

Curriculum vitae

Philip A. Wight

Associate Professor of History, and Arctic & Northern Studies

Department of History

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Academic Employment

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks AK.

Associate Professor of History, and Arctic & Northern Studies July 2025-Present

Assistant Director, [Arctic & Northern Studies](#) July 2023-PresentAffiliate Research Faculty, [Alaska Center for Energy and Power](#) July 2023-PresentAffiliate Faculty, [Climate Scholars Program](#) July 2022-Present

Assistant Professor of History, and Arctic & Northern Studies July 2021-June 2025

Term Assistant Professor of History July, 2020-June 2021

Lecturer in History December 2019- May, 2020

Brandeis University, Waltham MA.

Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation Year Fellow August 2019-May 2020

Rose and Irving Crown Fellow August 2013-May 2019

Ohio University, Athens OH.

Contemporary History Institute Fellow August 2011-May 2013

Education

2013- BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY, Waltham, MA.

2020 History Ph.D.; Qualifying Examinations passed with Distinction

2011- OHIO UNIVERSITY, Athens, OH.

2013 History M.A. with Distinction, Contemporary History Institute graduate.

2005- UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, College Park, MD.

2008 History B.A. with Honors, Minor in Astronomy

Peer-Reviewed Publications

2025. "A Brief History of Alaskan Electrification, 1893-2023", in Peter Asmus, ed.
[Alaska's Energy Innovators: How Communities are Responding to the Climate Crisis](#).
 Fairbanks AK: University of Alaska Press (Forthcoming).

2025. "Atomic Currents: The U.S. Military & Nuclear Energy in the Alaskan

Pacific", [*The U.S. Military and the Pacific Environment: The Making of an American Lake?*](#) Ed. Beth Bailly, Andrew Isenberg, Paul Landsberg. Lawrence KS: University of Kansas Press.

2023. "'[Blue Eyed Arabs' & the Silver Snake: Petrocultures of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System](#)", *Journal of Energy History / Revue d'Histoire de l'Énergie*.

2023. "[Petroleum Development and the State in Arctic North America, 1919-1977](#)", *Cambridge History of the Polar Regions*. Ed. Adrian Howkins and Peder Roberts. Cambridge UK: Cambridge University Press.

2021. "[Energy Heartland: How the Mid-Continent Pipeline System Fueled and Fouled the Great Plains](#)" in *The Greater Plains: Rethinking a Region's Environmental Histories*. Ed. Brian Frehner and Kathleen Brosnan. Lincoln NE: University of Nebraska Press. National Science Foundation (NSF) funded project.

2017. "The Countercultural Roots of Green Consumerism," in [Shopping for Change: Consumer Activism and the Possibilities of Purchasing Power](#). Ed. Louis Hyman and Joseph Tohill. Ithaca, NY: ILR/ Cornell University Press.

Law Review Articles & Technical Reports

2025. Catherine Rocchi, Philip A. Wight, and Michael Loughran, "[Making Alaskans Whole: How Regulators Can Restore Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Lands and Recover Billions for the Public](#)", *Alaska Law Review* 41, No. 2.

2025. "[Electrifying Alaska's Railbelt: A Generation and Transmission History, 1904-2024](#)", Alaska Center for Energy and Power (ACEP) Technical Paper. [Key findings](#) presented in the Senate of the Alaska Legislature, March 25th, 2024 when analyzing electrical transmission reform (HB307, signed into law July 2024).

2025. Philip A. Wight and Nathan Belz, "[Access, Equity and Safety in Rural Road Development: Historical Evidence from the Dalton Highway, 1974-2024](#)", Center for Safety Equity in Transportation, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Selected Publications and Reviews

2025. Review of Finis Dunaway, *Defending the Arctic Refuge: A Photographer, an Indigenous Nation, and a Fight for Environmental Justice* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2021) in [Environmental History](#).

2024. "[Telling the Story of Alaska's Electrification](#)", *From the Grid: Dispatches from Alaska's Energy Sector* (Alaska Center for Energy and Power Blog), April 1st.
2024. Review of John M. Findlay, *The Mobilized West: 1940-2000* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2023) Published in *Alaska History*.
2022. "[Bolt to Alaska! Energetic Lessons from a 4,300-mile Electric Road Trip](#)", 2 part series in *Network in Canadian History and Environment* (NiCHE). December. Quoted in [Electrek](#) and [Reporting from Alaska](#).
2017. "[How the Alaska Pipeline Is Fueling the Push to Drill in the Arctic Refuge](#)", *Yale Environment* 360. 16th November. Quoted in [The Seattle Times](#), November 24th and the [Anchorage Daily News](#), November 26th.

