

Dr. Nicole Lee Schroeder

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Academic Appointments

Kean University, Union, NJ

- Assistant Professor of History 2023-present
- Equity in Action Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow 2021-2023

Education

Ph. D. in History, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 2021

- Fields of Study: Early American History 1584-1815, Disability History, United States History 1815-1877

M.A. in History, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 2018

B. A. History and Classical Studies, Colgate University 2015

- *Magna Cum Laude, Eta Sigma Pi, Phi Beta Kappa*

Publications

Books in Progress

- *Incurable Defects: Clashing Conceptions of Medicine, Welfare, and Disability in Philadelphia 1730 – 1850* (submitted to Disability in the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology Series at Johns Hopkins University Press)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles (In Print)

- “[“An Emporium of Beggars:’ Medical Rhetoric, Disabled Bodies, and Philadelphia’s Early Nationalist Welfare Crises,”](#) *Journal of the Early Republic* 44, no. 1 (2024): 57-86.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters (Forthcoming)

- “Poverty, Poor Relief, and Institutions in the Mid-Atlantic,” in *The Routledge History of Disability in America*, eds. Laurel Daen and Sarah Handley-Cousins (London: Routledge, 2026)
- “Accessibility,” in [Do Less Harm: Ethical Questions for Health Historians](#), eds. Courtney Thompson and Kylie Smith (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2025)
- “How Early Americans Built Care Webs,” in *Introduction to Place-Based Disability History: An Official NPS Handbook*, ed. Kathleen M. Brian (National Council of Public History, 2025), publication terminated from National Parks System due to DEI cuts

Creative Works and Contributions

- “Dying a ‘Good’ Death: Disability and the Assisted Suicide Debate,” in *Disability Vulnerability*, edited by Alice Wong (New York: Vintage Books, 2027): forthcoming.
- “[Unspooling](#)” reprinted in *The Sick Times* (May 6, 2024)
- “Unspooling,” in *Disability Intimacy: Essays on Love, Care, and Desire*, edited by Alice Wong (New York: Vintage Books, 2024): 7-15.
- Leni Van Goidsenhoven, **Nicole Schroeder**, Inge Van de Putte, “[Disability in the classroom: A roundtable conversation](#),” edited by Evelien Geerts, Josephine Hoegaerts, Daniel Blackie, and Kristien Hens, *Tijdschrift voor Genderstudies* Vol. 25, no. 1 (May 2022): 79-95.

Book Reviews

- Review of Heather Meek, *Reimagining Illness: Women Writers and Medicine in Eighteenth-Century Britain*, *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* (forthcoming)
- [Review of Eric C. Nystrom and R. A. R Edwards](#), *Ordinary Lives: Recovering Deaf Social History Through the American Census*, *American Historical Review* 130, no.1 (March 2025): 526-528.
- [Review of David Gissen](#), *The Architecture of Disability: Buildings, Cities, and Landscapes beyond Access*, *H-Sci-Med-Tech* (Aug 2023).
- [Review of Gabriel Loiacono](#), *How Welfare Worked in the Early United States: Five Microhistories*, *Journal of Social History* (Spring 2022): 675-77.
- [Review of Kristin O’Brassill-Kulfan](#), *Vagrants and Vagabonds: Poverty and Mobility in the Early American Republic*, *Journal of the Early Republic* (Fall 2020): 577-80.

Opinion Pieces and Public History Work

- “[Dying a ‘Good’ Death: Disability and the Assisted Suicide Debate](#),” *Disability Visibility Project* (January 1, 2025)
- “[Philadelphia’s 200-year-old disability records show welfare reform movement’s early shift toward rationing care and punishing poor people](#),” *The Conversation* (June 13, 2024)
- “[Counting Care](#),” *The Panorama* (June 3, 2024)
- “[COVID Conferences: Vulnerable Scholars Needn’t Apply](#),” *Inside Higher Ed* (Oct 2022)
- “[An Accessible Academy in COVID-19](#),” *Southern Historical Graduate Council* (June 2020)

Reading Lists and Open Access Teaching Resources

- “[Academic Ableism: Higher Education as a Site of Discrimination](#),” (January 2025)
- “[Human Rights and Resistance: Learning from the Nineteenth Century](#),” (November 2024)
- “[Teaching Disability History – Open Access Resources](#),” Kean University (Apr 2024)
- “[Teaching The Future is Disabled – Readings and Resources](#),” Kean University (Aug 2023)
- “[In Defense of Remote Access](#),” *Disabled Academic Collective* (June 2022)
- “[Community Resources for Disabled Academics](#),” *Disabled Academic Collective* (Aug 2021)

