**Dr. Benjamin Warren Sawyer** 2408 Barclay Dr.

Benjamin.Sawyer@mtsu.edu Nashville, TN 37206

**Academic Appointments:**

August 2019-Present **Senior Instructor of History at Middle Tennessee State University**

August 2018-July 2019 **Instructor of History at Middle Tennessee State University**

August 2013-July 2018 **Lecturer in History at Middle Tennessee State University**

Summer 2014 **Visiting Professor of History at Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics**

**Education:**

2013 **Michigan State University,** East Lansing, MI

 *Doctor of Philosophy in History*

Major Field*:* Russian/Soviet History

Minor Fields: History of American Capitalism, History of Eastern Europe

2005 **Appalachian State University,** Boone, NC

 *Master of Arts in History*

2002 **University of North Carolina at Charlotte,** Charlotte, NC

 *Bachelor of Arts in History w/ Concentration in Secondary Education*

**Awards and Honors**

J Harmon Home Team Teacher of the Month, March 2020.

Faculty Member of the Year, MTSU Fraternity & Sorority Life, 2019.

John T. Bragg Sr. Distinguished Service Award, MTSU Student Government Association, 2016.

Influential Educator Award, Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society, MTSU, 2016.

Distinguished Member, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, 2015 (Awarded annually to three outstanding professors at MTSU as identified by the members of NSCS honors society).

Finalist, Tucker/Cohen Dissertation Award, Assoc. for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies, 2014

Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Michigan State University, Summer 2013.

Fulbright Institute of International Education (IIE) Research Grant, 2011-2012.

Don Lammers Award, Michigan State University, Spring 2011.

Milton Muelder Graduate Fellowship, Michigan State University, Fall 2010.

Muelder-Lowe Fellowship, Michigan State University, Spring 2009.

Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, Summer Workshop in Slavic and Eastern European Languages (SWEESL), Indiana University- Bloomington, Summer 2007 & 2008.

**Current Project:**

Carl Marks Vs. The Soviet Union: Prerevolutionary Russian Debt and the Pursuit of Soviet Repayment

**Academic Publications**

“Manufacturing Germans: Singer Manufacturing Company and American Capitalism in the Russian Imagination during World War I.” *Enterprise & Society*, Vol. 17, No. 2 (June 2016) pp 301-323.

“Shedding the White and Blue: American Migration and Soviet Dreams in the Era of the New Economic Policy.” *Ab Imperio* (January 2013): 65-84.

**Selected Academic Talks/Presentations:**

“Carl Marks vs. The Soviet Union: Prerevolutionary Russian Bonds and the Pursuit of Repayment after World War II,” East European Seminar, Vanderbilt University, February 28, 2020.

"Carl Marks vs. The Soviet Union: Pre-Revolutionary Russian Debt on American Markets after World War II," Spring Conference on Global & Economic History, Georgia State Univ., April 2019.

"Bonded to the Bolsheviks: Prerevolutionary Russian Bonds in American Markets," 50th Convention of the Assoc. for Slavic, E. European, & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), Boston, December 2018.

“Going Back to Build a Future: Russian Reemigrants in the Era of the New Economic Policy,” 48th Annual ASEEES Convention, Washington, DC, November 2016.

“Bonded to the Bolsheviks: Tsarist Debt in American Markets after the Bolshevik Revolution,” Spring Conference in World History and Economics, Appalachian State University, April 2014.

“The Unexpected American: Soviet Migration and the ‘Russian American’ in NEP-era Soviet Society,” 45th Annual ASEEES Convention, Boston, November 2013.

“Rule of None: Soviet State Policy and the Rise and Fall of NEP-era Institutions in the 1920s,” Spring Conference in World History and Economics, Appalachian State University, April 20, 2013.

“American Immigration and the Making of Nep-era Soviet Immigration Policy," The Carolina Seminar, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, February 2013.

“Soviet State Institutions and the Management of Immigration from North America in the NEP-era,” 44th Annual ASEEES Convention, New Orleans, LA, November 2012.

