

Nathan Masters Sorber, Ph.D.

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CURRENT POSITION

Chairperson, Department of Curriculum & Instruction (2019-Present)
Associate Professor of Higher Education (Assistant: 2012-2018; Associate: 2018-Present)
Senior Scholar, Center for the Future of Land-Grant Education (2019-Present)
College of Education and Human Services
West Virginia University

EDUCATION

Pennsylvania State University College of Education

State College, PA: PhD (2011)

Department of Education Policy Studies

Major: Higher Education; Cognate: History

Dissertation: "Farmers, Scientists, and Officers of Industry: The History of Land-Grant Colleges in the Northeastern United States, 1862-1905"

- *Dissertation of the Year Award*: Penn State University Alumni Association
- *Dissertation of the Year Finalist*: Association for the Study of Higher Education

Vanderbilt University

Peabody College of Education

Nashville, TN: M.Ed. (2004)

Higher Education

Bucknell University

College of Arts and Sciences

Lewisburg, PA: B.A. (2002)

Economics and Political Science

BOOKS

Sorber, N. M. (In Press). *Change and Continuity in American Colleges and Universities: Lessons from Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Innovations*. Perspectives on the History of Higher Education. New York, NY: Routledge.

Sorber, N. M. (2018). *Land-Grant Colleges and Popular Revolt: The Origins of the Morrill Act and the Reform of Higher Education*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. 281 pages.

Geiger, R. L., Sorber, N. M., Anderson, C. K. (Eds.). (2017). *American Higher Education in the Postwar Era, 1945-1970*. New York, NY: Routledge. 224 pages.

Geiger, R. L., & Sorber, N. M., (Eds.). (2013). *The Land Grant Colleges and the Reshaping of American Higher Education*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Press. 370 pages.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

Sorber, N. M. (Under Review). From Aristocratic Virtue to Bourgeois Ambition: Controlling and then Nurturing Passion in the American College. *Paedagogica Historica*.

Sorber, N. M. (2019). The American Land-Grant Universities and Regional Development. In Erdős Katalin & Attila Varga (Ed.) *Handbook of Universities and Regional Development*.

Sorber, N. M. (2018). Early Land-Grant Colleges and Students in the Northeastern United States: A History of Regional Access and Mobility Patterns in Maine, Massachusetts, and New York, 1862-1878. *Agricultural History*, 92, 1.

Sorber, N. M. (2017). The University Tradition in the United States. In J.C. Shin, P. Teixeira (eds.), *Encyclopedia of International Higher Education Systems and Institutions*, DOI 10.1007/978-94-017-9553-1_7-1

Sorber, N. M. (2015). The Grange's Yankee Land-Grant Colleges, 1873–1901. In Alan Marcus (Ed.). *Science as Service: Establishing and Reformulating American Land-Grant Universities, 1865–1930*. University of Alabama Press.

Sorber, N. M., & Geiger, R. L. (2014). The Welding of Opposite Views: Land-Grant Historiography at 150 Years. *Higher Education: Handbook of Theory and Research*, 29.

Sorber, N. M. (2013). Scientists, agriculturalists, and ‘officers of industry’: The origins of the New England land-grant colleges. *Perspectives on the History of Higher Education*, 30, 41-72.

Geiger, R. L., & Sorber, N. M. (2011). Tarnished icon: William Smith and the College of Philadelphia. *Perspectives on the History of Higher Education*, 28, 1-32.

Sorber, N. M. (2011). The era of the student bureaucracy and the contested road to the Harvard Red Book. *Higher Education in Review*, 8, 13-40.

Sorber, N. M. (2010). Introduction. *Higher Education in Review*, 7, 1-5.

BOOK REVIEWS

- Sorber, N. M. (2017). Book Review of David Hoeveler's *John Bascom and the Origins of the Wisconsin Idea*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2016. *History of Education Quarterly*.
- Sorber, N. M. (2012). Book Review of *The History of U.S. Higher Education: Methods for Understanding the Past*, Marybeth Gasman, ed. *History of Education Quarterly*.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- Sorber, N. M. (2019). *Impact of Land-Grant Colleges and Popular Revolt*. Review Session at the Annual Conference of the Association for the History of Education Society. Columbus, OH.
- Sorber, N. M. (2019). *Politics of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities*. Review Session at the Annual Conference of the Southern History of Education Society. Dahlenega, GA.
- Sorber, N. M. (2019). *Past, Present, and Future of Land-Grant Universities and the Communities They are Designed to Serve*. Paper presented at the Engagement Scholarship Consortium Conference. Denver, CO.
- Sorber, N. M. (2017, November). *In the Matter of Edward Alexander Bouchet, PhD (1852-1918): African-American Science and the Race Boundaries of the Land-Grant Movement, the Academic Revolution, and the American Professoriate*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the History of Education Society, Little Rock, AR.
- Sorber, N. M. (2016, November). *From Aristocratic Virtue to Bourgeois Ambition: Controlling and then Nurturing Passion in the American College*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the History of Education Society, Providence, RI.
- Sorber, N. M. (2016, July). *Land-Grant College Practices in an Era of Neoliberal Policy and Discourse* to the annual Conference on Policy History. Nashville, TN.
- Sorber, N. M. (2016, April). *The Anachronisms and Paradoxes of the Land-Grant College Saga: A History of the Intersection of the Land-Grant Idea and Organizational Practices*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Educational Research Association. Washington DC..
- Sorber, N. M. (2015, November). *Seeking the Origins of Higher Education's Dual Identities as Public and Private Goods*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Denver, CO.

