

# Dr. Robert D. Lifset

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in History, Columbia University, 2005

M.A. in History, Columbia University, 1998

B.A. with Special Honors in History, University of Chicago, 1996

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Donald Keith Jones Associate Professor of History: University of Oklahoma, 2014-

Donald Keith Jones Assistant Professor of History: University of Oklahoma, 2008-2014

Post-Doctoral Fellow: University of Houston, 2006-2008

Visiting Assistant Professor: University of North Florida, 2005-2006

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Books*

*A Tragic Disaster of Epic Proportions: An Environmental History of the Energy Crisis of the 1970s.*

(work-in-progress)

*American Energy Cinema.* Robert Lifset, Raechel Lutz and Sarah Stanford-McIntyre eds. (West Virginia University Press, 2023)

*American Energy Policy in the 1970s.* Robert Lifset, ed. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2014.

*Power On The Hudson: Storm King Mountain and the Emergence of Modern American Environmentalism.* Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2014.

- Winner of the 2016 Herbert H. Lehman Prize for Distinguished Scholarship in New York History

### *Articles*

“Jimmy Carter & The Revival of American Coal” *Modern American History* (in progress).

“A City Built By and On Oil: The March of the Mud-hogs and Derricks in Depression-Era Oklahoma City” (in progress)

“Nuclear Power in America: The Story of a Failed Energy Transition” *Environmental History* 24 (July, 2019), 62-71.

“Lord, We Don’t Want to Hurt People”: The Decline and Fall of the American Electric Utility Industry in the 1970s” in Alain Beltran et al eds., *Electric Worlds / Mondes electriques: Creations, Circulations, Tensions, Transitions (19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> C.)*. Brussels: P.I.E-Peter Lang S.A., 2016.

“A New Understanding of the American Energy Crisis of the 1970s” *Historical Social Research* 39 (2014) 4, 22-42.

“Imagining the ‘Devil’s Excrement:’ Big Oil in Petroleum Cinema, 1940-2007.” With Brian C. Black *Journal of American History*. Volume 99, No. 4, March 2012, 135-144

“The Environmental is Political: The Story of the Ill-Fated Hudson River Expressway, 1965-1970.” *The Hudson River Valley Review*, Vol. 22, No. 2, Spring 2006.

#### *Book Chapters*

“Syriana: America’s 9/11 Film” in Robert Lifset, Raechel Lutz and Sarah Stanford-McIntyre eds., *American Energy Cinema* (West Virginia University Press, 2023).

“Storm King and the Modernization of American Environmentalism, 1962-1980” in Carl Zimring and Steven Corey eds. *Coastal Metropolis* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2021).

“Environmentalism and the Electrical Energy Crisis.” In Robert Lifset, ed., *American Energy Policy in the 1970s*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2014.

“Energy Conservation in America: The Case of New York.” in Mogens Rudiger ed. *The Culture of Energy*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2008.

#### *Book Reviews*

*The Extraction State: A History of Natural Gas in America*. By Charles Blanchard. *Technology & Culture*, forthcoming.

*Unnatural Resources: Energy And Environmental Politics In Appalachia After The 1973 Oil Embargo* by Michael Camp. *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 126, Issue 4, December 2021.

*Shale Boom: The Barnett Shale Play and Fort Worth* by Diana Davids Hinton. *Journal of Southern History*, Volume LXXXV, No. 4 November 2019.

*Power Lines: Phoenix And The Making Of The Modern Southwest*. By Andrew Needham. H-Environment Roundtable, Vol. 9, No. 4, May 2019.

*When They Hid The Fire: A History of Electricity and Invisible Energy in America* by Daniel French. *Journal of American History*, Vol 105, No. 1, March 2019.

*Fighting Westway: Environmental Law, Citizen Activism, and the Regulatory War That Transformed New York City.* By William W. Buzbee *New York History*, Vol. 99, No. 1, Winter 2018.