“Soviet State Institutions and the Pursuit of Foreign Technology in the Era of NEP, 1921-1928,” The Great Experiment Conference, Princeton University, February 2012.

“American Agricultural Immigration to the Soviet Union in the 1920s,” (w/ Seth Bernstein), American Center, Moscow, November 2010.

“An American Company? Singer Manufacturing Company and American Capitalism in the Russian Imagination during World War I” History of Capitalism in the United States Graduate Student

 Conference, Harvard University, November 2008.

**Selected Service**

Faculty Advisor:

Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, 2017-Present.

MTSU Bowling Team, 2019-Present

Comichameleon Student Comedy Club, 2016-2018.

University Committee Member, Fulbright Program, MTSU, 2014-present.

Guest Lecturer, MTSU Alumni Summer College, June 2019.

Faculty Welcome Speaker, MTSU Preview Day Recruitment Events, 2016, 2018.

Faculty Judge, MTSU Scholars Day Presentation, 2014-2016.

Selection Committee Member, International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), Muskie Alumni Small Grants Program, 2013-2016.

Book Review Editor, *Region: Regional Studies of Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia*, Slavica Publishers, November 2013- May 2016.

Application Evaluator, Visiting Graduate Student Program, Fulbright Program in Russia, 2015.

Peer Reviewer, *Essays in Economic & Business History*, Journal of the Economic and Business History Society, 2014.

Interview Committee Member, International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), Global Undergraduate Exchange Program in Eurasia and Central Asia (Global UGRAD), Moscow, March 2012.

Fulbright Representative, US Embassy Briefing for Worcester Polytechnic Institute, US Embassy, Moscow, Russia, January 31, 2012.

Organizer, Midwest Russian History Workshop, Michigan State University, April 3-4, 2009.

Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) Traveling Scholar, University of Michigan, Fall 2007.

**Public Engagement/Outreach**

Producer/Host, *The Road to Now* podcast, May 2016-Present (Reached as high as #12 in Apple Podcast History Charts)

Media Appearances/Interviews: *Forbes, Roll Call, NBC Today Show, Sirius XM POTUS Politics,*

 *RadioFree Nashville, My History Can Beat Up Your Politics, Lovett or Leave It (Crooked Media), MTSU Out of The Blue.*

History Day Advisor, Battle Ground Academy, 2014. (Advised team that reached National Finals.)

Development Editor at Gradhacker.org (an InsideEd.com affiliated blog), 2012-2013.

**Workshops/Invited Speaking Engagements**

“Storytelling and Narrative,” Bringing History to the People 2.0, Department of History, Vanderbilt University (originally scheduled March 13, 2020; currently postponed).

“Podcasting and Story,” 19th Century True Crime and Crime Fiction (FREN 3891), Vanderbilt University, Feb. 24, 2020

Panel Chair/Co-organizer, “Teaching with Digital Humanities: Primary Sources, Methods of Analysis, and Real-World Applications,” 51st Annual ASEEES Convention, San Francisco, Nov. 24 2019.

Panelist, “The Power of Story,” National Conference of State Legislatures’ 2019 Annual Summit, Nashville, TN, August 2019.

“A Historians View of Comedy (and Vice Versa): Using Humor and Stories to Teach History,” MTSU Alumni Summer College, Murfreesboro, TN, June 2019.

“How to Start a Podcast,” MTSU Public History Graduate Student Maymester, Murfreesboro, TN, May 2019.

“How to Start a Podcast,” Bringing History to the People, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, March 2019.

Panelist, “Lightning Round: Teaching in the Digital Age: Techniques and Technology in the Classroom” 49th Annual ASEEES Convention, Chicago, IL, November, 2017.

**Teaching Interests**

History of Economic Systems (Capitalism and Communism)

Russia in the 20th Century

Transnational History

Comparative Revolutions

Survey of US History

**Languages**

Research capability in Russian and Spanish language.