
Rachel Emma Rothschild

Employment

University of Michigan School of Law
Assistant Professor
Affiliated Scholar, Science, Technology and Society Program
July 2022 – Present

Institute for Policy Integrity
Affiliated Scholar
Legal Fellow
July 2022 – Present
March 2021 – June 2022

New York University Gallatin School
Assistant Professor and Faculty Fellow
August 2015 – August 2017

Education

New York University School of Law, New York, NY
J.D., cum laude, Furman Academic Scholars Program.
2020

Yale University, New Haven, CT
Ph.D., History, Program in the History of Science & Medicine. Awarded with Distinction.
M.A. and M.Phil.
2015
2012

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
B.A., magna cum laude, History, Program in the History of Science.
Certificates in Environmental Studies and Creative Writing.
2008

Publications

Book

[POISONOUS SKIES: ACID RAIN AND THE GLOBALIZATION OF POLLUTION](#), University of Chicago Press (2019).

Articles and Book Chapters

[Physicists as Environmental Experts](#), 74 DEPAUL L. REV. 587 (2025) (*Clifford Symposium).

[Development of the Navigation Guide Evidence-to-Decision Framework for Environmental Health](#), with Nicholas Chartres et al., 59 ENV'T SCI. & TECH. 4230 (2025).

[The Origins of the Major Questions Doctrine](#), 100 IND. L. J. 57 (2024).

[Unreasonable Risk: The Failure to Ban Asbestos and the Future of Toxic Substances Regulation](#), 47 HARVARD ENV'T L. REV. 501 (2023).

[State Nuisance Law and the Climate Change Challenge to Federalism](#), 27 NYU ENV'T L. J. 412 (2019).

[Détente from the Air: Monitoring Air Pollution in the Cold War](#), 57 TECH. & CULTURE 831 (2016).

Burning Rain: The Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution Project, in TOXIC AIRS: BODY, PLACE, PLANET IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE (James Rodger Fleming & Ann Johnson eds., 2014).

Environmental Awareness in the Atomic Age: Radioecologists and Nuclear Technology, 43 HIST. STUD. NAT. SCI. 492 (2013).

Works-in-Progress

State Climate Superfunds, 126 COLUMBIA L. REV. 4 (2026) (forthcoming).

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE STATE, book project on environmental science, pollution regulation, and the courts, 1970s – present.

Essays and Reviews

Book Review, How to Sell a Poison: The Rise, Fall, and Toxic Return of DDT, J. HIST. MED. & ALLIED SCI. (2025).

Dedication for Sally Katzen (invited contribution), 81 NYU ANN. SURV. AM. L. 9 (2025).

The Jurisprudence of Justice Gorsuch and Future Efforts to Address Climate Change, 122 MICHIGAN L. REV. ONLINE 48 (2023).

Cost-Benefit Analysis and the Problem of Long-term Harms from Environmental Pollution, YALE J. REGUL. BLOG (May 26, 2023).

Why the Supreme Court Avoided Using Traditional Tools of Statutory Interpretation in West Virginia v. EPA, YALE J. REGUL. BLOG (Jan. 12, 2023).

Will Cities Get Their Day in Court to Litigate Climate Change Harms?, BLOOMBERG L. (May 10, 2021).

The Environment in the Atomic Age, OXFORD RES. ENCYCLOPEDIA AM. HIST. (Nov. 2017).

There's a Part of Obama's Trade Deal that Could Become a Big Problem for Hillary Clinton, BUSINESS INSIDER (July 24, 2016).

The Turn toward Toxins: An Essay Review, 40 ENDEAVOUR 128 (Jun. 2016).

Comments on Fritz Davis, Banned: A History of Pesticides and the Science of Toxicology, H-Environment Roundtable Reviews (Sep. 2015).

Acid Wash: How Cold War Politics Helped Solve a Climate Crisis, FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Aug. 24, 2015).

Populations on the Brink: Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change Can Reduce a Population's Vulnerability to Poverty, EARTH (Jan. 2009) (second author).

Amicus Briefs

Brief for Professor Rachel Rothschild, Texas Chemistry Council v. EPA, No. 24-60193 (5th Cir. filed January 29, 2025).

Brief for Professor Rachel Rothschild, East Fork Enterprises v. EPA, No. 24-60227 (5th Cir. filed January 3, 2025).

Brief for Professor Rachel Rothschild, West Virginia v. EPA, No. 24-1120 (D.C. Cir. filed October 16, 2024).

