

AIDAN E. LILIENFELD

Curriculum vitae

a.lilienfeld@columbia.edu

ORCID: 0000-0001-6631-2689

EDUCATION

2022

High 2:1 with Distinctions

London School of Economics (with Columbia University), London, UK | **MSc in International History**

- **Thesis:** “*City of London v. Strangers*: The London Steelyard and the Shifting Political Economy of Tudor England”
- **Courses:** East Asia in the Age of Imperialism (1842–1945), Asian Borderlands, Maps, History, and Power: The Spaces and Cultures of the Past

2022

GPA: 3.88

Columbia University (with London School of Economics), New York, NY | **MA in International History**

- **Courses:** GIS & Spatial History, Modern China, Europe’s Commercial Revolution, Local History in Tibet, The Idea of Europe

2017

GPA: 3.62 | 3.71 Major

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL | **BA in History, with Honors**

- **Thesis:** “Solitary Refinement: Understanding Isolationism and the Anglo-Japanese Alliance”
- **Courses:** Rupture and Continuity in Modern Japan, Early Modern Japan, Frontiers and Expansion in Modern China, History of Ancient China, Five Classics of Pre-Qin China, Europe 1815–1914, Europe 1914–Present, America in the 20th Century

2013

Sidwell Friends High School, Washington, DC | **High School Diploma**

- **Capstone historical research paper:** “Barbed: A History of the Wire That Conquered the American West”
- **Courses:** Spanish Language and Literature, American Studies, Environmental History, Philosophy of the European Enlightenment, Modern Middle East

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND EXPERIENCE

2026–pres. **Administrative Specialist (Institutional Operations and Communications)**, Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian

2025–pres. **Freelance Writer**, *PC Gamer*, Bath, UK

2024–2026 **Management Support Assistant**, Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, Cambridge, MA

2023–2024 **Staff Reporter on Defense, Politics, Climate, Health, and Science**, *The Asahi Shimbun*, Washington, DC

2022–2023 **Staff Reporter on Politics, Climate, Health, and Science**, *The Asahi Shimbun*, Washington, DC

2021–2022 **News Researcher**, Kaiser Health News, Washington, DC, and London, UK

2018–2020 **Barista**, Swing’s Coffee, Alexandria, Virginia

2017–2018 **Editor and Publisher**, *Pétain’s Praise and Other Incongruities* (family memoirs)

2017 **Editorial Intern**, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC

2016–2017 **Copy Editor**, *The Chicago Maroon*, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

2016–2017 **Editor**, *Red Bull Media House*, Chicago, IL
2016 **Editorial and Web Design Intern**, *Fashionweek Magazine*, New York, NY

PUBLICATIONS (PEER-REVIEWED)

2023 [“City of London v. Strangers: The fall of the Hanse in England, and the rise of state-sponsored trade,”](#) *Eras Journal* 24, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
2023 [“Border Typologies and Their Anti-Imperial Usage in East and Southeast Asia,”](#) *The Webster Review of International History*, London School of Economics, London, UK
2022 [“Against a rupture narrative: Japanese ‘western learning’ from Tokugawa to Meiji,”](#) *Columbia Journal of Asia*, Columbia University, New York
2022 [“Isolationism in Vogue,”](#) *EPOCH Magazine* Issue #9 at the University of Lancaster, Lancaster, UK
2022 [“The Changing Tides of Baltic Sea Trade: A Case Study of the Gotland Invasion,”](#) *The Webster Review of International History*, London School of Economics, London, UK
2021 [“Baltic Frontiers,”](#) *Columbia Journal of History*, Columbia University, New York

PUBLICATIONS (NON-PEER REVIEWED AND JOURNALISM)

2026 [“Sim racing is flourishing, but what happened to the arcade racer?”](#), *PC Gamer*, Bath, UK
2026 [“SimRacing Expo's first-ever US event proves driving sims have finally hit the American mainstream”](#), *PC Gamer*, Bath, UK
2026 [“My first campaign in Europa Universalis 5 may have ruined the entire series for me”](#), *PC Gamer*, Bath, UK
2025 [“‘I always knew it was going to go away eventually:’ Anthem producer Mark Darrah gives his take on Stop Killing Games ahead of his own project shutting down forever”](#), *PC Gamer*, Bath, UK
2025 [“Cars have had real-life DLC for a while, but now Volkswagen’s gone full pay to win, locking a car’s max horsepower behind a subscription”](#), *PC Gamer*, Bath, UK
2025 [“Real-life rally racing is dying and triple-A rally games are dead, but the sport’s gotten a second life thanks to these excellent indie racers”](#), *PC Gamer*, Bath, UK
2023 [“「産業革命以来、最大の変革」 国内外で気候テックが注目される理由](#)” [Eng. “The biggest change since the industrial revolution’: Why climate tech is attracting attention both domestically and internationally”], *Asahi Shimbun*, Tokyo, Japan
2023 [“Smithsonian museum to show A-bombed cities in 2025”](#), *Asahi Shimbun*, Tokyo, Japan

- Japanese-language version: [“原爆投下後の写真、スミソニアン博物館が展示計画 世論反発の過去も”](#)