- Sorber, N. M. (2015, November). *Session Discussant Remarks*. Concurrent session chair and discussant comments at the Annual Conference of the History of Education Society. St. Louis, MO.
- Sorber, N. M. (2014, November). *The Un-Radical Activists: College Student Bureaucrats and Sanctioned Dissent in the American University, 1910-1941*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Washington, DC.
- Sorber, N. M. (2014, November). *Session Discussant Remarks*. Concurrent session chair and discussant comments at the Annual Conference of the History of Education Society. Indianapolis, IN.
- Sorber, N. M. (2014, April). *The Ivory Tower and the Golden Silo: A History of Land-Grant and Extension (Dis)engagement with Rural Communities*. Research paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Education Research Association. Philadelphia, PA.
- Sorber, N. M. (2013, November). *The Rise and Fall of Public Higher Education*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education. St. Louis, MO.
- Sorber, N. M. (2013, October). *Beyond "Poor Historiography": Class and American Higher Education*. Research paper to be presented at the Annual Conference of the History of Education Society. Nashville, TN.
- Sorber, N. M. (2012, November). *Social Mobility Patterns of Land-Grant Students, 1862-1875*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the History of Education Society. Seattle, WA.
- Sorber, N. M. (2012, May). *"Fostering Male Virility": A Gender History of Land-Grant Education Discourse and Practice, 1862-1895.* Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Education Research Association. Vancouver, Canada.
- Sorber, N. M. (2011, November). *Land-Grant Education Historiography at 150 Years: Beyond the Chimera of "Democracy's College."* Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the History of Education Society. Chicago, Illinois.
- Sorber, N. M. (2011, June). *Scientists, Agriculturalists, and 'Officers of Industry': The Origins of the New England Land-Grant Colleges*. Research paper presented at the Research Symposium of the 150th Anniversary of the Land-Grant Act. University Park, PA.
- Sorber, N. M. (2011, April). *Public Good or Private Gain: Justin Morrill, Vermont Farmers, and the Contested Origins of the Land-Grant College*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Education Research Association. New Orleans, LA.

- Sorber, N. M. (2011, April). *Marxian Approaches to the History of American Education*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Education Research Association. New Orleans, LA.
- Sorber, N. M. (2011, April). *The Era of Student Bureaucracy*. "Higher Learning in Society" Symposium. Pennsylvania State University. University Park, PA.
- Sorber, N. M. (2010, November). *Social Class, Agriculture, and Higher Education: The Formation and Reformation of Land-Grant Colleges in the Northeastern United States, 1862-1895*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the History of Education Society. Cambridge, Mass.
- McHenry-Sorber, E., & Sorber, N. M. (2010, October). *Memories of the One Room School: Tracking the Historical Foundations of Contemporary Rural Education Discourse*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the National Rural Education Association. Branson, MO.
- Sorber, N. M. (2010, May). *Theory and Socio-Economic Class: An Agenda for Higher Education Historians*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Education Research Association. Denver, CO.
- Sorber, N. M. (2009, November). *Making College Manly: Education, Gender Identity, and Middle Class Formation in the Nineteenth Century*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Vancouver, BC.
- Sorber, N.M. (2009, April). *Advancing Access Ideals: A Historical Analysis of The Truman Commission and the Higher Education Acts*. Research paper presented at the annual conference of the American Education Research Association. San Diego, CA.
- Sorber, N.M. & Humphrey, J. (2009, April). *Rethinking the Historical Role of Students in Curricular Decision Making*. Research paper presented at the annual conference of the American Education Research Association. San Diego, CA.
- Sorber, N.M. (2008, November). *Towards a Theoretical Framework for Conceptualizing the Philosophical Foundations of General Education and Liberal Education: A Historical Analysis*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Jacksonville, FL.
- McHale, I., Moran, P.L., Sorber, N.M, & Woodell, J.K. (2008, November). *A Conceptual Framework for Assessing Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Mergers: Integrative Devices, Leadership, Culture, and Sensemaking*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Jacksonville, FL.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND KEYNOTES

Sorber, N. M. (2017, March) *Keynote: How Land-Grant Universities Transformed American Higher Education*, University of New Hampshire. Durham, NH.