Works in Progress

- “Ethical Considerations: Disability History and Academic Training,” article project
- “‘A Melancholy Spectacle’: Nancy Linton and Patent Medicine Advertising,” article project

Courses Taught (Instructor of Record, Kean University)

1. HIST 4323, The New Nation (SP24, FA25)

Offers a deep dive into life in the early republic from 1790-1848. Focuses on the evolution of “American” nationalism with a focus on diverse perspectives. Centers the experiences of everyday people, highlighting Indigenous, Black, and immigrant settler perspectives. Examines westward expansion, the rapid growth of slavery, and white supremacy.

2. HIST 4317, Colonial America (SP23, SP25)

An upper-division dive into colonial America from the pre-Columbian era through the Seven Years’ War. Examines themes such as mercantilism, imperialism, contact narratives, borderlands, and the rise of chattel slavery. Considers diverse sources from Indigenous, African, and European perspectives. Reviews economic, cultural, religious, and political differences across the colonies.

3. HIST 4000, Academic Ableism (SP25)

Explores the relationship between academic institutions, public policy, and disabled individuals. Interrogates how research and curricular norms empowered medical professionals, legal advocates, and government officials to enact and entrench eugenics programs in the 19th century. Explores the relationship between research funding and disabling technologies in the present day. Investigates how disabled people resist academic ableism and celebrate disability culture.

4. HIST 4000, Disability Histories (SP22)

Reviews how disability has shaped political, cultural, social, and economic systems in the United States from the eighteenth century to the present day. Students will explore disability history through a range of primary and secondary sources and hone Disability Studies approaches through experiential learning portfolios. Assignments include drafting book reviews, designing museum exhibits, and writing op-eds for the general public.

5. HIST 4000, Women and Work in Early America (FA24)

Women’s work often goes unseen, but women worked diverse careers in early America ranging from artisanry to business ownership. This course tracks women’s labor history from precolonial Indigenous Americas through the Reconstruction Era. We’ll think about how white, Black, and Indigenous women’s’ work shaped early American economy, culture, law, and politics.

6. HIST 3990, Junior Seminar (FA21, SP22, FA22, SP23, FA23, SP24, FA24, SP25, FA25)

Investigates the major schools of historical thought and methods to the present day. Students develop critical reading, thinking, information literacy, research, advanced writing, and presentation skills. Students conduct term-length research projects.

7. HIST 2303, US History to 1877 (FA21, SP22, FA22, SP23, SP24)

Survey of American history from the Pre-Columbian period through Reconstruction. Examines the settlement of North America, the American Revolution, and the Civil War from social, political, and cultural perspectives. Explore broader themes such as the origins of freedom and slavery, the evolution of the market economy, and the creation of a distinct form of government.

8. GE 1855, Disabled Pasts, Presents, and Futures (FA23)

General education course for freshmen students designed to interrogate disability rights in the United States. Employs works by disabled authors, artists, and activists to consider how disabled people saw themselves, honed a culture, and pushed against normative lifeways. Teaches critical reading, writing, and public history skills through portfolio assignments.

9. GE 1855, Disability Justice (FA22)

General education course for incoming freshmen students designed to introduce students to the basics of the disability justice movement. Coined by Patricia Berne and Sins Invalid, disability justice centers on building a sustainable future where disabled people are supported, valued, and granted equal access. Considers strategies for implementing disability justice in everyday campus life. Teaches writing skills using a series of short writing projects, peer editing, and revision.

New Courses Developed for History Department

In Fall 2025, I designed the following three courses to supplement existing coursework in the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology (HSTM). Courses received approval from the College of Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee in January 2025. These courses might contribute to minors in HSTM, Atlantic World Studies, or Eighteenth Century Studies, which might be taught across English, History, Fine Arts, Philosophy, Political, Social and Cultural Science, Music, and Theatre departments.

10. HIST 4884: Atlantic Addictions: Sugar, Coffee, and Tobacco in the Colonial Enterprise

Analyzes economic and environmental histories of addictive substances like sugar, coffee, and tobacco in the Atlantic World. Interrogates the rise of market capitalism and plantation agriculture alongside ecological devastation and community upheavals. Explores how African, Indigenous, and settler populations navigated these dangerous enterprises.