2023 [“中国系研究者の「米国離れ」加速、スパイ対策の「意図しない結果」”](#) [Eng. “Chinese researchers are leaving the US in greater numbers, the ‘unintended consequences’ of anti-espionage measures”], *Asahi Shimbun*, Tokyo, Japan

- 2023 [“沖縄県の玉城デニー知事が訪米 「台湾有事起こさないための外交を」”](#) [Eng. “Okinawa Governor Denny Tamaki visits U.S.: “Diplomacy needed to prevent a Taiwan contingency”], *Asahi Shimbun*, Tokyo, Japan
- 2023 [“Interview: Don’t neglect Japan-U.S. friendship ‘garden’”](#), *Asahi Shimbun*, Tokyo, Japan
- 2021 [“Europa Universalis IV: An Interactive Idea of Europe”](#), *The Webster Review of International History Blog*, London School of Economics, London, UK

PUBLICATIONS (PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND INSTITUTIONAL COMMUNICATIONS)

- 2026 [“Spotlight: Summer interns reflect on research and CfA”](#), Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, Cambridge, MA
- 2026 [Cosmos for All #2 — “Fingerprinting black holes with Janice Houston, Michael Johnson and Daniel Palumbo of BHEX”](#), Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, Cambridge, MA
- 2026 [“Harvard astronomy seniors kick off careers with thesis presentations at the CfA”](#), Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, Cambridge, MA
- 2026 [Cosmos for All #1 — “A Life in Astronomy with Jonathan McDowell”](#), Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, Cambridge, MA
- 2025 [“‘This Experience is Unforgettable’: 80 Undergraduates Present Summer Research at the CfA”](#), Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, Cambridge, MA

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2022 **Published Poet** in *The Clare Market Review*, London, UK
- 2021 **Alliance Fellowship**, Department of History, Columbia University
- 2020 **Tuition Reduction Fellowship**, Department of History, Columbia University
- 2017 **Honors** in the College, University of Chicago
- 2017 **Honors**, BA History Thesis, Department of History, University of Chicago
- 2016 **Published Poet** in *Sliced Bread Magazine*, Chicago, IL
- 2013–2017 **Dean’s List**, University of Chicago

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2025 **Acting Early Career Researcher Coordinator**, Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian
- 2023 **US History Teaching Assistant/Grader**, OnRamps dual-enrollment education program, University of Texas at Austin Department of History
- 2020 **Teaching Assistant**, “History of Astronomy,” Lexington Community Education

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

- 2026 **Local Organizing Committee Deputy Chair**, inaugural CfA Science Meeting, Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, Cambridge, MA

- 2023 **Presentation: “City of London v. Strangers: The fall of the Hanse in England, and the rise of state-sponsored trade,”** New York State Association of European Historians annual conference, St. Francis College, New York, NY
- 2023 **Presentation: “Europa Universalis IV: Historical grand strategy simulation games as historiography,”** Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Graduate Research Conference, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA
- 2022 **Presentation: “Against a rupture narrative: Japanese ‘western learning’ from Tokugawa to Meiji,”** Columbia Journal of Asia launch, New York, NY
- 2022 **Conference Organizing Assistant,** New York State Association of European Historians annual conference, Niagara University, Niagara, NY
- 2022 **Presentation: “Anglo-American Rhetoric on the Chinese ‘Open Door’ of 1899,”** Inaugural LSE International History Graduate Student Conference, London, UK
- 2021 **Presentation: “The Fall of the Steelyard,”** International History Prospectus Conference, Columbia University, New York, NY

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2021 **Rare Books and Manuscripts Library Research Assistant** for published book [Shirley Hazzard: A Writing Life](#) (with named acknowledgement), Dr. Brigitta Olubas, Macmillan: Farrar, Straus and Giroux
- 2021 **Rare Books and Manuscripts Library Research Assistant,** Dr. Amanda Ciafone, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- 2013–2014 **Exhibit Research and Collections Intern,** [American Enterprise](#), National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- 2025 **Peer Reviewer and Editor,** *Columbia Journal of Asia*, Columbia University
- 2025 **Volunteer Organizer and History Guide,** Cambridge Explores the Universe, Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian
- 2024 **Peer Reviewer and Editor,** *Columbia Journal of Asia*, Columbia University
- 2024 **Volunteer Organizer,** 50th Annual DC History Conference, DC History Center and DC Public Libraries, Washington, DC
- 2023 **Volunteer Organizer,** Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations annual meeting, Arlington, VA
- 2022 **Peer Reviewer and Editor,** *Past Tense Graduate Review of History*, University of Toronto
- 2022 **Blog Editor,** *The Webster Review of International History*, London School of Economics

MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association (AHA)

Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR)

New York State Association of European Historians (NYSAEH)

Japan-America Society of Washington, DC (JASWDC)

RELATED SKILLS

Produces videos analyzing inaccuracies and history in early modern political and grand strategy simulation Europa Universalis IV for up to 150,000 international viewers

Publishes and edits select history and related papers, at erichlilienfeld.com

Software: ArcGIS, data entry and visualization, WordPress, web design, Adobe Creative Suite, Zotero, YouTube, Audacity, Sony Vegas Pro (video and audio production software)

LANGUAGES

Japanese Intermediate speaking, beginner reading/writing

German Intermediate reading/writing, beginner speaking

Spanish Intermediate reading/writing, beginner speaking