Brief for Professor Rachel Rothschild, West Virginia v. EPA, No. 24-1120 (D.C. Cir. filed June 11, 2024).

Brief for Professor Richard Revesz, West Virginia v. EPA, Nos. 20-1530, 20-1531, 20-1778 and 20-1780 (S. Ct. filed January 25, 2022) (as counsel).

Reports

Measuring the Benefits of Power Plant Effluent Regulation: The 2020 Steam Electric Reconsideration Rule and Potential Future Methods, INST. FOR POL'Y INTEGRITY (with Dr. David A. Keiser, Bethany A. Davis Noll, and Dr. Catherine L. Kling) (June 27, 2022).

Regulating New Fossil-Fuel Appliances Under Section 111(b) of the Clean Air Act, INST. FOR POL'Y INTEGRITY (with Jack Lienke, Henry Engelstein, and Nardos Girma) (Oct. 15, 2021).

Toward Rationality in Oil and Gas Leasing Building the Toolkit for Programmatic Reforms, INST. FOR POL'Y INTEGRITY (with Max Sarinsky) (Aug. 6, 2021).

Regulating Risk from Toxic Substances: Best Practices for Economic Analysis of Risk Management Options Under the Toxic Substances Control Act, INST. FOR POL'Y INTEGRITY (with Jack Lienke) (July 29, 2021).

Tune Up: Fixing Market Failures to Cut Fuel Costs and Pollution from Cars and Trucks, INST. FOR POL'Y INTEGRITY (with Jason Schwartz) (April 22, 2021).

Teaching Experience

University of Michigan Law School

Climate Change Law, History and Policy

Environmental Law and Policy

Public Law Workshop

Women in the Legal Profession (mini-seminar)

New York University Gallatin School

Pollution and Policy

Technology and the Environment

New York University School of Law

Teaching Assistant, Administrative Law

Teaching Assistant, Legislation and Regulation

Yale University

History of Pollution (selected to design and direct the course through competitive process)

Teaching Assistant, Catastrophe and the Earth Sciences

Teaching Assistant, Science and Technology in the United States: From Franklin to Facebook

Fellowships, Awards and Honors

Member Scholar, Center for Progressive Reform	2024 – present
NYU School of Law, Environmental Law Award	2020
Robert McKay Scholar (Top 25% of students at NYU law after four semesters)	2019
Furman Academic Scholarship (Full tuition scholarship to NYU law)	2017 – 2020
Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellowship (Declined)	2017
Hans Gatzke Prize, Yale University (Outstanding Dissertation in European History)	2015
Princeton Society of Fellows Finalist	2015
Science History Institute Rumford Scholarship	2013
Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) Joan Cahalin Robinson Prize	2012
American Meteorological Society Graduate Fellowship in History of Science	2012
American-Scandinavian Foundation Research Grant	2012
Yale MacMillan Center International Dissertation Research Grant	2012
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship	2010 – 2015
Jonathan Bourne Fellow – Yale Graduate School	2009
The Horace H. Wilson '25 Senior Thesis Prize in the History of Science, Medicine and Technology, Princeton University	2008
Environmental Studies Thesis Prize (Honorable Mention), Princeton University	2008

Selected Talks and Conference Presentations (Invited talks indicated by *)

* Keynote Address, Climate Social Science Network Annual Meeting, May 22, 2025.

Administrative Law New Scholarship Roundtable, University of Michigan Law School, May 19-20, 2025.

* Berkeley Center for Law, Energy, and the Environment, April 25, 2025.

* Berkeley Public Law Colloquium, April 25, 2025.

* Climate Attribution Science and the Law, NYU School of Law, April 4, 2025.

* Reimagining Administrative Law Initiative, Hewlett Foundation, March 21-22, 2025.

* Engaged STS and the Environmental Crisis, University of Michigan Science, Technology and Society Program 25th Anniversary Conference, March 14, 2025.

* Yale Legal History Forum, Yale Law School, March 4, 2025.

Foundations of the Modern Administrative State, American Society for Legal History, October 24-26, 2024.

* Keynote Address, Warren Cook Discussional, University of Michigan Center for Occupational Health Safety and Engineering, October 17, 2024.

* NYU Annual Survey of American Law Dedication to Sally Katzen, NYU School of Law, September 23, 2024.

* Clifford Symposium 30: The Legacy of Industrywide Deadly Misconduct, DePaul College of Law, June 6-7, 2024.

* NYU Environmental Law Colloquium, April 23, 2024.

* Georgetown Environmental Law Colloquium, February 29, 2024.

* Harvard Public Law Colloquium, February 12, 2024.

* Michigan State University College of Law, Faculty Workshop, September 13, 2023.

* UCLA/Colorado Law Summer Symposium, Environmental and Natural Resources Law, August 10-11, 2023.

Administrative Law New Scholarship Roundtable, University of Texas Law School, May 15-17, 2023.

American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources Conference on Environment Law, April 28, 2023.

* Northwestern Public Law Colloquium, April 12, 2023.

* Boston College Law School Annual Junior Faculty Roundtable, March 17, 2023.

AALS Environmental Law Section, January 4-7, 2023.

Society for Environmental Law and Economics, NYU School of Law, June 9-10, 2022.

* Global Legal Histories: A Symposium, Shelby Cullom Davis Center & Fung Global Fellows Program, Princeton University, March 6-7, 2020.

* NYU Uncommon Salon, March 20, 2018.

* Harvard Business School, Business, Government and International Economy Unit, Cambridge, Massachusetts, January 24, 2017.

History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, November 3-6, 2016.

* *Futures Past: Experts, Development and Sustainability*. Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Potsdam, Germany, April 28-29, 2016.

* *Organizing Science for Humanity, from the World Brain to the World Bank*, Columbia University Committee on Global Thought, February 12, 2016.

* *Nature Protection, Environmental Policy and Social Movements in Communist and Capitalist Countries*, German Historical Institute, Washington D.C., May 29-30, 2015.

* New York City History of Science Consortium. March 25, 2015.

* Joint Center for History and Economics, Harvard University, November 14, 2014.

History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, November 6-9, 2014.

* Science History Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 21, 2014.

The Toxic Century: Discovering & Quantifying Poisons in the Environment, American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, March 12-16, 2014.

* STS Circle, Program on Science, Technology and Society, Harvard University, February 10, 2014.

* Cambridge University, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Twentieth Century Think Tank, February 21, 2013.

American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., January 2-5, 2014.

History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, November 21-24, 2013.

*American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting, Austin, Texas, January 8, 2013.

Society for the History of Technology, Annual Meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark, October 4-7, 2012. *Awarded Joan Cahalin Robinson Prize for the best-presented paper by an individual delivering their first paper at the SHOT annual meeting.

Costs and Benefits: Life Scientists and the Assessment of Wartime Technologies, from 1945 to the Vietnam War, History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Cleveland, Ohio, November 3-5, 2011.

Chemical Weather and Chemical Climate: Body, Place, Planet in Historical Perspective, Science History Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 31-April 2, 2011.

American Society of Environmental History Annual Meeting, Portland, Oregon, March 10-14, 2010.

Academic and Professional Service

External

Reviewer, *Diplomatica*, *Environmental History*, *Isis: Journal of the History of Science Society*, *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, *Scandinavian Journal of History*, and *The British Journal for the History of Science*.

AALS Legal History Section Board, January 2022 – present.

Pro bono work for the Center for Biological Diversity, Environmental Defense Fund, Rockefeller Family Fund, Massachusetts 350, Better Future Project, New York PIRG, and Vermont PIRG on climate legislation and toxic chemical regulation, July 2022 – present.

University of Michigan Law School

Student Recognition Committee, 2024-2025

Research Faculty Appointments Committee (Entry Level and Lateral Candidates), 2023-2024.

Committee on Academic Standards and Practices, Curriculum, and Student Recognition, 2022-2023.

Faculty Advisor, Michigan Journal of Environmental and Administrative Law, 2022 – present.

New York University

Executive Editor, NYU Environmental Law Journal, 2019-2020; Staff Editor, 2018-2019.

Coordinator, New York City History of Science Consortium Lecture Series and Workshop, 2015-2017.

Yale University

Organizing Committee Member, Yale University's Environmental History Northeast Regional Conference, "Two Kingdoms: New Perspectives on Flora and Fauna in Environmental History." 2011-2012.

Coordinator, Yale University's Environmental History Colloquium, 2011-2012.

Co-Coordinator, Yale University's History of Science and Medicine Holmes Workshop, 2010-2011.

Other

Admitted to the New York Bar

Language Skills: French (proficient), German, Norwegian and Swedish (reading knowledge)