

JAMES H. JOHNSON

Professor of History
Boston University

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Education

Ph.D.	University of Chicago	History	1988
M.A.	University of Chicago	History	1983
B.A.	University of Oklahoma	Letters	1982

Current and Past Positions

Chair, Department of History	Boston University, 2022-present
Professor of History	Boston University, 2011-present
Associate Professor of History	Boston University, 1997-2010
Assistant Professor of History	Boston University, 1990-1997
Instructor, Humanistic Studies	St. Mary's College, 1987-1989

Books

Paris Concealed. Masks in the City of Light (University of Chicago Press, 2025)
A Cultural History of Ideas in the Age of Empire (1800-1920) [editor, vol. 5 of *A Cultural History of Ideas*] (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2023)
Venice Incognito. Masks in the Serene Republic (University of California Press, 2011)
Listening in Paris. A Cultural History (University of California Press, 1995)

Awards for *Venice Incognito*

George L. Mosse Award, American Historical Association, 2011
(Intellectual and Cultural History of Europe since the Renaissance)
Oscar Kenshur Book Prize, Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies (Indiana University), 2011 (Eighteenth-century Studies in any region or field)

Awards for *Listening in Paris*

Herbert Baxter Adams Award in European History, American Historical Association, 1995 (European History from 1815 to the present)
Jacques Barzun Prize in Cultural History, American Philosophical Society, 1995
(American or European Cultural History)

Awards for *A Cultural History of Ideas* (6 vols.)

2023 Prose Award: Reference Works - Humanities, American Association of Publishers, 2023
2023 Prose Award Finalist: World History, American Association of Publishers, 2023

Administrative Experience / Endowed Chair

Chair, Department of History, Boston University	2022-present
Visiting Head Lecturer on Social Studies & Course Director, SS 10a Harvard University	Fall, 2018
Director, Boston University's <i>Conversations in the Arts & Ideas</i> (Guest speakers: Zadie Smith, Werner Herzog, Teju Cole, Bill T. Jones, Marilynne Robinson, David Grann)	2017-present
Director, Boston University Trustee Scholars Program	2012-2019
Assistant Dean, Boston University, College of Arts and Sciences, Director of the Core Curriculum	2001-2007
N. E. H. Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Humanities	1999-2002

Fields and Concentrations

European Intellectual and Cultural History
History of Venice
French History
Music History

Articles, Chapters, Introduction, and Recording (partial list)

- Foreword to *Mobility and Masks: Cultural Identity in Travel Literature* (Ilex Press [a subsidiary of Hachette UK], 2024)
- “The Landscape Within: On Writing Histories of Experience,” in *The Art of Listening and its Histories* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018)
- “Casanova’s World: Identity, Theater, and the Mask,” in *The Pursuit of Pleasure: Casanova’s Europe* (Boston: MFA Publications, 2018)
- “Urban Development and the Culture of Masked Balls in Nineteenth-Century Paris,” *Journal of Urban History* 40, no. 4 (Fall, 2013)
- “The Face of Imposture in Post-Revolutionary France,” *French Historical Studies* 55, no. 2 (Spring 2012): 291-320
- “Some Musical Aspects of Charles-Germain de St. Aubin’s *Livre de caricatures*,” *Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century* (2012): 215-32
- “Sincerity and Seduction in *Don Giovanni*,” *Expositions*, vol. 1, no. 2 (Winter, 2007): 49-66
- “Useful Myths in the Nineteenth Century. Venice in Opera,” *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, vol. 36, no. 3 (Winter, 2006): 533-54
- “Deceit and Sincerity in Early-Modern Venice,” *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, vol. 38, no. 3 (2005): 399-415
- “Music in Europe, 1500-1800,” in *Europe 1450 to 1789: Encyclopedia of the Early Modern World*, ed. Jonathan Dewald (Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2004)
- “Opera in Europe, 1500-1800,” in *Europe 1450 to 1789: Encyclopedia of the Early Modern World*, ed. Jonathan Dewald (Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2004)
- Pianist, Musical Director and Arranger on CD-ROM accompanying Jack R. Censer and Lynn Hunt, *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity. Exploring the French Revolution* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2001)
- “Versailles, Meet Les Halles: Masks, Carnival, and the French Revolution,” *Representations*, vol. 73 (Winter, 2001): 89-116

Book Reviews (partial list)

