

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### RICHARD ALAN MECKEL

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American Studies Dept.  
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#### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS:

##### Academic

Current: Professor, American Studies Dept. Brown University  
1989 Associate Professor, American Civilization Dept., Brown University  
1982 Assistant Professor, American Civilization Dept., Brown University  
1979 Visiting Lecturer, American Civilization Dept., Brown University

##### Administrative

1990-94 Chair, American Civilization Dept., Brown University

#### EDUCATION:

B.A. (English) University of Notre Dame, 1970  
M.A. (American Studies) University of Michigan, 1976  
Ph.D.(American Studies & History) University of Michigan, 1981

#### RESEARCH/SCHOLARSHIP

##### Books:

*Classrooms and Clinics: Urban Schools and the Protection and Promotion of Child Health 1870-1930* (Critical Issues in Health and Medicine Series) New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press 2013

*Children and Youth in Sickness and Health: A Historical Handbook and Guide.*  
Edited with Janet Golden and Heather Munro Prescott. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004.

*Save the Babies: American Public Health Reform and the Prevention of Infant Mortality 1850-1929.* (The Henry E. Sigerist Series in the History of Medicine)  
Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990.

First paperback edition, University of Michigan Press, 1998

Second paperback and revised edition, University of Rochester Press, 2015

## **Books in Progress**

“Poor Children, Poor Nutrition, Poor Health: Science, Politics and Policy, 1900 to the Present.” Under Contract, University of North Carolina Press

## **Journal Articles/Book Chapters/Short Essays:**

“Health and Medicine” (Child Health in the Age of Empire). In Colin Heywood, ed. *A Cultural History of Childhood and Family in the Age of Empire*. London: Berg Publishers, 2010, pp. 167-187.

“Politics, Policy and the Measuring of Child Health.” In Cynthia Comacchio and Janet Golden, eds. *Healing the World’s Children: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Health in the Twentieth Century*. McGill-Queens University Press, 2008, pp. 235-52.

“Medicine: An Overview.” In Burt Feintuch and David H. Waters, eds. *Encyclopedia of New England Culture*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005, pp. 1341-1348.

“Levels and Trends of Death and Disease in Childhood, 1620-2000.” In Janet Golden, Richard Meckel, and Heather Prescott, eds., *Children and Youth in Sickness and Health: A Historical Handbook and Guide*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004, pp. 3-24.

“Infant Mortality,” In Paula Fass, et. al., eds. *Children and Childhood in History and Society*. New York: Macmillan, 2004, pp. 474-79.

“The Jewelry Industry, Industrial Development, and Immigration in Providence, 1790-1993.” In George M. Goodwin and Ellen Smith, eds. *The Jews of Rhode Island* (Brandeis Series in American Jewish History and Life). Waltham, MA, 2004.

“Delivering Oral Health Services to Children in the Past: The Rise and Fall of Children’s Dental Clinics.” *Ambulatory Pediatrics* 2 (2002): 255-60.

“Going to School, Getting Sick: The Social and Medical Construction of 'School Diseases' in the Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.” In Alexandra Minna Stern and Howard Markel, editors. *Formative Years: Children's Health in America, 1880-2000*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2002, pp. 185-207.

“Pediatrics.” In Joseph Hawes and Elizabeth Shores, editors. *The Family in America*. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2002, pp. 764-773.

"Sickness and Death." In Priscilla Fergusson Clement and Jacqueline S. Reinier, editors. *Boyhood in America*. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2001, pp. 205-209.

"Immigrants and the Jewelry Industry in Rhode Island," *Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes*, 13 (Winter 2000-01): 244-58.

"Historical Perspective on Children's Health Policy." In Vince Hutchins and Wendy Mouradian, eds., *Allocation of Resources to Children, Ethics and Oral Health Seminar: Essays*. Arlington, VA: National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health, 2000, pp. 83-92.

"Racialism and Infant Death: Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Socio-medical Discourses on African American Infant Mortality." In Lara Marks and Michael Worboys, eds. *Migrants, Minorities, and Health: Historical and Contemporary Studies*. London: Routledge, 1997, pp. 70-92.

"Open-Air Schools and the Tuberculous Child in Early 20th Century America," *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* 150 (1996): 91-96.

"Health and Disease." *Encyclopedia of the United States in the Twentieth Century*. Ed. Stanley Kutler et. al. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1996, vol 2: 957-986.

"Combating Tuberculosis in School Children: Providence's Open-Air Schools," *Rhode Island History* 53 (1996): 91-100.