Sorber, N. M. (2015, September) *The Center for the Study of Land-Grant Education & Engagement*. The College of Education and Human Services, West Virginia University, Visiting Committee Annual Meeting. Morgantown, WV.

Sorber, N. M. (2014, November). Opening Address – Symposium Chairperson. *A Century Beyond the Campus: Past, Present, and Future of Extension*. Conference chair session at the National Research Symposium on the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act and the Past, Present, and Future of Land-Grant Extension. Morgantown, WV.

Gee, E. G, Hardesty, D., McGrath, C. P., & Sorber, N. M. (2014, November). Presidential Reflections on Smith-Lever Centennial. *A Century Beyond the Campus: Past, Present, and Future of Extension*. Panel Discussion of University Presidents at the National Research Symposium on the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act and the Past, Present, and Future of Land-Grant Extension. Morgantown, WV.

Sorber, N. M. (2014, February) *The Rise and Fall of the Public Mission: Contextualizing Declining State Support of Higher Education in West Virginia and Beyond*. The Brown Bag Speaker Series. West Virginia University. Morgantown, WV.

Sorber, N. M. (2013, September). *The Land-Grant Movement and West Virginia University*. Special presentation before the West Virginia University Board of Governors. Annual Board of Governors Meeting, Morgantown, WV.

Sorber, N. M. (2013, March). *Keynote: The Future of Public Higher Education*. Gardner Educational Forum: Wilkes University Lectureship Series. Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Sorber, N. M. (2012, October). *The Curious Cases of John Washburn and George Flint: The Brief History of the Grange's New England Land-Grant Experiment*. Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Morrill Act. Mississippi State University. Jackson, MS.

Sorber, N.M. (2012, June) *The History of the Land-Grant College Movement*. Meeting of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Colleges. Washington DC.

McHenry-Sorber, E. C., & Sorber, N. M. (2011, March). *Rural Schools*. Educational Forum Series. Wilkes University. Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Sorber, N. M. (2010, May). Discussant: Paper Session. “Higher Learning in Society” Symposium. Pennsylvania State University. University Park, PA.

GRANTS

Primary Investigator. *The History of the American Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, 1862 – 2015*. Spencer Foundation. \$50,000. Unfunded.

Co-Primary Investigator. *Garden-Based Learning: A university-school-community partnership to enhance literacy, environmental stewardship, food security, and sustainable community development*. Schoenbaum Foundation. \$450,000. Unfunded.

REPORTS

Sorber, N. M. The Strategic Planning and Implementation Efforts of Penn State University – Wilkes-Barre: A comprehensive assessment of administrative processes and policies, unpublished paper prepared for the Chancellor and Senior Staff of Penn State Wilkes-Barre. (2011, July). Wilkes-Barre, PA: Author.

Sorber, N.M. History of the Social Class Background of Penn State’s Students Before World War II, unpublished paper prepared for the Task Force Pennsylvania State University. (2008, November). *Report of the Land Grant Mission Task Force of the University Strategic Planning Council*. University Park, PA: Author.

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Sorber, N. M., Audette, K., & Yates, L. (2006, March). *Electronic portfolios: Qualitative Assessment of Resident Assistants*. Concurrent session at the 82nd Annual Convention of the American Association of College Personnel Administrators. Indianapolis.

Sorber, N. M. (2006, May). *Using Organizational Theory to Conceptualize Student Government Organizations*. Concurrent session at the Annual Convention of the National Association of College and University Residence Halls. San Francisco.

Sorber, N. M. (2005, November). *Transforming your Residential Government Association*. Concurrent session at the Annual Convention of the Mid-Atlantic Association of College and University Housing Officers. Wilkes-Barre, PA.

TEACHING

Courses Taught

- HIED 648: History of American Higher Education (Online)

- Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019.
- Course Newly Developed in Fall 2012
- HIED 649: Contemporary Issues in Higher Education (Online)
 - Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2019
 - Course Newly Developed in Spring 2013
- HIED 650: Higher Education Administration (Online)
 - Spring 2016
 - Course Newly Developed in Spring 2016
- HIED 693I: HIED in Popular Culture
 - Summer 2015, Summer 2016, Summer 2017
- HIED 656: Strategic Planning & Budget
 - Summer 2015
- HIED 651: College Student Development (Online)
 - Summer 2013, Spring 2017, Spring 2018
- HIED 654: College Student Affairs (Online)
 - Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Summer 2016, Summer 2018, Summer 2019
- HIED 693M: Global Issues in Higher Education (Online)
 - Summer 2014
 - Course Newly Developed in Summer 2014
- HIED 693F / HIED 763: International Higher Education (F2F)
 - Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2018
 - Course Newly Developed in Fall 2014
- HIED 693K: Land-Grant Colleges and Universities (F2F)
 - Spring 2017, Spring 2019
 - Course Newly Developed in Spring 2017
- HIED 655: Institutional Advancement (Online)
 - Fall 2017
 - Course Newly Developed in Fall 2017
- HIED 693A: Sociology of Higher Education
 - Spring 2018
- HIED 653: College Students and the Courts (Online)
 - Summer 2019
 - Course Newly Developed in Summer 2019

Dissertation Committee Chair - Complete

- Michael Boekhe, *Barriers, Facilitators, and Frequency of Evidence Based Practice Use in Athletic Training.*
 - EDD, Educational Leadership
 - Successfully defended November 2014
- Jason Ottley, *Perceptions of Retention Programs for Black Males at a Rural Land-Grant University*
 - PHD, Education
 - Successfully defended May 2018
- Brad Gilbert, *Socialization and Mentoring of Community and Technical College Faculty*
 - EDD, Curriculum & Instruction

- Successful defended May 2018

PREVIOUS RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Lecturer (2011-2012)

Department of Graduate Education
Educational Leadership
Wilkes University

- ED 629: Strategic Thinking and Planning (Hybrid: Online and Traditional).
- ED 681: Introduction to Educational Research (Hybrid: Online and Traditional).
- Dissertation Chair and Committee Member

Graduate Assistant (2007-2010)

Major Advisor: Roger L. Geiger

Center for the Study of Higher Education
Pennsylvania State University

- Research assistance on Roger Geiger's forthcoming book *Careers, Culture, and Knowledge: The History of American Higher Education*.
- Teaching assistant for HIED 505; 571: History of American Higher Education (I & II).
- Teaching assistant for HIED 521: History of Colonial and Early American Higher Education.

Guest Lecturer, Education Psychology (2010)

Wilkes University College of Education

- Lectured to aspiring teachers on the politics, history, and philosophy of education.

Graduate Assistant (2009)

Advisor: Beverley Lindsay

Center for the Study of Higher Education
Pennsylvania State University

- Teaching assistant for HIED course: Sociology of Higher Education Seminar.
- Teaching assistant for HIED course: Administration & Leadership (Hybrid)
- Coordinated the Distinguished Speaker Series of major higher education leaders.

FELLOWSHIPS AND ACADEMIC AWARDS

Dissertation of the Year Finalist

Association for the Study of Higher Education (2012)

Alumni Association Distinguished Dissertation Fellowship – Social Sciences (Applied)

Pennsylvania State University (2011)

Total Grant: \$5000.

Robert Ostar Fellowship (2010-2011)**

Total Grant: \$28,000.

- Fellowship is awarded to one doctoral student at Penn State University. Please see administrative and professional experiences for more information on this fellowship.

Robert Graham Endowed Fellowship (2007-2008)

Total Award: \$2500.

- Fellowship awarded by the Pennsylvania State University Graduate School for students showing academic promise.

David Jones Award of Excellence

Vanderbilt University, Peabody College (2004)

- Award given to one student in the Vanderbilt Higher Education program for excellence in the study of higher education administration and institutional advancement.

Thelma Showalter Prize for Excellence in Public Administration

Bucknell University (2002)

- Awarded by the president of Bucknell University to one student showing the greatest potential in the field of public and community affairs.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS

History of U.S. HI ED

International HIED

Public Higher Education Policy & Practice

Land-Grant Colleges & Universities

Outreach, Engagement, & Extension

Economic Development & HI ED

Sociology of Higher Education

Socio-Economic Class & HI ED

European Union & HI ED Reform

UNIVERSITY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

College of Education and Human Services

West Virginia University

Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson (2018-2019)

Member (2017-2018)

Department of Curriculum & Instruction

West Virginia University

Tenure and Promotion Committee

Member (2013-2015; 2016-2017)

McGrath and Bucklew University Lectures

West Virginia University

Selection Committee

Member (2013-Present)

Perspectives on the History of Higher Education

Series Editor (2018-Present)

Editor (2016-Present)

External Reviewer (2011 – Present)

Board Member (2013- Present)

History of Education Quarterly

External Reviewer (2013 – Present)

Book Reviewer (2012 – Present)

Journal of Rural Education

External Reviewer (2009 – Present)

Higher Education in Review

Editor, Vol. 7 (2009-10)

Associate Editor, Vol. 6 (2008-09)

Co-Technical Editor, Vol. 5 (2008)

Association for the Study of Higher Education

Discussant (2012)

Member and External Reviewer (2007-Present)

American Education Research Association

Member and External Reviewer (2007-Present)

History of Education Society

Book of the Year Committee Member (2016-Present)

Discussant (2014, 2015)

Member and External Reviewer (2012-Present)