11. HIST 4885: Botanical Imperialism

Analyzes European botanical explorations in South America, the Caribbean, and North America from the sixteenth through the eighteenth centuries. Explores how European scientists, missionaries, and planters collected, adapted, and commodified Indigenous expertise. Interrogates syncretic plant knowledge production. Combines environmental history, economic history, and history of science, technology, and medicine.

12. HIST 4886: Eugenics in US History

Investigates the US institutionalization movement from the 18th-century to the present day. Considers how the state used ableist, racist, and sexist cultural perceptions to demand forced institutionalization of “aberrant” bodies. Considers power and privilege as it pertains to carceral, educational, and healthcare sectors. Unpacks the work of ongoing social justice movements calling for deinstitutionalization and restorative justice.

Honors & Monetary Awards

Kean University

- Provost Faculty Follow 2025-2026
- Field Research Grant, College of Liberal Arts, \$3850 2024
- Research Materials Grant, College of Liberal Arts, \$500 2023
- Disability Justice Library Grant, College of Liberal Arts, \$750 2023
- Hank Kaplowitz Human Rights Educator of the Year 2022

Nationally Competitive

- Dolores Liebmman Fund Fellowship 2019-2021
 - Dolores Zohrab Liebmman Fund, \$54,000
- Program in Early American Economy and Society Dissertation Fellowship 2019-2020
 - Library Company of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, \$20,000
 - Fellowship cut early due to Sars-Cov-2 shutdowns
- Friends of the APS Predoctoral Fellowship in Early American History 2018-2019
 - American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, PA, \$25,000

University of Virginia

- Elected to Raven Society 2019
 - Honors Society
- Summer Language Funding 2017
 - Corcoran Department of History, \$2500
- Summer Research and Travel Funding 2016
 - Corcoran Department of History, \$5,000

Certifications, Trainings, and Workshops Attended

- “Active Learning Course Design Institute,” Kean University 2025
- “Summer Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Series,” Kean University 2025
- “Just Write,” Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture 2024
- “Fostering Equity through Critical Conversations,” Kean University 2024
- “An Introduction to Neurodiversity for Educators,” Dr. Sarah Silverman 2023
- “Faculty Success Program,” National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity 2022
- “Disability History and Historical Thinking in the Vast Early Americas” 2021
 - Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture
- “Autism & Universal Design Training” 2021
 - Provided by Dr. Kristen Gillespie-Lynch, Dr. TC Waisman, Dr. Siva Priya Santhanam, Dr. Iliana Magiati, et. al.
- “Accessibility Professionals Certification Grant Program” 2020
 - Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA
- “Writer to Writer Mentorship Program,” Association of Writers & Writing Programs 2020

Media Appearances

Interviews

- Sara Libby, "[ADHD patients and doctors are terrified of losing access to medication under RFK Jr.](#)," *San Francisco Chronicle* (February 18, 2025)
- Nikki Forrester, "[First-in-family scholars bust generational barriers.](#)" *Nature* (April 19, 2022)
- Lilah Burke, "[A Difficult Pathway.](#)" *Inside Higher Ed* (May 12, 2021)

Podcast Guest

- "[Women with Disabilities in Academia.](#)" *Pop-Up University*, Victoria Baskett (September 18, 2021)
- "[We've Been Waiting for You.](#)" BRIC Radio (April 7, 2021)
- "[Researching Healthcare During a Pandemic](#)" *COVIDCalls*, Scott Gabriel Knowles, (February 2021)
- "[Nicole Schroeder: PhD Candidate and Founder of the Disabled Academic Collective](#)" *Enabled in Academia*, Lienkie Diedericks (November 13, 2020)

Select Conference Panels, Invited Talks, and Workshops

Panelist

- "Accessibility and History of Science Society Futures," 2025
 - History of Science Society, Annual Meeting, New Orleans
- Commentator and Film Screening Discussion 2025
 - ReelAbilities New Jersey, Kean University, Union, NJ
- "Alice Wong discusses 'Disability Intimacy: Essays on Love, Care, and Desire,'" 2024
 - Harvard Book Store, Cambridge, MA
- "Writing as Righting: Doing History for a Better Future," 2022
 - Society for the History of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), New Orleans
- "Oh the (Digital) Humanitie(s)!": A Conversation about How to Start, Where to Go for Help, and Why it's Worth it," 2021
 - Virginia Consortium of Early Americanists
- "'She is an object of both charity and curiosity:' Disability, Gender, and Patent Medicine Advertisements in the Medical Marketplace, 1820-1870," 2021
 - Archival Kismet, University of Mississippi