Opinion-Editorials (Opeds)

2025. "[The Trans-Alaska Pipeline at 50—What We've Learned and What Comes Next](#)", *Anchorage Daily News* and *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*. September 9th. Republished in the Pipeline Technology journal and the Alaska Oil and Gas Historical Society website.
2025. "[Alaska Could Be Entering a Golden Age of Electrification. But We Need Clear Direction from Elected Officials](#)" *Anchorage Daily News*, February 27th. *Fairbanks Daily News Miner*, March 12th.
2024. "[Richard Fineberg's Profound but Little-Known Alaska Legacy](#)", *Anchorage Daily News*, October 14th. *Fairbanks Daily News Miner*, October 20th.
2024. "[Do Electric Vehicles Even Work in Fairbanks?](#)" *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, April 7th
2022. "[Should We Blow Up the 'Magic Bus'?](#)" *Anchorage Daily News*. December 21st.
- 2021, "[GVEA's Biggest Energy Customers Want More Renewables](#)", *Fairbanks Daily News Miner*, November 7th.

Research and Travel Grants

2024, April	Yale Agrarian Studies Colloquium Travel Grant & Honorarium
2023, June	Alaska Center for Energy and Power Electrification Research Grant
2023, 2024, 2025	United Academics (UNAC) Faculty Development Travel Award
2022, December	"Petrocultures" Conference Travel Grant, Göteborg, Sweden

2021, September	Center for Safety Equity in Transportation (CSET) Research Grant P.I.; Co-P.I. Dr. Nathan Belz; " Access, Equity, and Safety in Rural Road Development: Historical Evidence from the Dalton Highway "
2021, October	"US, War, & the Environment" Conference Grant
2020, September	UAF New Faculty Startup Grant
2019, November	Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP) Travel Grant
2019, September	"Energy and Scale" Conference Grant, Energy in Society, U. of Calgary
2019, May	Brandeis History Department Conference Grant
2019, February	Brandeis Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Travel Grant
2017, December	American Society for Environmental History Travel Grant
2017, December	American Historical Association Council Annual Meeting Travel Grant
2017, April	Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation Research Grant
2017, January	Brandeis Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Travel Grant
2016, December	Exploratory Research Grant, Hagley Museum and Library
2016, December	American Society for Environmental History Travel Grant, Chicago, IL
2016, October	"The Great Plains: An Environmental History" Conference Grant (NSF)
2016, April	Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation Research Grant
2015, September	Doctoral Mentor Research Grant, Brandeis History Department
2013, December	Brandeis Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Research Grant
2012, September	Ohio University History Department Travel Grant
2012, June and December	Contemporary History Institute Thesis Research Grant

Awards and Honors

2026, Spring	Research Fellow, University of Vienna, Austria
2024, May	Community Solar Champion , Coalition for Community Solar Access
2018-2019	Dissertation Year Fellowship, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
2015, March	University Prize Instructorship , Brandeis University
2014-2015	Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award, Brandeis University
2014, 2016, 2018	Brandeis Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (BOLLI) Lectureship
2013-2018	Rose and Irving Crown Fellowship, Brandeis University
2011-2013	Contemporary History Institute Fellowship, Ohio University
2008, April	Phi Beta Kappa
2008, May	Senior Marshal, University of Maryland Graduation
2004, November	Eagle Scout, Troop 674, Cincinnati, Ohio

Recent Invited Lectures and Conference Presentations

2025. Invited Lecture: "'Oil Men in Uniform': The U.S. Military and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System", Society of American Military Engineers, Anchorage, May 22nd.

2025. Invited Lecture: "[Electrifying Alaska's Railbelt: A Generation and Transmission History, 1904-2024](#)", Renewable Energy Alaska Project webinar, May 7th.
2025. Invited lecture: "The Shortest History of Arctic Infrastructure", Arctic Social Science Week, Boulder CO. March 24th.
2025. Invited Lecture: "Hidden Histories of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System", Alaska Society of Professional Engineers "E-Week", Fairbanks.
- 2024: Keynote Conversation with former Lt. Gov. Fran Ulmer, "Governing the Greatland", Alaska Historical Society annual conference. Cordova, AK and online. October.
- 2024 Paper: "Children of the Midnight Sun: A History of Alaskan Electrification, 1893-2023", World Congress of Environmental History, Oulu, Finland. August.
2024. Moderator for Interview with Willie Hensley, "Energy Sovereignty: ANCSA, AVEC and rural electrification in Alaska". Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy (ARENA). July 29th, Fairbanks, AK.
2024. Invited Lecture: "Electric Crescent: An Energy History of Fairbanks", Measuring Urban Sustainability in the Arctic (MUST) NSF Project. Fairbanks, AK. June.
2024. Invited Lecture: "Children of the Midnight Sun: An Energy History of Alaska". Alaska Center for Energy & Power Microgrid Bootcamp. Fairbanks, AK. May.
2024. Invited Colloquium: "The Petro-Welfare State: Alaska's Experiment in Fiscal and Ecological Sustainability". Yale Program in Agrarian Studies, Yale University, New Haven CT. April.
- 2024 "Electrifying Alaska's History and Future", American Society for Environmental history annual conference. Denver, CO. April.
2024. Invited Lecture: "Modern Magic: Electrification of Alaska's Railbelt, 1904-2024", Alaska Society of Professional Engineers "E-Week", Anchorage, AK. February.
2024. Invited Lecture: "The Atom in the Alaskan Anthropocene: Nuclear Power and the New Arctic", for Alaska in the Crosshairs: Climate, Arctic Environment, & the Resurgence of Nuclear Weapons. Juneau, AK. February.
2024. Invited Lecture: "Atomic Currents: Nuclear Power in Alaskan