*Selling Power: Economics, Policy, and Electric Utilities Before 1940* by John Neufeld. *Technology & Culture*, Vol. 59, October 2018

*Panic at the Pump: The Energy Crisis and the Transformation of American Politics in the 1970s.* By Meg Jacobs. *Journal of American History*, Vol. 104, No. 1, June 2017

*Oil Culture.* Ed. by Ross Barrett and Daniel Worden. *Western American Literature*, Vol. 51, Number 2, Summer 2016.

*A History of Environmentalism: Local Struggles, Global Histories.* Edited by Marco Armiero and Lise Sedrez. *Environmental History*, Vol. 20, Number 3, June 2015.

*Dirty Business, "Clean Coal" And The Battle For Our Energy Future.* Dir. Peter Bull. H-Environment, January 2013

*Finding Oil: The Nature of Petroleum Geology, 1859–1920.* By Brian Frehner. *Western Historical Quarterly*, Autumn 2012

*Scientists and Swindlers: Consulting on Coal and Oil in America, 1820-1890.* By Paul Lucier. *Business History Review*, Summer 2010. Volume 84, Issue 2.

"In Search of Republican Environmentalists." *Reviews in American History*. Vol. 36, Number 1, March 2008.

#### *Encyclopedia Entries*

"Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)." Edward J. Blum ed., *America in the World, 1776 to the Present*, Vol. 2, pp. 788-790, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2016.

"Opposition to Environmentalism." Kathleen A. Brosnan ed., *Encyclopedia of American Environmental History*. New York: Facts on File, 2010.

#### *Internet*

"The End of Incrementalism," *Inhabiting the Anthropocene*, April 7, 2021.

"Remembering Storm King" Dot Earth Blog, *The New York Times*, April 14, 2015.

"Energy Conservation (& Efficiency)" H-Energy Roundtable on Presidential Candidates Energy Plans, H-Energy, October 30, 2008.

#### *Public History*

"Storm King Mountain" sign (with Frances Dunwell) at Storm King State Park, Cornwall, NY, 2007

## **ACADEMIC HONORS**

University of Oklahoma Presidential International Travel Fellowship, 2019

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Fellowship, 2016

Junior Faculty Summer Research Fellowship, University of Oklahoma, Summer 2011

Ellen Swallow Richards Travel Grant, American Society for Environmental History, September 2004

Graduate Fellow, Hudson River Foundation Fall 2002- Spring 2003

Columbia University History Department Teaching Fellowship Fall 1998- Spring 2000

Anna M. and George N. Barnard Memorial Prize in American History, University of Chicago, Spring 1996

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **International Conferences**

“The Independents Strike Back: The Energy Crisis of the 1970s and the Forging of a New Chapter in the Environmental History of the Oil Industry,” Black and Green? Towards an Environmental History of the Oil Industry. Rachel Carson Center. Munich, Germany, June 2023.

“Reading Between the Lines: Some Thoughts on The Tortured History of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.” Platform for Research on Ecological Civilization and Environmental Rule of Law, Kunming University of Science and Technology Webinar. Kunming, China, May 2020.

“Nuclear Power in America: The Story of a Failed Energy Transition” Transitions in Energy: State of the Art and New Perspectives. Committee for the History of Electricity and Energy. Milan, Italy, November 2017.

“The American Electrical Energy Crisis of the 1970s” Electric Worlds: creations, circulations, tensions, and transitions from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries. IRICE-UMR, Paris, France, December 2014.

“The Electrical Energy Crisis of the 1970s” Energy In The America’s, University of Calgary, October 2014.

“A New Interpretation of the American Energy Crisis” The Energy Crisis of the 1970s as Challenges to the Industrialized World. Conference at the Centre for Contemporary History, Potsdam, Germany, September 2013.

“The Fate of American Energy Conservation Policy.” World Congress of Environmental History, Copenhagen, Denmark, August, 2009.

