996)

“The Art of Love Affairs,” review of *The Love Affair as a Work of Art* by Dan Hofstadter, in *The Boston Globe* (February 11, 1996)

Review of Cecilia Dunoyer, *Marguerite Long. A Life in French Music, 1874-1966*, in *The American Historical Review* (June, 1995)

Review of Simon McVeigh, *Concert Life in London from Mozart to Haydn*, in *The Journal of Modern History* (September, 1995)

Review of Malcolm Boyd, ed., *Music and the French Revolution*, in *The Journal of Musicological Research* (Fall, 1994)

“The Deadening Success of Salieri,” review of *The Maligned Master. The Life of Antonio Salieri* by Volkmar Braunbehrens, in *The Times Literary Supplement* (October 8, 1993)

“Ending in Harmony,” review of *Mozart and the Enlightenment. Truth, virtue, and beauty in Mozart’s operas* by Nicholas Till, in *The Times Literary Supplement* (August 21, 1992)

Review of Jean-Rémy Julien & Jean Mongrédien, eds., *Le Tambour et le harpe. Oeuvres, pratiques et manifestations musicales sous la Révolution, 1788-1800*, in *Music and Letters* (February, 1992)

“Egalitarian Forms?,” review of *Haydn and the Enlightenment. The Late Symphonies and their Audience* by David Schroeder, in *The Times Literary Supplement* (Nov. 30 - Dec. 6, 1990)

Review of Michael P. Steinberg, *The Meaning of the Salzburg Festival*, in *The Journal of Musicological Research* (Fall, 1991)

Review of Adélaïde de Place, *La Vie musicale en France au temps de la Révolution*, in *Music and Letters* (May, 1990)

Invited Lectures and Conference Papers (partial list, 2009-present)

“Van Gogh in Provence,” Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (April 2, 2025)

“The Fool’s Truth: When Imposture Points to Revolution,” American Historical Association, New York City (January 4, 2025)

“Chopin’s Romanticism,” Keynote Address for the conference, *Romanticism in Music: Poland in its European Context*, Chopin Institute, Warsaw, Poland (Oct. 18, 2023)

“Five Faces of Impressionism,” Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (September 26, 2018)
 “Casanova’s Seductions: Ambition, Love, and Letters in the Theater of Society,” Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (June 28, 2018)
 “Willed Delusion: Concealment in the French Seventeenth Century,” National Humanities Center, Research Triangle, North Carolina (November 17, 2017)
 “Imposture and the Crisis of Identity in Louis XIV’s France,” Society for French Historical Studies, Washington, D.C. (April 21, 2017)
 “Life as Theater in Eighteenth-Century France,” Society for French Historical Studies, Nashville (March 5, 2016)
 “French Patronage in the Age of Haydn,” *Patronage and Enlightenment*, Stanford University (February 14, 2015)
 “Concealment and Unmasking before the French Revolution,” Graduate Seminar, Depts. of History and English, Stanford University (February 12, 2015)
 “Paul Verlaine, Masks, and the French Fin-de-Siècle,” Society for French Historical Studies, Cambridge (April 2013)
 “Festivity in Venice” to accompany opening of exhibit *The Festive City*, Rhode Island School of Design (March 1, 2013)
 “Capturing the Landscape Within,” Keynote Address for the conference *The Art of Listening*, University of Potsdam (July 12, 2012)
 “Masques et ordre public à Venise au XVIII^e siècle,” Université de Paris I (Sorbonne) (April 11, 2011)
 “Thomas Jefferson’s Paris Years: Music, Race, and Revolution,” University of Virginia (May 1, 2010)
 “Behind the Mask: Carnival and Community in Eighteenth-Century Venice,” American Historical Association, New York (January 2009)
 “Some Musical Aspects of Charles-Germain de St. Aubin’s *Livre de Caricatures*,” St. Anne’s College, Oxford University (July 19, 2009)
 “Ritual Violence and Civic Identity in Early Modern Venice,” University of Oslo, June 7, 2009
Picturing Music, 3-part lecture series [“Music as Abstraction,” “Music as Inspiration,” “Music as Inspiration”], Museum of Fine Art, Boston (November-December 2009)

Lecture-Performances (as lecturer & pianist; partial list, 2009-present)

“Variations on the Dance,” The Union Club, Boston (November 13, 2024)
 “Maurice Ravel in the French *Fin de Siècle*,” Boston University (March 21, 2023)
 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpBhIs5eUCc>)
 “Chopin’s Legacy: The Preludes, Mazurkas, and Nocturnes,” Boston performance suspended during Covid (April 2020) YouTube Recording:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jX2dlQdFiIM&feature=youtu.be>
 “Maurice Ravel, Modernism, and the Great War,” Boston University (April 21, 2016)
 YouTube Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpBhIs5eUCc>
 “Venetian Melodies,” with baritone Dana Whiteside, Save Venice Boston (April 22, 2014)
 “Milton’s Sweet Echo,” with baritone Dana Whiteside, Boston University *Milton’s Grand Style* Symposium, Boston University (December 6, 2013)

“Fêtes Galantes in the Fin de Siècle,” with baritone Dana Whiteside, French Historical Studies, Cambridge (April 4, 2013)
“Elements of Expression in Brahms and Ravel,” Boston University (March 7, 2013)
“Shakespeare’s Songs,” with baritone Dana Whiteside, Boston (May 1, 2012)
“Beethoven and the Art of Infinite Longing,” Boston University (April, 2010)
“J. S. Bach and the Divine Idea,” Boston University (December 2, 2009)

Grants and Fellowships

Gladys Delmas Foundation Research Grant, 2026
Boston University Center for the Humanities, Senior Research Fellowship, 2025-26
John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, 2014-15
American Council of Learned Societies Research Grant, 2014-15
Fellow in Residence, Camargo Foundation, Cassis, France, 2011
Boston University Center for the Humanities, Senior Research Fellowship, 2010-11
American Council of Learned Societies Research Grant, 2005-6
Visiting Fellow, Liguria Study Center, Bogliasco, Italy, 2006
Gladys Delmas Foundation Research Grant, 2006
Fulbright Research Grant, France, 1997
Boston University Center for the Humanities, Junior Research Fellowship, 1995
Faculty Exchange Grant, Università di Padova, Summer, 1994
Kahn Award for Research, Boston University, 1991
American Council of Learned Societies Research Grant, 1988-89
Fulbright Research Grant, France, 1985-86

Professional Organizations and Service

Member, Save Venice Boston Executive Committee (2011-present)
Member, Leo Gershoy Prize Committee, American Historical Association (2018-21)
Member, Chester Penn Higby Prize Committee, *Journal of Modern History* (2016)
Chair, J. Russell Major Prize Committee, American Historical Association (2003)
Member, J. Russell Major Prize Committee, AHA (2002-05)
Member, Board of Directors, Association of Core Texts and Courses (2001-2007)
American Historical Association
American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
French Historical Society
Manuscript review for University of California Press, University of Chicago Press, Cornell University Press, Harvard University Press, University of Illinois Press, Yale University Press, *French Historical Studies*, *The Journal of Modern History*, *Partial Answers: Journal of Literature and the History of Ideas*, *Renaissance Studies*, Routledge Press,
Promotion and tenure reviews for University of Alabama, Indiana University, University of Missouri, Arizona State University