

## David Beck Ryden

### Education

- Dec. 1999 Ph.D. University of Minnesota, Department of History, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Major Field: *United States and Eighteenth-Century British America*  
Minor Field: *Latin American History*  
Dissertation Title: *Producing a Peculiar Commodity: Jamaican Sugar Production, Slave Life, and Planter Profits on the Eve of Abolition, 1750-1807* (Finalist for the *Alexander Gerschenkron Prize*)
- May 1993 M.A. University of Delaware, College of Business and Economics, Newark, Delaware  
Thesis Title: *The Charleston Slave Trade: A Formal Analysis of Supply and Demand*
- May 1990 B.A. Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut  
Majors: *Economics and History*

### Employment

- September 2007- Associate Professor of History  
University of Houston, Downtown Campus
- August 2001-August 2007 Assistant Professor of History  
University of Houston, Downtown Campus  
HIST 1305 *American History to 1877*  
HIST 1306 *American History since 1877*  
HIST 3330 *British American Colonial History*  
HIST 4320 *Slavery in the Americas*  
HIST 4390 *Applied Quantitative History*  
HIST 4390 *The American Revolution and the British Atlantic Empire* (proposed for 2008)
- Sept. 2000- July 2001 Lecturer:  
*Department of American Studies and History, Brunel University, London*  
HY2011 *The First Industrial Revolution, 1750-1850*  
HY1015 *Britain, 1815-1914*  
HY1014 *Stuart and Hanoverian Britain, 1642-1783*  
HY1011 *Historiography (team taught)*  
HY1010 *Historical Skills (with Mr. Nicholas Kingwell)*
- April 1998-August 2000 Postdoctoral Fellow:  
*Department of American Studies and History, Brunel University, London*  
Research focus on the slave trade and slavery in the West Indies.
- April 1997- March 1998 Research Assistant:  
*Integrated Public Use Microdata Series Project, University of Minnesota*  
Produced codebook for the U.S. historical census data in an HTML format.  
Prof. Steven Ruggles and Dr. Mathew Sobek, authors.
- Jan. 1997- March 1997 Teaching Assistant:  
*Department of History, University of Minnesota*  
HY1302 *Civil War to the Present (Prof. David Roediger, Lecturer)*
- Sept. 1993- Dec. 1996 Research Assistant:  
*1920 Public Use Microdata Sample and the Hispanic Oversample, Univ. of MN*  
Led occupational coding team (seven members), managed multi-million dollar budget, and supervised data consistency checking.

## Edited Book

*The Abolitionists Struggle: Promoters of the Slave Trade*, volume iv of *The British Transatlantic Slave Trade* series, Kenneth Morgan general editor (London: Pickering and Chatto, 2003).

## Articles

"Atlantic Labor Markets and the Colonial Economy of South Carolina," *Plantation Society in the Americas* (forthcoming).

"South Carolina's Colonial Land Market: an Analysis of Rural Property Sales, 1720-1775," co-authored with Russell R. Menard, *Social Science History* 29 (2005): 599-623.

"Running the Numbers," *Slavery and Abolition* 22 (2001): 141-9.

"Does Decline Make Sense? The West Indian Economy and the Abolition of the British Slave Trade," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 31 (2001): 347-374.

"Producing a peculiar commodity: Jamaican sugar production, slave life, and planter profits on the eve of abolition, 1750-1807," *Journal of Economic History* 61 (2001): 504-507.

"'One of the fertilest pleasentest Spotts': An Analysis of the Slave Economy in Jamaica's St Andrew Parish, 1753," *Slavery and Abolition* 21 (2000): 32-55.

"Data Consistency Checking," co-authored with Dan Kallgren *Historical Methods* 28 (1995): 66-69.

## Book Chapter

"Planters, Slaves and Decline," found in Heather Cateau and Selwyn H. H. Carrington (eds.), *Capitalism and Slavery Fifty Years Later; Eric Eustace Williams - A Reassessment of the Man and His Work*, (New York: Peter Lang, 2000).

## Technical Publication

*Public Use Microdata Sample of the 1850 United States Census of Population: User's Guide and Technical Documentation*, with Steven Ruggles, et. al., (Minneapolis: Social History Research Laboratory, 1995).