"Judging Progressive-Era Infant Welfare in Light of *Fatal Years*--and Vice Versa." *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 68 (1994): 105-112.

"The Not so Fundamental Sociology of Garibaldi Marto Lapolla," *MELUS* 14 (Fall 1989): 127-39.

"Henrietta Russell: Delsartean Prophet of the Gilded Age," *Journal of American Culture* 12 (Spring 1989): 71-84.

"Of Saints and Sinners," *American Quarterly* 37 (Winter 1985): 742-48.

"Immigration, Mortality and Population Growth, Boston, 1840-1880," *Journal of Inter-disciplinary History* 15 (Winter 1985): 393-417.

"Protecting the Innocents: Age Segregation and the Early Child Welfare Movement," *Social Service Review* 59 (Fall 1985): 455-75.

"Childhood and the Historians," *Journal of Family History* 9 ((Winter 1984): 415-24.

"Educating a Ministry of Mothers: Evangelical Maternal Associations, 1810-1860," *Journal of the Early Republic* 2 (Winter 1982): 403-23.

### **Encyclopedia Entries/Other**

“Chapin, Charles Value”; “Colonial Medicine”; “Gesell, Arnold”; “Holmes, Oliver Wendell”; “Winternitz, Milton Charles.” All in Burt Feintuch and David H. Waters, eds. *Encyclopedia of New England Culture*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005

Consultant to: Newport Historical Society, *A State of Hope: Irish Immigration During the Potato Famine* (video recording) Newport, RI: Seven Oceans Video, 1996)

"The Jewelry Industry, Industrial Development and Immigration in Providence, 1790-1993" Catalogue Essay for a Providence Jewelry Museum Show, funded by a Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities Grant, 1993

With Jim Wolpaw and Pavel Zaslavsky, "One Immigrant's Story." A film script funded by a Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities Grant, 1993.

With Mary Paula Hunter. *A History of Dance in Rhode Island*. Providence: RISD Museum, 1989

### **Invited Lectures/Papers Presented/Symposium Talks**

“Scholarship at the Intersection of Food Studies and the History of Child Health,” Contribution to session titled “What Scholarship Exists at the Intersection of Food Studies and Medical History.” Annual Conference of the American Association for the History of Medicine, Los Angeles, CA, May 10-13, 2018.

“The School Hygiene Movement and the Origins and Early Development of School Nursing.” Bates Center for the History Of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. February 14, 2018.

“WIC: It’s Origins as an Anti-Poverty Program.” Delivered at the Annual Conference of the American Association for the History of Medicine, Nashville, TN, April 4-7, 2017

"Where's the Evidence? The Depression Era Debate on the Impact of Mass Unemployment on Child Nutrition and Health" The Annual George Rosen Lecture, Sponsored by the Beaumont Medical Club and the Yale University School of Medicine, Medical Historical Library, Yale University, New Haven, March 17, 2017

Panelist. “Health Care in Rhode Island.” Sponsored by AS220 and Roots.

Providence, RI. April 24, 2013.

The Underfed and Malnourished Child and the Progressive Era Origin of the “American Plan” for School Feeding. Delivered at the Annual Conference of the American Association for the History of Medicine, April 2012.

“No Free Lunch: Malnourished Children and the Aborted Origins of School Feeding in Progressive Era America.” Delivered at the Annual Conference of the Society for the History of Childhood and Youth, New York, NY, June 2011.

“School-Based Clinics in the Early Twentieth-Century.” Delivered before Brown Center for the Study of Human Development Colloquium Series, “Social Policies for Urban Youth and Families.” April 13, 2011.

“School Dental Clinics (1910-1950): An All but Forgotten Experiment in Meeting a Critical Child Health Need.” Delivered at the Rhode Island Historical Society, as part of a lecture series sponsored by the Rhode Island Children’s Friend in celebration of its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. October 29, 2009

“What Does Sickness Have to Do With It?” Delivered at “Rethinking Child Development in Interdisciplinary Perspective: A Meeting among Social Scientists.” Sponsored by the Center for Child and Youth Policy and the Department of History, University of California at Berkeley. October 7-8, 2005.

“Hoover and Hungry Children: The Debate over Child Malnutrition in the Early Depression Years.” Delivered at the Annual Conference of the American Association for the History of Medicine, Birmingham, AL, May 2005

“Politics, Policy and the Measuring of Child Health.” Delivered at “Comparative and Interdisciplinary Approaches to Child Health in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: A Colloquium.” Sponsored by Associated Medical Services, the Dept. of Medical Sociology, McGill University, and the McCord Museum. Montreal, October 29-30, 2004.

