

Pete Smith

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Education

University of Maryland, College Park

(Expected December 2024)

- Dual Degree: BA, History; BS, Computer Science
- Minor, Trumpet Performance
- Cumulative GPA: 3.392 (January 2024)
- Relevant Coursework: Women and War in U.S. History; Immigration and Ethnicity in the U.S.; Emergence of Modern America (1900-1945); Civil War and Industrialization (1860-1900)
- Member: History Undergraduate Association; Association for Computing Machinery; Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning Reading Group

Work Experience

History Intern (Enslaved.org: Journal of Slavery and Data Preservation)

(August 2023 – December 2023)

- Collaborated with a team at Virginia Tech on “Dangerous Harbor,” an NEH-funded project researching runaway indentured servants and enslaved people in colonial Virginia and Maryland
- Analyzed contemporary documents to record biographical information of runaways and to establish context surrounding their escape attempts
- Created a user guide to introduce students to the project and its dataset

Web Development Intern (University of Maryland Department of Astronomy)

(June 2023 – Present)

- Created a comet statistic site for the NASA Planetary Data System Small Bodies Node at UMD
- Presented *Comet Statistics* as a contributed talk at the 33rd annual ADASS conference in Nov 2023
- Develop a tool to automate converting from the “new” to the “old” IAU comet designation system

Selected Papers

“Running Away from the Future”

(History Intern at Enslaved.org, December 2023)

- This research paper examines runaway indentured servants and enslaved people in seventeenth-century Virginia and Maryland, along with their surrounding legal landscape, to establish their specific reasons for running away and the considerations they had to make. By accounting for their conditions and increasingly harsh punishments, including with respect to race, this paper argues that the changing legal landscape served as both a motivation and a deterrent for those running away.

“Welcome to the West, it’s been waiting for you”

(Civil War and Industrialization at UMD, November 2023)

- Through analyzing Laura Ingalls Wilder’s *Little House* series and Willa Cather’s *My Ántonia*, this paper argues that, in the decades following the westward expansion seen in the mid-to-late nineteenth century, popular media romanticized it to serve as a distraction from the pressing events of World War I and the Great Depression. This paper shows that these books simultaneously gave contemporary readers a means of escape and painted a nuanced picture of life in the American West.

Skills and Attributes

- Skills: Written and oral communication, critical thinking, research, teamwork, customer service
- Attributes: Punctual, efficient, organized
- Software: Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite, Google Docs Suite, and OpenRefine
- Technical Skills: Python, Java, Racket, OCaml, C, Rust, Ruby, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, SQL