Paper Presenter

- "The Devil in the Details: Measurement, Labor, Statistics, and AI," 2025
 - Society of History and Technology Annual Meeting, Luxembourg
- "Mutual Aid and Community Care in Early Nationalist Philadelphia," 2025
 - Climbing Higher Together: Building and Sharing Impactful Faculty Research, Kean University, Union, NJ
- "Medical Education and Experimentation: Almshouses and the Production of Knowledge in Antebellum America," 2025
 - American Association for the History of Medicine Annual Meeting, Boston, MA
- "Disability Justice and Early American History: Connections, Throughlines, and Ethics," 2023
 - Disability in the Vast Early Americas, University of Notre Dame and the Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture
- "Medical Matrices: Webs of Health Care in Philadelphia, 1730-1800," 2019

- Early American Seminar, Monticello, VA
- “‘How Lame and Insufficient,’ Medical Practice, Training, and the Foundations of Clinical Education in America,” 2019
 - McNeil Center Brown Bag Series, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Conference Panel Organizer

- “Embodied Experiences of Disability as Historical Praxis,” 2022
 - American Association for the History of Medicine, Saratoga Springs, NY
 - unable to present without virtual accommodations
- “Invalid Architecture: Navigating the Built Landscape of Philadelphia’s Medical World” 2019
 - Society for the History of the Early American Republic, Cambridge, MA
- “Incurable Defects: Physical Disability and the Philadelphia Outpatient Relief System” 2018
 - Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture, William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA

Workshop Host & Organizer

- “Co-Constructing Accessibility Plans,” 2024
 - Kean University First Inaugural Conference on Teaching, Union, NJ
- “Disability Studies as Disability Justice: Teaching The Future is Disabled,” 2023
 - Common Read Program, Kean University, Union, NJ
- “Patient Advocacy and Sustainable Care Networks,” 2022
 - Clinical Center Rehabilitation Medicine, National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- “Accessibility & Universal Design in Higher Education,” 2020
 - Corcoran Department of History GHSA Pedagogy Conference, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Event Organizer

- Why Declare a History Major/Minor? 2025
 - Kean University History Department, Kean University, Union, NJ
- Getting into Graduate School Workshop 2025
 - Kean University History Department, Kean University, Union, NJ
- Applying to Graduate School 2025
 - Society for Disability Studies, virtual
- Graduate School Info Session 2024
 - Kean University History Department, Kean University, Union, NJ
- Disability Justice Library Ribbon Cutting Ceremony 2023
 - Human Rights Institute, Kean University, Union, NJ
- Summer Speaker Series 2022
 - Disabled Academic Collective, virtual
- Rising Above Academic Ableism 2021
 - Disability Awareness Month, Kean University, Union, NJ

Invited Speaker

- “Why Choose the Liberal Arts? Curiosity, Critical Thinking, and Change Makers” 2025
 - College of Liberal Arts Dean’s Dinner, Kean University, Union, NJ
- “‘Maybe Grad School Isn’t Right for You’: Inaccessibility and the Graduate Experience” 2024
 - University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, Department of Clinical Psychology
- “Disability and the American Revolution,” 2024
 - In-Service Teacher’s Day, Kean University, Union, NJ
- “Fighting for Disability Rights: Past, Present, and Future,” 2024
 - AmeriCorps Legal Advocates of Massachusetts, Brockton, MA
- “Academic Ableism and Barriers to Access: Reframing Academia as Disablement,” 2023
 - Global Speaker Series, University of Northern British Columbia
- “Awareness and Advocacy,” 2022
 - Human Rights Institute 2022 Annual Conference, Kean University, Union, NJ
- “Best Practices in Destigmatizing Disabilities,” 2022
 - Diversity Issues in Higher Education, Seton Hall, South Orange, NJ
- “Community Care on Either Side of the Delaware,” 2022
 - Harrison Township Historical Society, Mullica Hill, NJ
- “Forgotten Community Members, Wasted Knowledge, and Self-Denied Access” 2022
 - University of British Columbia, Department of Geography
- “Uncovering Disability History in the Archives,” 2022
 - Liberty in the American Revolution: Teaching Slavery, Race, & Gender in the Founding Era, Kean University, Union, NJ
- “Patient Advocacy and Provider Praxis: Trusting and Working with Disabled Patients,” 2022
 - Advocates for Individuals with Disabilities (AID) Disability Symposium Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Philadelphia, PA
- “Incurable Defects: Clashing Conceptions of Disability in the Early Republic,” 2022
 - Equity in Action Monthly Professional Learning Series, Kean University, Union, NJ
- “Incurable Defects: Book Proposal,” 2021
 - Colgate Symposium, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY
- “The Future of Disability History,” 2019
 - Disability Studies Initiative and the Corcoran Department of History
 - University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Guest Lecturer