“Infant Mortality, Past and Present: A Global Perspective.” Read at “Childhood: A World History.” Sponsored by the Center for Child and Youth Policy, The Townsend Center for Humanities, and the History Department, University of California, Berkeley. October 10-11, 2003

“The Role of the Policy Historian in Health Policy Formation.” Delivered at “Setting an Agenda for Health and the Humanities.” Sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Potomac, Md, March 14-15, 2002.

“The Boy Problem.” Humanities Institute, Brown University, Providence, RI, May 2001.

"Going to School, Getting Sick: The Social and Medical Construction of 'School Diseases' in the Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century." Delivered at the David M. Cowie, M.D. Symposium on the History of Pediatrics and Child Health in America. Sponsored by the Historical Center for Health Sciences and the Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, University of Michigan Medical School. Ann Arbor, MI, September 2000.

"Nearsighted and Nervous: the Construction of Childhood Myopic Neuralgia as a Symptom of *Fin de Siecle* Overcivilization." Delivered at the First History of Childhood Conference, Washington, DC, August 2000.

"Delivering Oral Health Services to Children in the Past: The Rise and Fall of Children's Dental Clinics." Plenary session address delivered at "The Face of the Child: The Surgeon General's Conference on Children and Oral Health," Washington, DC, June 2000

"Going to School, Going Blind: Childhood Myopia and Ophthalmology in the Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century," Delivered at the Annual Conference of the American Association for the History of Medicine, Bethesda, MD, May 18-21, 2000

"Issues in the Allocation of Health Resources to Children in the Past: School Clinics and The Politics of Health Care Delivery in the US During the Early Twentieth Century." Delivered at "Allocation of Resources to Children: First Bioethics in Maternal and Child Health Policy Seminar," National Institute of Health, Bethesda, MD, January 2000

"Jewish Hospitals and the Forging of a Civic Ethnic Identity," Read at the Annual Conferences, American Jewish Historical Assoc. and the American Historical Association, Washington D.C., January 1998.

"School-Based Clinics and the Medical Profession: A Progressive Era Conflict." Delivered at the Annual Conference of the American Association for the History of Medicine, Buffalo, New York, May 1996.

"The Irish Famine and Irish Emigration." Four lectures sponsored by the Rhode Island Humanities Council and delivered in conjunction with performances of "A State of Hope," October-November, 1995.

"Ethnic Youth: The Second Generation in Immigrant Literature." Institute for Secondary Education. March 1995.

"Judging Progressive Era Infant Welfare Policy in Light of *Fatal Years*--and Vice Versa." Symposium on S. Preston's and M. Haine's *Fatal Years*. Sponsored by the American Association for the History of Medicine. Louisville, Kentucky, May 1993.

"Current Immigration to the U.S.: Its Character and Implications." Brown Alumni Club of Manhattan. May 1992.

"Current U.S. Immigration and Immigration Policy and Law." Humanities Institute. Providence, RI. February 1992.

"The Origin and Evolution of School Health Programs in the United States." Delivered at the Annual Conference of the American Association for the History of Medicine, Cleveland, April, 1991.

"Public Health Reform and the Prevention of Infant Mortality." Grand Rounds, Women's and Infant's Hospital, Providence, Sept. 1990.

"The Progressive Era Battle Over Maternity Insurance." Benjamin Waterhouse Medical History Society, Boston University School of Medicine, May 1990.

"Putting the Discourers Back in the Discourse: Comments on the New Cultural History." Symposium sponsored by the American Culture Program, University of Michigan, April 1990.

"Science, Politics and Professional Interest: Infant Mortality and Urban Milk Reform." Joint Meeting of the History of Science Association and the American Association for the History of Medicine, Cincinnati, Nov. 1988.

"American Studies and the Liberal Arts." Delivered at the New England American Studies Association Conference, Wellesley, MA, April, 1987.

"Promoting Medical Mothercraft." Delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association, Chicago, 1985.

"The Italian American Critique of the Self Made Man." Delivered at the Annual Meeting of the American Italian Historical Association., Providence, 1985.

"Protecting the Innocents: Age Segregation and the Early Child Welfare Movement." Delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association., Bloomington, 1983.

"Immigration and Mortality." Social History Workshop, Providence, 1982.

"Death and American Historians." Delivered at "A Time to Mourn: A Symposium," Sponsored by the NEH, the Museums at Stony Brook, and the History Dept., SUNY-Stony Brook. Stony Brook, NY, October 1980.

"Nineteenth-Century State and Municipal Response to Infant Mortality." Delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association, Columbus, 1978.

## Book Reviews

*The Lead Wars: The Politics of Science and the Fate of America's Children*, by Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner. *American Historical Review*, February 2016

*Polio Wars: Sister Elizabeth Kenney and the Golden Age of Medicine*, by Naomi Rogers. *American Historical Review*, December 2014.

*S. Weir Mitchell, Philadelphia's Literary Physician*, by N. Cervetti. *Journal of American History*, December 2013

*Death before Birth: Fetal Health and Mortality in Historical Perspective*, by Robert Woods. *American Historical Review*, April 2011

*Kinship by Design: A History of Adoption in the Modern United States*, by Ellen Herman. *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, Summer 2010

*Searching Eyes: Privacy, the State and Disease Surveillance in America*, by A. Fairchild, R. Bayer, J. Colgrove. *American Historical Review*, September, 2008.

*Science in the Service of Children*, by A. B. Smuts. *American Historical Review*, February, 2007

*Children's Health in Historical Perspective*, eds. C. K. Warsh and V. Strong-Boag. *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, 2006

*Children at Risk: Protecting New York City's Youths 1653-2003 Exhibit*: New York Historical Society. *SHCY Newsletter* 2004

*Doctors and Reformers: Discussion and Debate over Health Policy, 1925-1950*, by J. Engel. *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, 2003.

*City of Plagues: Disease, Poverty, and Deviance in San Francisco*, by S. Craddock. *Journal of American History*, June 2002.

*Childhood's Deadly Scourge: The Campaign to Control Diphtheria in New York City, 1880-1930*, by E. Hammonds. *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, Summer 2000.

*Contagion and Confinement: Controlling Tuberculosis Along the Skid Road*, by B. Lerner. *American Historical Review*, June 2000.



*Mothers of All Children: Women Reformers and the Rise of Juvenile Courts in Progressive Era America*, by E. Clapp. *Journal of American History*, February 2000.

*The Machine in the Nursery: Incubator Technology and the Origins of Newborn Intensive Care*, by J. Baker. *American Historical Review*, October 1997.

*Child Welfare: England, 1872-1989*, by H. Hendrick. *Journal of the Social History of Medicine* [Great Britain] (Spring 1996).

*Children's Health in America: A History*, by C. King. *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, Summer 1995.

*"Nations Are Built of Babies" Saving Ontario's Mothers and Children, 1900-1940*, by C. Comacchio. *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, Spring 1995.

*And Sin No More: Social Policy and Unwed Mothers in Cleveland, 1855-1990*, by M. Morton. *The American Historical Review*, February 1995.

*Before Head Start: The Iowa Station and America's Children*, by H. Cravens. *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, Summer 1994.

*Death in Childbirth: An International Study of Maternal Care and Maternal Mortality 1800-1950*, by I. Loudon. *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, April 1994.

*Dirt and Disease: Polio Before FDR*, by N. Rogers. *Journal of American History*, December 1993.

*In the Name of the Child: Health and Welfare, 1880-1940*, ed. R. Cooter. *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, Summer 1993.

*Sex-Specific Mortality and the Economic Value of Children*, by C. Ginsberg. *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, Winter 1992.

*Fatal Years: Child Mortality in Late Nineteenth-Century America*, by S. Preston and M. Haines. *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, Winter 1991.

*Delivering Motherhood: Maternal Ideologies and Practices in the 19th and 20th Centuries*, ed. K. Arnup et. al. *History of Education Quarterly*, Summer 1991.

*Boston's Wayward Children: Social Services for Homeless Children, 1830-1930*, by P. Holloran. *American Historical Review*, February 1991.

*Workers' Health, Workers' Democracy*, by A. Derickson. *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, Fall 1990.

*All American Girl: The Ideal of Real Womanhood in Mid-Nineteenth-Century America*, by F. Cogan. *The Annals*, July 1990.

*American Pediatrics: The Social Dynamics of Professionalism*, by S. Halpern. *Journal of Health Policy, Politics and Law*, January 1990.

*Towards a Christian Republic: Antimasonry and the Great Transition in New England, 1826-1836*, by P. Goodman. *The Historian*, August 1989.

*The Great Red Menace: United States Prosecution of American Communists, 1947-1952*, by P. Steinberg. *The Annals*, January 1986.