## Review Articles, Book Reviews, and Encyclopedia Entries

Review of B. W. Higman's *Plantation Jamaica: Capital and Control in a Colonial Economy* for *Labor History* (forthcoming).

Review of Deborah Valenze's *The Social Life of Money in the English Past* for *Literature and History* (forthcoming).

Review of Cathy Matson's (ed.) *The Economy of Early America: Historical Perspectives and New Directions* for *EH.Net Review* (2007, <http://www.eh.net/bookreviews/>).

Review of Frederick H. Smith's *Caribbean Rum: A Social and Economic History* for *Business History Review* 80 (2006).

Review of Trevor Burnard's *Mastery, Tyranny, and Desire: Thomas Thistlewood and his Slaves in the Anglo-Jamaican World* for *Eighteenth-Century Book Reviews Online* (<http://back.csulb.edu:8080/asecs/>).

"Sugar" entry in Jonathan Dewald, ed., *Encyclopedia of Early Modern World* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2003).

Review of Jack P. Greene, Rosemary Brana-Shute, and Randy J. Sparks' (eds.) *Money, Trade, and Power: The Evolution of Colonial South Carolina's Plantation Society* for *EH.Net Review* (2003, <http://www.eh.net/bookreviews/>).

Review of Herbert S. Klein's *The Atlantic Slave Trade* for the *Journal of American Studies* (2002).

Review of Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy's *An Empire Divided: The American Revolution and the British Caribbean* for *International History Review* 23 (2001).

Review of Jenny Bourne Wahl's *Bondsmen's Burden* for *The Journal of American Studies*, 34 (2000): 346-7.

"Marxism and Slavery Historiography" entry, in Paul Finkelman and Joseph C. Miller editors, *Encyclopedia of World Slavery* (New York: Macmillan Reference, 1999).

## Conference Presentations

"Rising Productivity and Falling Profitability: the Paradox of West India Sugar Planting in the Era of Abolition, 1783-1807," *39<sup>th</sup> Annual Association of Caribbean Historians Meeting*, Kingston, Jamaica, May 2007.

"Rising Productivity and Falling Profitability: the Paradox of West India Sugar Planting in the Era of Abolition, 1783-1807," *Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation Conference (Slavery: Unfinished Business)*, Hull, England, May 2007.

"The Uncommitted Mercantilists: The Defenders of the Sugar Industry, 1785-1807," *Social Science History Association*, November 2006.

"The West India Interest in the Age of Abolition, 1785-1807," *Social Science History Association Annual Meeting*, November 2005.

"'Nothing can be more wretched': Slave Work and Life Course on Jamaica's Sugar Estates," *Social Science History Association Annual Meeting*, October 2002.

"A Study of Atlantic Labor Markets and the Lowcountry Economy," *Southwestern Society of Economists*, St. Louis, Missouri, April 2002.

"Manumission in Jamaica," *From Slavery to Freedom: Manumission in the Atlantic World* (funded by the NEH), College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina, October 2000.

"Dissertation Summary," *Economic History Association Annual Meeting*, Los Angeles, California, September 2000.

"Productivity Change in the Jamaican Sugar Industry," *Economic History Society Annual Conference*, Bristol, England, April 2000.

"Slave Sales in the British Caribbean, 1750-1807," with Professor Kenneth Morgan, *Social Science History Association meeting*, Fort Worth, Texas, November 1999.

"'One of the fertilest pleasentest Spotts': An Analysis of the Slave Economy in Jamaica's St. Andrew Parish, 1753," *Social Science History Association meeting*, Chicago, Illinois, November 1998.

"The Transition of Jamaican Slavery, 1750-1800," *The Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture*, Worcester, Massachusetts, June 1998.

"Planter and Slave Strategies during the Final Years of the British Slave Trade: Evidence from Jamaica, 1740-1807," *European Social Science History Conference*, Amsterdam, March 1998.

"Does Decline Makes Sense? The British Sugar Economy of the Late-Eighteenth Century," *Social Science History Association* meeting, Washington, DC, October 1997.

"Why Did South Carolina Embrace Slavery?" *Social Science History Association* meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, October 1996.

"Planters, Slaves, and Decline," *Capitalism and Slavery Fifty Years Later*, Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad, September 1996.