“The Story of a Failed American Energy Transition: New York City, 1950-1980” Cities and energy transitions: past present, future. International Roundtable Conference, Autun, France, June 2009

“Energy Efficiency and the American Energy Crisis of the 1970s.” Energy in Changing Environments International Symposium. Bremen, Germany. December, 2007.

“Energy Conservation in America: The Case of New York.” Energy & Culture Conference, Centre for Energy and Society, Esbjerg, Denmark, February 2007.

### **National Conferences**

Chair, “Misfit Electrification: Patterns of Electrification Running Against The Current” American Society for Environmental History, Boston, MA., March 2023.

“Energy Independence and the Infrastructure of 1970s Energy Policy,” Society for the History of Technology, New Orleans, November 2022.

Chair, “Energy Cinema, Part Two: Critiques of Oil Culture” American Society for Environmental History, Columbus, Ohio, April 2019.

Chair, “Petroleum, Power and Public Perception in the 1980s” American Society for Environmental History, Riverside, CA, March 2018.

Panelist, “Teaching Energy History: Culture, Labor, Politics, Technology, Environment and Justice” American Society for Environmental History, Riverside, CA, March 2018.

“Jimmy Carter and the Renaissance in American Coal” American Society for Environmental History, Chicago, IL, April 2017.

“Climate Change And The Energy Crisis of the 1970s” Politics, Protest, And Ideas In The American Century, A Conference In Honor Of Alan Brinkley, Columbia University, New York, NY, April 2016.

“The Impact of Environmentalism on American Energy Policy Since the 1970s” American Society for Environmental History, Washington D.C., March 2015.

“A City Built By and On Oil: The March of the Mudhogs and Derricks in Depression-Era Oklahoma City” American Historical Association, Boston, MA, January, 2011

“A City Built By and On Oil: The March of the Mud hogs and Derricks in Depression-Era Oklahoma City” Energy Capitals Conference, Houston, TX, May 21, 2010

Chair, “Electricity and Crisis” American Society for Environmental History, Portland, OR, March, 2010

Chair, “Powering Paradise: Energy Choices and Unanticipated Transformations” American Society for Environmental History, Tallahassee, FL, March 1, 2009

“Killed by Ideology? The Fate of American Energy Conservation Policy.” Policy History Conference. St. Louis, MO. May 29, 2008 (panel organizer).

“‘They’re going to crucify you!’ Storm King and the Divisions Within the Environmental Community.” American Society for Environmental History. Boise, Idaho. March, 2008 (panel organizer).

Roundtable discussion “H-Net and LISTSERV meet Web 2.0: Technology, identity, and the academic enterprise confront technological change.” Social Science History Association Conference. Chicago, IL. November, 2007.

“Environmentalism and the Electrical Energy Crisis.” Energy in Historical Perspective: American Energy Policy in the 1970s. Houston, Texas. November, 2007 (conference organizer).

“‘Con Ed Has Us By The Bulbs’: Con Ed, the Energy Crisis, and The End of Business As Usual.” American Society for Environmental History. Baton Rouge, Louisiana, March 2007 (panel organizer).

“The Path Not Taken: Con Ed, Indian Point, and the Trials of Nuclear Power.” American Historical Association, Atlanta, Georgia, January 2007.

“Pete Seeger and the Politics of Environmentalism.” American Society for Environmental History. St. Paul, Minnesota, April 2006 (panel organizer).

“A Fight to the Death: Storm King, Consolidated Edison and the Fate of the Hudson River.” American Society for Environmental History. Houston, Texas, March 2005 (panel organizer).

### **Regional and Local Conferences**

Panelist, “Lessons From The First Earth Day: The Past and Future of the Environmental Movement” Earth Month @OU 2019, OU Memorial Union, April 2019

Chair, “Technology and Science in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century” Thirty-First Mid-America Conference on History, Norman, Oklahoma, October 2009

“Scenic Hudson and The Emergence of Environmental Law.” Graduate Student Conference. Columbia University, New York, New York, April 5, 2002

### **Invited Lectures**

“A History of Energy Transitions” Carbon Free H<sub>2</sub> Energy Production and Storage Group, OVPRP Big Idea Challenge, University of Oklahoma, December 10, 2021

“The Birth of A New Era In American Political History” 5<sup>th</sup> Yun Geng Environment Rule of Law Forum, Platform for Research on Eco-Civilization and Environmental Rule of Law, Kunming University of Science and Technology, Kunming City, Yunan Province, China, February 6, 2021 (Virtual)

“An Urban World: The Changing Landscape of Suburbs and Cities” Columbia University, New York, NY, November, 2019.

“Coal, Climate Change & The Energy Crisis of the 1970s” University of Valparaiso, Valparaiso Chile, December 2018.

“The History of Environmentalism in the United States” University of Valparaiso, Valparaiso Chile, December 2018.

“A Short History of Renewable Energy Policy Pre-PURPA” PURPA@40 Renewable Energy Law and Policy in the United States, The University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, Salt Lake City, UT November 2018.

“The 1970s Renaissance of American Coal” The Future of Coal Conference, Burton K. Wheeler Center, Billings, MT, April 2018.

“Storm King & Its Legacy” Marist College, April 2017

“The Fight for Storm King” Ft. Lee Historic Park, NJ, April 2017

“Jimmy Carter and the Revival of American Coal” University of Copenhagen, March 2017

“Climate Change & The Energy Crisis of the 1970s” Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability Seminar, University of Oklahoma, March 2017

“Clinton and Trump on Energy & the Environment” A Roundtable on the Foreign Policies of Clinton and Trump, University of Oklahoma, October 2016

“A Short History of Nuclear Power in the United States; Or, Why Three Mile Island Does Not Matter” Public Symposium on Energy Humanities & Nuclear Disaster Memory, University of Oklahoma, March 2016

“The Fight For Storm King” Hudson Highlands Nature Museum, Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY, November, 2015

“Power on the Hudson” Mt. St. Mary’s College, Newburgh, NY, November 2015.

“Storm King & Its Legacy,” Ft. Montgomery State Historic Site, Palisades Interstate Park, NY, April 2015

“Environmental Historiography and Storm King Mountain” Lehman Center for American History, Columbia University, April 2015

“Remembering Storm King,” Boscobel House, Garrison, NY, December 2014

“A Tale of Two Cities: Tulsa, Oklahoma City and the Struggle for Energy Capital Status,” The Petroleum Club of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma City, April, 2011

“The Need for a Political Roadmap: The Story of American Energy Conservation Policy Since the 1970’s” Sawyer Seminar, Boston University, Boston, MA, January, 2011

“'Like an exhaust pipe connected with hell' Gushers, Oil Spills and the Environmental Externalities of Oil Production in Depression-era Oklahoma City” History of Science Colloquium, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, September 2010

“The Historical Roots of American Environmentalism” UOSA Student Congress, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK April, 2010

“The History of Energy” Energy MBA Program, Michael F. Price College of Business, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, March 26, 2009.

“The Place of Storm King in Environmental History” Nature & Culture Seminar, University of Kansas, February, 2009.

“From the Dutch to the Environmentalists: A Short History of the Hudson River Valley.” The Houston Seminar. Houston, Texas. September 2007.

“The Historical Roots of Hudson River Valley Environmentalism.” Meeting of the Adirondack Mountain Club- Ramapo Chapter, Nanuet, New York, June 16, 2005

## **SELECT COURSES**

### *University of Oklahoma*

America in the 1970s (Spring 2015, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022 Fall 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2022)

American Environmentalism in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (Spring 2010)

Energy in U.S. History (Spring 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022 Fall 2013, 2015, 2020, 2022)

History of American Petroleum, 1859-1973 (Spring 2009)

Oil in World History (Spring 2009, 2012, 2013)

Petroleum Cinema (Summer 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)

The Atom in the American Experience (Fall 2008, 2009, 2010, 2017, 2018, 2019 Spring 2019)

The American Landscape (Fall 2010, 2011)

The Great Books of Western Civilization I (Fall 2009, 2013, 2018)

The Great Books of Western Civilization II (Spring 2010, 2014, 2019)

### *University of Houston*

Globalization: The Case of Oil (Spring 2008)

Readings in the Energy Crisis of the 1970s (Spring 2007)

### *University of North Florida*

America to 1877 (Fall 2005)

America Since 1877 (Spring 2006)

America Since 1945 (Fall 2005, 2 sections)



America Since 1973 (Spring 2006, 2 sections)

Introduction to Energy History (Fall 2005)

History of Science and Technology (Spring 2006)

*Columbia University*

Contemporary Civilization C1101 (Fall 2003 & Fall 2004)

Contemporary Civilization C1102 (Spring 2004 & Spring 2005)

**SERVICE**

- To the Honors College, University of Oklahoma:
  - Faculty Awards Committee (Fall 2022-)
  - Faculty Liaison to THURJ-The Honors Undergraduate Research Journal (Fall 2018-Spring 2020)
  - BP Inspire Scholarship Faculty Liaison (Fall 2009-2019)
  - Committee A (Fall 2014-Spring 2016, Fall 2020-)
  - Faculty Liaison to the Vice-President for Research (Fall 2013)
  - Politics of Development Search Committee (Fall 2010)
  - Outdoor Adventure Faculty Liaison (Fall 2010)
  - Honors Student Association Faculty Liaison (Fall 2009-Spring 2010)
  - Assessment and Policy Committee (Fall 2008-Spring 2009)
- To the University:
  - Faculty Senate (Fall 2017-)
  - Energy & Environmental Sustainability Working Group (Fall 2020-Spring 2021)
  - Search Committee, Dean of the Price College of Business (Fall 2019)
  - Faculty Appeals Board (Fall 2017-Spring 2018)
  - University of Oklahoma Budget Council (Fall 2014-Spring 2017, Chair, 2015-2016)
  - Academic Program Review (Fall 2015- Spring 2016)
- To the Profession:
  - Convenor, Energy History Working Group, Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine (Fall 2021-)
  - Editorial Board, *Journal of Energy History* (January 2018-)
  - Editorial Advisory Board, Energy and Society Series, West Virginia University Press (Spring 2017-)

- Advisory Board Member, H-Energy (Fall 2019-)
  - Outside expert for “Ethics and Energy” An interdisciplinary study funded by the Danish Council for Independent Research, Culture and Communication (Fall 2014-Spring 2017)
  - Organizer of “American Energy Policy in the 1970’s” (University of Houston, November 9-10, 2007). This conference brought together historians from the history of science and technology as well as political, diplomatic, environmental and business history to discuss how this decade served to transform energy policy and the role it played in changing the energy industry, the politics of energy, foreign policy, and environmentalism.
  - Founding web and list editor of H-Energy, an online, interdisciplinary website devoted to the study of energy history (Spring 2006-2014 ). See <<http://www.h-net.org/~energy/>>.
  - Anonymous reviewer for *Environmental History*, *Journal of Policy History*, *The Hudson River Valley Review*, *Journal of Petroleum History*, *New York History*, Cambridge University Press, University of Pittsburgh Press, University of Calgary Press and Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada.
  - Consultant to a curricular development workshop on environmental studies at Lafayette College, July 2008.
- To the Community:
    - President, Norman Ballet Company (Fall 2022-; Vice President, Fall 2021-2022)
    - Member, Norman Arts Council Roundtable (Fall 2022-)
    - Coach, Soccer (Unicorn Tigers), U6-U10 Norman Youth Soccer Association (Spring 2018-2022)

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Historical Association (AHA)
- Organization of American Historians (OAH)
- American Society for Environmental History (ASEH)

## REFERENCES

Available upon request