*The Goldmark Case*, by W. Dwyer. *The Annals*, January 1986.

*The Coming of Industrial Order: Town and Factory Life in Rural Massachusetts, 1810-1860*, by J. Prude. *Journal of Social History*, Winter 1985.

*Bitter, Bitter Tears*, by P. Rosenblatt. *The Annals*, July 1984.

*Demographic Dimensions of the New Republic*, by P. McClelland and R. Zeckhauser. *Journal of the Early Republic*, Fall, 1983.

## **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2003 National Endowment for the Humanities, Fellowship
- 2002 National Institute of Health, National Library of Medicine, Major Publication Grant
- 1998 Spencer Foundation Research Grant
- 1997 Curriculum Development Grant, Brown University
- 1996 Curriculum Development Grant, Brown University
- 1995 Scholar Consultant, Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities Grant (Dramatic Presentation: "A State of Hope: The Great Famine and Irish Emigration)
- 1993 Scholar Consultant, Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities Grant Film Script-One Immigrant's Story
- 1993 Scholar Consultant, Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities Grant (Providence Jewelry Industry)
- 1990 Ford Foundation Odyssey Grant
- 1989 Henry M. Wriston Fellowship for Excellence in Teaching and Scholarship, Brown University

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **Grad Seminars**

Introduction to American Studies  
American Studies Methods and Theory

### **Undergrad Seminars**

Death and Dying in America  
The History of American Children and Childhood  
The Teenage: Youth, Society, and Culture in Early Cold War America  
The Progressive Era Child Welfare Movement  
The History of the Family in America  
Jews and Italians in Urban America  
The Boy Problem  
The Urban Deficit  
Charles Chapin and the Urban Public Health Movement  
American Studies Honors Seminar

### **Lecture Courses**

The Divided Self: Identity in America (Intro to American Studies)  
Society and Self in Antebellum America (Intro to American Studies)  
From Camelot to Kent State  
Immigration to the US, 1620- the Present  
The Century of Immigration, 1820-1920  
Making America: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Immigrant Literature  
The Century of the Child: A History of US Child Welfare in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

## **SERVICE**

### **Brown University**

Sophomore Advisor 2011-15, 2017  
Freshman Advisor 2010-11, 2012-15, 2017  
Commencement Speaker Committee 2010-15  
College Curriculum Committee, Vice Chair 2007-2008  
Awards and Benefits Committee, 2000-02 (Chair, 2001-02)  
Graduate Council, 1996-2000  
Wayland Collegium Study Group on Providence, 1996  
McGraw Prize Committee, 1993-1999  
John Nicholas Brown Center, Fellowship Committee, 1996-2002  
Institute for Secondary Education  
Library Committee

### **American Studies Department**

Chair of the Department, 1990-94  
Concentration Advisor, 1982-1989, 1995-98, 2000-02, 2005-2009  
Honors Advisor, 1982-89, 1997-98, 2000-02, 2005-2009  
Graduate Advisor, 2005, 2013-15  
Tenure Review Committee, 2017

Promotion Review Committee 2017  
Chair, Reappointment Review Committee 2010-11  
Chair, Tenure Review Committee, 1997-98  
Chair, Tenure Review Committee, 1996-97  
Library Representative, 1996-2000  
Member, Tenure Review Committee, 1995-96  
Chair, Junior Faculty Reappointment Committee, 1994-95  
Graduate Admissions Committee, 1982-88, 1993, 1997, 2001  
AC190 Review Committee, 1984-89  
Various Hiring Committees

### **Profession**

Chair, Welch Medal Committee, American Assoc. for the History of Medicine  
Extramural grant reviewer, National Library of Medicine, NIH  
Osler Award Committee, American Association for the History of Medicine  
Welch Medal Committee, American Association for the History of Medicine  
Book manuscripts reviewer Oxford Univ. Press, Cambridge Univ. Press., New  
York Univ. Press, Rutgers Univ. Press. Harvard Univ. Press., North  
Carolina Univ. Press.  
Article manuscript reviewer, *Bull. of the History of Medicine*; *American  
Journal of Public Health*; *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied  
Sciences*, *Journal of Urban History*  
Outside Evaluator, Tenure Review: Univ. of Kansas, Univ. of Maryland, Univ. of  
South Carolina, Ohio Univ., UCLA, University of Pennsylvania  
Editorial Board, *Health Transition Review*  
Editorial Board, *Italian Americana*  
Editorial Board, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*