- Review of Robert A. Schneider, *The Return of Resentment: The Rise and Decline and Rise Again of a Political Emotion*, *The American Historical Review* (2025)
- Review of Jacek Blaszkiwicz, *Fanfare for a City: Music and the Urban Imagination in Haussmann’s Paris* (forthcoming, *The Journal of Modern History*)
- Review of Mark Everist, *Genealogies of Music and Memory: Gluck in the 19th-Century Parisian Imagination*, *Common Knowledge* (2023)
- Review of Rebecca Dowd Geoffroy-Schwinden, *From Servant to Savant: Musical Privilege, Property, and the French Revolution*, *French History* (2023)
- Review of Leo Damrosch, *Adventurer: The Life and Times of Giacomo Casanova, H-France* (2023)
- Review of Julian Johnson, *Out of Time: Music and the Making of Modernity*, *The Journal of Modern History* (2017)
- Review of Margaret Doody, *Tropics of Venice* and Eleanor Selfridge-Field, *Song and Season. Science, Culture, and Theatrical Time in Early Modern Venice* in *Eighteenth-Century Studies* (2009)
- Review of Martha Feldman, *Opera and Sovereignty. Transforming Myths in Eighteenth-Century Italy*, *The Journal of Modern History* (2009)
- “Lady of the Libretto,” review of John Rice, *Empress Marie Therese and Music at the Viennese Court, 1792-1807*, *The Times Literary Supplement* (2004)
- “The Woman in White,” review of *Lourdes* by Ruth Harris, in *The Boston Globe* (1999)
- “The Ultimate Romantic,” review of *Victor Hugo* by Graham Robb, in *The Boston Globe* (1998)

Invited Lectures and Conference Papers (partial list)

- “Chopin’s Romanticism” - Keynote Lecture, “Romanticism in Music: Poland in its European Context,” Chopin Institute, Warsaw, Poland, Oct. 18, 2023
- “Five Faces of Impressionism,” Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, September 26, 2018
- “Casanova’s Seductions: Ambition, Love, and Letters in the Theater of Society,” Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, June 28, 2018
- “Willed Delusion: Concealment in the French Seventeenth Century,” National Humanities Center, Research Triangle, North Carolina, November 17, 2017
- “Imposture and the Crisis of Identity in Louis XIV’s France,” Society for French Historical Studies, Washington, D.C., April 21, 2017
- “Life as Theater in Eighteenth-Century France,” Society for French Historical Studies, Nashville, March 2016
- “French Patronage in the Age of Haydn,” *Patronage and Enlightenment*, Stanford University, February 14, 2015
- “Concealment and Unmasking before the French Revolution,” Graduate Seminar, Depts. of History and English, Stanford University, February 12, 2015
- “Capturing the Landscape Within,” keynote address for conference *The Art of Listening*, University of Potsdam, July 12, 2012
- “Masques et ordre public à Venise au XVIII^e siècle,” Université de Paris I (Sorbonne), April 11, 2011
- “Ritual Violence and Civic Identity in Early Modern Venice,” University of Oslo, June 7, 2009
- “Picturing Music,” 3-part lecture series, Museum of Fine Art, Boston, November-December 2009

Lecture-Performances (partial list)

- “Variations on the Dance,” The Union Club, Boston, November 13, 2024
- “Maurice Ravel in the French *Fin de Siècle*,” Boston University, March 21, 2023
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpBhIs5eUCc>)
- “Chopin’s Legacy: The Preludes, Mazurkas, and Nocturnes,” Intended for performance at BU’s Kilachand Honors College, April 2020; recorded instead for YouTube
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jX2dlQdFliM&feature=youtu.be>)
- “Maurice Ravel, Modernism, and the Great War,” Boston University, April 21, 2016
- “Venetian Melodies,” with baritone Dana Whiteside, Save Venice Lecture Series, Boston, MA, April 22, 2014
- “Milton’s Sweet Echo,” with baritone Dana Whiteside, *Milton’s Grand Style* Symposium, Boston, MA, December 6, 2013
- “Fêtes Galantes in the Fin de Siècle,” with baritone Dana Whiteside, French Historical Studies Conference, Cambridge, MA, April 4, 2013
- “Elements of Expression in Brahms and Ravel,” Boston University, March 7, 2013
- “Shakespeare’s Songs,” with baritone Dana Whiteside, Boston, May 1, 2012
- “Beethoven and the Art of Infinite Longing,” Boston University, April, 2010
- “J. S. Bach and the Divine Idea,” December 2, 2009

Grants and Fellowships

- Fulbright Research Grant (Italy), 2025-26
- Senior Fellow, Boston University Center for the Humanities, 2025-26
- Gladys Delmas Foundation Research Grant, Venice, 2025-26
- John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, 2014-15
- American Council of Learned Societies Research Grant, 2014-15
- Fellow in Residence, Camargo Foundation, Cassis, France, 2011
- Senior Fellow, Boston University Center for the Humanities, 2010-11
- American Council of Learned Societies Research Grant, 2005-6
- Visiting Fellow, Liguria Study Center, Bogliasco, Italy, 2006
- Gladys Delmas Foundation Research Grant, 2006
- Fulbright Research Grant (France), 1997
- Junior Fellow, Boston University Humanities Foundation, Spring, 1995
- Faculty Exchange Grant, Università di Padova, Summer, 1994
- Kahn Award recipient for final research, *Listening in Paris*, Boston University, 1991

American Council of Learned Societies Research Grant, 1988-89
Fulbright Research Grant (France) 1985-86