

# ROBERT ELDER

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## EDUCATION

2011            Ph.D., history, Emory University  
2005            M.A., history, Clemson University  
2003            B.A. *summa cum laude*, history and English, Clemson University

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## PROFESSIONAL

2014-            Assistant Professor of History, Valparaiso University  
2013-2014       Assistant Professor of History, Tabor College  
2011-2013       Lilly Postdoctoral Fellow and Lecturer in Humanities and History, Christ  
College, Valparaiso University

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## DISTINCTIONS

2016-2017       University Research Professorship, Valparaiso University  
2015            Creative Work and Research Committee Summer Fellowship, Valparaiso Uni-  
versity  
2012            Dissertation nominated by Emory University history department for the 2012  
*Allan Nevins Prize*, offered by the Society of American Historians for the  
best-written doctoral dissertation on an American subject  
2010-2011       Dean's Teaching Fellowship, Laney Graduate School, Emory University (for  
proven excellence and potential in teaching)  
2009            Lewis P. Jones Research Fellow, South Caroliniana Library, University of  
South Carolina  
2008, 2009       Competitive Research Award, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Emory  
University  
2007, 2008       Visiting Research Fellowship, Institute for Southern Studies, University of  
South Carolina  
2005            South Carolina Colonial Dames Award for outstanding graduate student in  
American History, Clemson University

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## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

John C. Calhoun and the American South in the Modern World (current project under contract with Basic Books)

*The Sacred Mirror: Evangelicalism, Honor, and Identity in the Deep South, 1790-1860* (University of North Carolina Press, 2016)

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

"A Twice Sacred Circle: Women, Evangelicalism, and Honor in the Deep South, 1784-1860," *Journal of Southern History* (August 2012)

"Sacred History: The Formation of Civil Religions in the American South and South Africa," *Safundi* (January, 2005)

### Book Reviews

Book reviews published in *The Journal of Southern History*, *The Journal of American History*, *Journal of Southern Religion*, *Agricultural History*, *Journal of American Studies*, *Church History*, and *Slavery and Abolition*

### Selected Editorials, Roundtables, Encyclopedia Articles, Reviews etc.

Introduction, "Do New Histories of Slavery Mean New Histories of Southern Evangelicalism?" Roundtable, *Journal of Southern Religion*, September 1, 2016

"Remembering Lincoln," *The Cresset: A Review of Literature, Arts, and Public Affairs* (Lent 2013)

"Are Two Heads Better Than One? A Contrarian Look at Group Work," *Lilly Fellows Program Network Communique* (vol. 27, 2012)

"Color Blindness," a review of Edward J. Blum and Paul Harvey, *The Color of Christ: The Son of God and the Saga of Race in America* (UNC Press, 2012) in *Books & Culture* (September/October 2012)

"Errand out of the Wilderness," a review of Matthew Bowman, *The Mormon People: The Making of an American Faith* (Random House, 2012) in *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* (Summer 2012)

"Religion and Violence in the American South," in *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, vol. 19: *Violence*, Amy Wood (volume) and Charles Reagan Wilson (series), eds., (UNC Press, 2011)

"A New Perspective on Racial Reconciliation in Mississippi," a review of Peter Slade, *Open Friendship in a Closed Society: Mission Mississippi and a Theology of Friendship* (Oxford Press, 2009) in *Books & Culture* (October 2010)

"Old Andy Jackson Would Understand John McCain. Do You?" *History News Network*, September 29, 2008

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## PRESENTATIONS

### Invited Talks

“John C. Calhoun and the ‘Spring of Nations’: 1848 and the Making of ‘A Disquisition on Government,’” The Kinder Institute On Constitutional Democracy, University of Missouri, November 2016

“Andrew Jackson and the Transformation of American Democracy,” Newberry Teachers’ Consortium Seminar, Newberry Library, October 2016

“Before the Bible Belt: Honor Culture and Evangelical Religion in Early South Carolina,” The Waccamaw Center for Cultural and Historical Studies, Coastal Carolina University, March 2015

### Conference Presentations

Participant, “Early Career Issues: Transitioning from Graduate School to Faculty,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado (January 2017)

Participant, Roundtable Discussion of Edward J. Blum’s Reforging the White Republic, Conference on Faith and History, Virginia Beach, Virginia (October 2016)

Chair, “Do New Histories of Slavery Mean New Histories of Southern Evangelicalism?” Roundtable, American Society of Church History Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, January 2016

“‘Leaving His Just Debts Unpaid’: Commerce, Reputation, and Religion in the Deep South, 1800-1860,” Southern Historical Association, St. Louis, Missouri, November 2013

“Honor’s Audience: Evangelicalism, Community, and the Bible in the Old South,” Association of British American Nineteenth Century Historians, University of Northumbria, UK, October 2012

“The Prehistory of the ‘Crusading Christian Confederate’: Honor, Manhood, Religion, and the Civil War,” Symposium on Religion and the Civil War, Institute for Studies of Religion, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, September 2011

“Dual Membership: Men and Violence in the Moral Communities of Honor and Evangelicalism in the South, 1800-1860,” American Society of Church History Conference, San Diego, California, January 2010

“The Local Church as an Alternative Court of Opinion,” Religion Graduate Symposium, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, February 2009

“The Very Southern Saints: Reconsidering the Distance Between Honor and Evangelicalism in the Deep South, 1800-1860,” Masculinity and the American South Symposium, University of Warwick, UK, June 2008

### Panels Organized

“Do New Histories Slavery Mean New Histories of Southern Evangelicalism?” American Society of Church History Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, (January 2016)

“Rethinking Sacred vs. Secular: Religion, Morality and Modernity in the 19th Century South,” Southern Historical Association, St. Louis, Missouri, November 2013

“New Perspectives on Two Centuries of Evangelicalism, Honor, and Masculinity in the American South,” American Society of Church History Conference, San Diego, California, January 2010

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## TEACHING

### Teaching Interests

Early America, U.S. in the World, American South, American Religious History, American Intellectual History, Slavery, Civil War and Reconstruction, Gender, Conservatism, Evangelicalism

### Selected Courses

*Valparaiso University*

HIST 220: The American Experience to 1877

HIST 320: Colonial America

HIST 323: Civil War and Reconstruction

HIST 390: Age of Jackson

HIST 390: American Conservatism

HIST 393: Slavery in Film

HIST 492/CC300: Race and Class in the American South

CC 115: Inhuman Bondage: Slavery in America (offered in Valparaiso University Honors College)

*Tabor College*

HI130: American Social History: Race and Religion

HI318: American Religious History

*Emory University*

HIST 385: Old Religions in the New World: Transatlantic Religious Movements and American Identities to 1865

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## SELECTED UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT, AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

William F. Holmes Award Committee, Southern Historical Association, 2017 Meeting

Presidential Commission for Inclusion and Diversity, Valparaiso University, 2016-2019

Program Committee, American Society of Church History Annual Meeting, 2016

Task Force on Public History, Valparaiso University Department of History, 2014-2015

Referee, *Journal of Southern History*, *American Nineteenth Century History*, *Journal of Southern Religion*, University of Virginia Press