

John Lisle

johnlislehistorian.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D., History, University of Texas at Austin, 2019

Dissertation: “Science and Espionage: How the CIA and State Department Deployed Scientists during the Cold War”

B.A., History and English, Texas A&M University at College Station, 2014

POSITIONS

Lecturer, University of Texas, Thomas Jefferson Center, 2022–

Visiting Assistant Professor, Louisiana Tech University, Waggoner Center, 2020–22

Adjunct Professor, Austin Community College, Department of History, 2019–20

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, Department of History, 2019

Teaching Assistant, University of Texas, Department of History, 2015–19

COURSES

Science and Religion since Newton

Science and Religion to Newton

Cyber Futures

History of Information Warfare

U.S. History II

U.S. History I

BOOKS

The Rogue Elephant: Sidney Gottlieb, the CIA, and the Tragedy of MKULTRA. St. Martin’s Press (forthcoming 2025).

The Dirty Tricks Department: Stanley Lovell, the OSS, and the Masterminds of World War II Secret Warfare. St. Martin’s Press, 2023.

ARTICLES

“A Secret Agent’s Pride,” *The History Reader* (2023).

“Stanley Lovell, Professor Moriarty of the OSS,” *OSS Society* (2022).

“Stealing Scientific Secrets: American Cold War Efforts to Use Scientists as Spies,” *Journal of Intelligence History* 21, no. 2 (2022).

“The Unsuccessful WWII Plot to Fight the Japanese With Radioactive Foxes,” *Smithsonian Magazine* (2020).

“Our Trust in Science is Complicated,” *Scientific American* (2020).

“What Killed Albert Einstein?” *Not Even Past* (2016).

“Einstein Up in Smoke,” *Physics in Perspective* 17, no. 4 (2016).

REVIEWS

Review of *Restricted Data: The History of Nuclear Secrecy in the United States* by Alex Wellerstein, in *H-Sci-Med-Tech* (2022).

Review of *Poisoner in Chief: Sidney Gottlieb and the CIA Search for Mind Control* by Stephen Kinzer, in *Skeptic* 25, no. 2 (2020).

TALKS

- “Accidental Spies: The Scientist and the Socialite with John Lisle and Janet Wallach,” National Book Festival, Washington, D.C., 2023.
- “The Lessons and Legacy of OSS Truth Drug Trials,” Conference of the North American Society for Intelligence History, virtual, 2022.
- “Public Relations and the American Science Attaché Program,” How Science Became Popular, University of Houston, 2022.
- “Human Experimentation and Oversight in the CIA,” History and Philosophy of Science Colloquium, University of Texas, 2022.
- “Truth Drugs in the Intelligence Community,” Waggoner Center, Louisiana Tech University, 2021.
- “Operation Fantasia and OSS Psychological Warfare,” Waggoner Center, Louisiana Tech University, 2020.
- “Stealing Scientific Secrets: The Quest to Use Scientists as Spies,” Conference of the North American Society for Intelligence History, Washington, D.C., 2019.
- “A History of Truth Drugs in the United States,” History and Philosophy of Science Colloquium, University of Texas, 2019.
- “Adventures in the Archives: Graduate Work at UT,” panel for the Department of History’s 130th Anniversary Celebration, University of Texas, 2018.
- “The Origins, Work, and Legacy of the World War I Science Attachés,” National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C., 2018.
- “The Alsos Mission: Scientific Intelligence and War,” History and Philosophy of Science Colloquium, University of Texas, 2018.
- “Scientists or Spies: The Origins of America’s Science Attaché Program,” History and Philosophy of Science Colloquium, University of Texas, 2017.

AWARDS

- National Endowment for the Humanities Public Scholars Grant, 2023
- National Academy of Sciences World War I Research Competition First Prize, 2018
- National Academy of Sciences Research Grant, 2018
- University of Texas Research Fellowship, 2017–18
- Caltech Archives Maurice A. Biot Grant-in-Aid, 2017
- Clements Center for National Security Research Grant, 2017
- American Institute of Physics Grant-in-Aid, 2017
- Kuhn Intellectual Entrepreneurship Award, 2015
- University of Texas First-Year Fellowship, 2014–15

SERVICE

- Science Olympiad Volunteer, 2022
- Analysis and Investigation of Cyber Scenarios Content Development, 2021–22
- Cyber Innovation Center Content Development (Data, Algorithms), 2020–22
- Texas History Day Judge, 2018–20
- University of Texas Athletics Content Tutor, 2019
- University of Texas Career Diversity Advisory Committee, 2019
- University of Texas Tower Tour Guide, 2015–18
- Pre-Graduate School Internship Mentor, 2015
- National Science Bowl Regional Competition Volunteer, 2014

Texas A&M University Library Services, 2013–14

AFFILIATIONS

Research Affiliate, University of Texas Institute for Historical Studies, 2019–20

Graduate Fellow, Clements Center for National Security, 2017–19