"From Neighborhood to Colony: The Transformation of the Colonial South Carolina Land Market," with Russell Menard, *Social Science History Association* meeting, Chicago, November 1995.

"A Century of Home Ownership: Black and White Differentials, 1900-1990," *Social Science History Association* meeting, Atlanta, October 1994.

### **Seminar Presentations**

"The Political Economy of British Abolition," *John Carter Brown Library Fellows Luncheon Chat*, Brown University Faculty Club, July 2006.

"Productivity Change in the Jamaican Sugar Industry," *Caribbean Seminar Series*, Institute for Commonwealth Studies, University of London, November 2000.

"'Nothing can be more wretched': Slave Work and Life Course on Jamaica's Sugar Estates," Presented at the *Faculty of Arts Mini-Conference*, Brunel University, April 1999.

### **Professional Service**

Manuscript Reviewer: *Social Science History*, 2006.

Manuscript Reviewer: *Wadabagei: A Journal of the Caribbean and its Diaspora*, 2005.

Manuscript Reviewer: *Journal of Early Modern History*, 2005.

Humanities and Social Sciences Dean Search Committee member, 2004.

Interim Director of the *Learners' Community* (DOE- Title V program) while Director was on temporary leave, University of Houston-Downtown September 2003- June 2004.

Faculty senator, University of Houston-Downtown, April 2002- January 2005.

Participant in the inter-university *Partners in Quality Education* program for public school teachers, 2002-3.

Economics Network Representative: Recruited papers and organized economic history sessions for the *Social Science History Association* meetings, 1998, 1999, and 2000.

Designed, constructed, and maintained home page for Brunel University's Department of American Studies and History, 1998-2000.

Early American History Workshop Organizer: Recruited papers and coordinated schedules, *University of Minnesota Early American Workshop*, 1997.

Manuscript Reviewer: *Social Science History Journal*, 1995.

Editorial Assistant: *Historical Methods*, "The Minnesota Historical Census Projects," (vol. 28, 1995).

## Awards/Honors

*Marie L. and William R. Harland Memorial Fellowship*, John Carter Brown Library, Brown University 2006.

Travel Grant from Duke University's John Hope Franklin Collection for African and African American Documentation to consult the Stephen Fuller Papers, 2006.

University of Houston-Downtown's *ORC Research Grant* funded archival research in England, Scotland, and Wales, 2006.

*Professional Service Award Finalist*, University of Houston-Downtown Faculty Award, 2006.

*University Funded Faculty Development Leave* to conduct research for forthcoming book during the spring 2006 semester, Awarded in 2005.

University of Houston-Downtown's *ORC Research Grant* funded course release and reproduction expenses related to research on West Indian slavery and abolition, 2004.

*Jacob Price Visiting Research Fellowship*, William L. Clements Library of Early Americana, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2003.

Economic History Association's *Arthur H. Cole Grant-in-Aid* funded research in London, England, 2002.

University of Houston-Downtown's *ORC Research Grant* funded course release and reproduction expenses related to research on West Indian slavery and abolition, 2002.

Finalist for the *Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture /NEH Postdoctoral Fellowship*, 2001.

Finalist for the *Alexander Gerschenkron Prize* given by the Economic History Association for the best dissertation in economic history, 2000.

*MacMillan Overseas Travel Fellowship* to conduct research at the Institute of Jamaica and the Jamaica Archive, 1998

*Gilder-Lerham Institute Travel Fellowship* to attend the African Diaspora Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia., 1998.

University of Minnesota's Center for *Early Modern History Microfilm Grant* funded the filming of manumission records at the Jamaica Archive, 1998.

University of Minnesota's *Early American History Workshop Dissertation Grant* to conduct research at the Jamaica Archive, 1998.

*MacMillan Overseas Travel Scholarship* to conduct research at the British Public Record Office, the British Library, and the British Museum, 1997

*Union Pacific Travel Scholarship* to conduct research at the Institute of Jamaica and the Jamaica Archive, 1996.

*People's Choice Award*, Annual Quantitative History Poster Session, Department of History, University of Minnesota, 1995.

Member of Omicron Delta Epsilon: an international honor society in economics, 1992

Full tuition scholarship to attend the University of Delaware, College of Business and Economics, 1991-2.

Graduated from Connecticut College with honors and with distinction in economics, 1990.