- “Female ‘Inferiority’ and Sexism in Science” 2025
 - WGS 2350: Intro to Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
 - University of Houston, Houston, TX
- “Foundational Concepts and Histories” 2024
 - WGSS 3322: Crip Narratives and Crip Theory
 - University of Houston, Houston, TX
- “COVID-19: A Disability Rights Issue,” 2023
 - KHC HC 401: Epistemologies and the Process of Inquiry
 - Boston University, Cambridge, MA

Service to the Profession – Institutional Service

Committee Member, Student Admissions and Retention Committee, University Senate

Fall 2025 - present

- Reviews university-wide policies regarding admissions and retention

Committee Member, Department Curriculum Committee, History Department

Fall 2022 – present

- Reviews all syllabi revisions and course proposals
- Conducted review of parallel History major and minor programs at sister institutions

Committee Member, CLA Teaching and Service Committee

Fall 2024 – Spring 2027

- Reviews applications for June curriculum development, service projects, and research grants

Committee Member, CLA Assistant Dean Search Committee

Fall 2024 – Spring 2025

- Reviewed applications for the position of Assistant Dean of the College of Liberal Arts
- Conducted a series of material reviews, phone interviews, and on campus interviews

Advisor, Accessibility Justice Zone, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Spring 2024 – Fall 2024

- Shared Disability Studies teaching materials, reading lists, and content lectures
- Edited, revised, and commented on training materials and concurrent resources

Committee Member, Common Read Committee

Spring 2023 – Fall 2024

- Compiled curriculum supports in Disability Studies to pair with *The Future is Disabled: Prophecies, Love Notes, and Mourning Songs*
- Hosted a workshop on academic ableism and teaching disability in our current political climate
- Compiled resources, reading lists, and multidisciplinary course content supports

Committee Member, Association on Higher Education and Disability Office of Accessibility Committee

Spring 2022 – Fall 2023

- Engaged in weekly meetings with the Office of Accessibility, Student Affairs, Library Resources, Center for Advising, Persistence, and Success, and others
- Completed self-assessment survey and consulted on accommodations and accessibility policies
- Distributed resources to help ground, educate, and inform access work

Grant Writer, Disability Justice Library, Kean University, Union NJ

Spring 2023

- Worked with Human Rights Institute to promote the library and open the collection
- Designed accessible teaching workshop to promote the new collection materials

Service to the Profession – National & International Organizations

Communications Chair, Society for Disability Studies

Spring 2024 – present

- Designed and ran graduate student Social Media Intern Program
- Conducted searches for book review editors and editors for the *Disability Studies Quarterly*
- Built Discord server, maintained listserv, streamlined communications
- Rebuilt web content for updated website
- Hosted early-career/graduate student paper workshop (once a month)

Member, Board of Directors, Society for Disability Studies

Fall 2023 – present

- Served as voting member and served on Programming Taskforce

Founder, Disabled Academic Collective

July 2020 – present

- Designed and ran website, Discord server, and Twitter handle
- Moderated server, served as web administrator, and managed communications
- Brought 950+ members into the collective between July 2020 – present

Grant Review Panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities, Cultural and Community Resilience Program

Summer 2023

- Reviewed series of grant applications for research projects designed to mitigate climate and pandemic-related impacts, safeguard cultural resources, and foster cultural resilience
- Provided written comments and met with grant review panel to make recommendations

Respondent, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education

Spring 2023

- Attended listening session on Section 504 Regulations
- Discussed discriminatory policies with cancellation of hybrid modalities
- Discussed importance of meaningful accommodations at student, staff, and faculty levels

Manuscript Reviewer

- William & Mary Quarterly
- Journal of the Early Republic

Membership

- Society for Disability Studies
- Disability History Association
- American Association for the History of Science
- History of Science Society
- Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine