

Carson Benn, PhD

Assistant Professor of History

Biography

Carson Benn joined the faculty at LMU in Fall 2022. He holds a BA in History and Philosophy from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces (2012), an MA in History from Texas Tech University in Lubbock (2015), and a PhD in History from the University of Kentucky (2021). His work as a scholar and educator focuses on the Appalachian region of the United States south, specifically the region's political and social connections to other areas within the U.S., and its place within the nation's cultural heritage. As a student at the University of Kentucky, he taught courses for the school's interdisciplinary Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies Program, and also served as a graduate intern at the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort. Before joining LMU, Dr. Benn directed research projects related to land and public revenue for the Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network (LiKEN) a community-based nonprofit organization. He is also the Book Review Editor for the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, a biannual interdisciplinary peer-reviewed publication.

Teaching and Research Interests

Dr. Benn's academic and research work examines the Appalachian region's culture within a national and global context. Within this heading, he focuses on the history of education and technology in the region, how these two topics intersect, and how the idea of Appalachia bears similarities to different regions around the world. His dissertation examines the role of educational media creators and television producers that designed programs and regional networks for the Appalachian region in the mid-twentieth century. He is currently revising his dissertation for publication and teaches courses on U.S. history, Appalachian history, the history of technology and education, and the material culture of moonshine.

Publications and Presentations

Publications

Review of *So Much to Be Angry About: Appalachian Movement Press and Radical DIY Publishing, 1969-1979*, by Shaun Silfer, *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* (forthcoming, 2023).

“Signals to Every Dip and Hollow: The Rise and Fall of the Appalachian Education Satellite Program and the Appalachian Community Service Network,” *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 118: 1 (2020): 109-134.

Review of *Proving Ground: Expertise and Appalachian Landscapes*, by Edward Slavishak, *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* (2020).

Presentations

“An Overview of LiKEN's Work on Heirs' Property in the Region: Challenges, Connections, and A Call to Action,” roundtable with Madison Mooney and Ruby Daniels, Appalachian Studies Association Annual Meeting, March 2022, Morgantown, WV.

“Broadcasting Region: Educational Television via Airplane and the Beginnings of an Appalachian Communications System,” paper presentation, Appalachian Studies Association Annual Meeting, March 2021, Virtual.

“Appalachia on the Airwaves: Public Television in the Mountain South as a Means of Compensatory Education,” paper presentation, Society for the History of Technology, October 2019, Milan, Italy.

“The Uses of Public and State Television in Appalachian and Carpathian Mountain Regions,” paper presentation, Appalachian/Carpathian International Conference, October 2019, Brasov, Romania.