History”, Alaska Center for Energy & Power Nuclear Working Group. January.

2023. Invited Lecture: “Pillars of Smoke: Energizing Interior Alaska, 1904-2024”. Alaska Mining Hall of Fame. Fairbanks, AK. November.

Recent Earned Media and Subject Matter Expert Interviews

2025. Julie Filapek, “[Richard Fineberg: An Alaskan Hero](#)”, *Beloit Magazine*, August 20th.

2025. Nat Herz, “[With Gas Crunch Looming, Alaska’s Utilities Won’t Get Big Wind Before Tax Credits Expire. Here’s Why.](#)” *Northern Journal*, August 29th. [Anchorage Daily News](#), September 1st.

2025. Gwen Holdmann, “[Little Dam, Big Dam](#)”, *Closing the Gap Podcast*, June 22nd.

2025. Alex DeMarban, “[One of the North Slope’s most successful oil drillers is bullish on a new discovery](#)”, *Anchorage Daily News*, June 15th.

2025. Nat Herz. “[What Happens with the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Shuts Down? And Who Pays to Remove It?](#)” *Northern Journal Podcast*, June 10th.

2025. Nat Herz, “[New Bitcoin Mine would use as much power as the state’s largest coal plant produces](#)”, *Northern Journal*, June 1.

2025. Max Graham, “[A Key Player in Moving Interior Alaska Off Fossil Fuels? Multi-billion Dollars Mining Corporations](#)”, *Northern Journal*, April 29th.

2025. Amanda Byrd, “[Energy in the North](#)”, *KUAC* and *ACEP*. April 23rd and May 7th.

2025. Nat Herz, “[Above the Yukon River, on Native land, Hilcorp is set to drill for oil this summer](#)”, *Northern Journal*, April 7th.

2024. Alex DeMarban, “[After Trump Win, Major Alaska Oil and Mining Projects Should be Back on the Table](#)”, *Anchorage Daily News*, November 9th.

2024. Richard Sandomir, “[Richard Fineberg, Relentless Skeptic of the Alaska Pipeline, Dies at 83](#),” *The New York Times*, November 1st.

2024. Max Graham. “[Inside a company’s bid to make Alaska’s next big oil field lower-](#)

[carbon.](#)" *Northern Journal*, reprinted in [Anchorage Daily News](#) and the *Alaska Beacon*. July 8th.

2024. Kavitha George. "[Railbelt electric utilities are facing a major energy crunch. Renewables may be the answer](#)". Alaska Public Media. April 9th.

2024. Kavitha George. "[Coal loading equipment in Seward is set to be demolished, likely a permanent end to Alaska coal exports](#)". Alaska Public Media. March 5th.

2024. [Alaska Statehood Anniversary](#). KTVF 11 Fairbanks. January 3rd.

Courses Taught

University of Alaska Fairbanks

- HIST 275: Perspectives on History ("The Craft of History")—Fall, 2021, 2022.
- HIST 461/661 ACNS 662: History of Alaska—Fall 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023; Spring 2024 (Fairbanks Education Association)
- HIST 434: North American Energy History—Spring, 2021.
- HIST 434: "Fire, Ice & The Fate of Humanity: A History of Energy and Climate Change"—Spring 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025.
- ACNS 201: The Circumpolar North: An Introduction, Fall 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024.
- HIST 411/ ACNS 611: Environmental History: Fall, 2020, 2022.
- HIST 483/ ACNS 683: Twentieth Century History of the Circumpolar North. Spring, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.
- HIST 475/ ACNS 675 Historiography: Fall 2024
- HIST 476 Senior Thesis: Spring 2025
- "Silver Snake: The Trans-Alaska Pipeline System and the World It Made", Osher Lifelong Learning Course, UAF. Fall 2021; OLE, Anchorage, Fall 2022.

Recent Service

- October 2022- Present. Board Member, Alaska Historical Society.
- December 2020-Present. [Bus 142 Interpretive Advisory Team](#), University of Alaska Museum of the North.
- 2020-2024. Paul H. McCarthy Student Research Award Committee, UAF Rasmuson Library

References

By Request