
Rachel Emma Rothschild

Academic Appointments

University of Michigan Law School

Assistant Professor

July 2022 – Present

Affiliated Scholar, Science, Technology, and Public Policy Program (Ford School of Public Policy)

Affiliated Scholar, Science, Technology and Society Program (College of Literature, Science, and the Arts)

New York University Gallatin School

August 2015 – August 2017

Assistant Professor and Faculty Fellow

Education

New York University School of Law, New York, NY

2020

J.D., cum laude, Furman Academic Scholars Program.

Yale University, New Haven, CT

2015

Ph.D., History, Program in the History of Science & Medicine. Awarded with Distinction.

M.A. and M.Phil.

2012

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

2008

B.A., magna cum laude, History, Program in the History of Science.

Certificates in Environmental Studies and Creative Writing.

Publications

Book

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

Reviewed in [ISIS](#); [TECHNOLOGY AND CULTURE](#); [ENVIRONMENT AND HISTORY](#); [ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY](#)

*Cited by several scholars as one of the most influential books on international environmental history in

[Seven Questions on Environmental Diplomacy](#), PASSPORT, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, 2023.

Articles and Book Chapters

[State Climate Superfunds](#), 126 COLUMBIA L. REV. 585 (2026).

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

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

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

*Selected as one of the top ten environmental law articles published in 2024 and reprinted in LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENT LAW REVIEW

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

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

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

The Collision of State Climate Tort Suits with Federal Deregulation, forthcoming in the Yale Law Journal Forum (invited contribution).

A New Administrative Law for the Production of Knowledge (chapter in the edited volume BUILDING DEMOCRATIC CAPACITY: ESSAYS ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW'S FUTURES, forthcoming with Cambridge University Press) (invited contribution).

The Future of Environmental Law amid the Destruction of Science, essay in a Harvard Environment Law Review Symposium on the Future of Environmental Law One Year into Trump 2.0 (invited contribution).

Essays and Reviews

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

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

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, with Gregory van der Vink et al. (second author), EARTH (Jan. 2009).

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) (Cited in Justice Kagan's dissent).

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

Legislation and Regulation

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

New Directions in Environmental Law Award	2026
Haub Environmental Law Distinguished Junior Scholar	2025
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 *)

U.S. Environmental Law in Times of Flux, American Society for Legal History, November 12-14, 2026.

* UCLA Chemicals Regulation Workshop, October 22-23, 2026.

* UCLA Environmental Law Colloquium, October 22, 2026.

* Georgetown Environmental Law Colloquium, September 17, 2026.

* Environmental Law Institute, Summer School Session on Toxic Chemical Regulation, July 15, 2025.

- * Defending Science in the Current Political Climate, Plenary Session, Attribution Science and Climate Law Conference, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law and the Columbia Climate School, Columbia University, June 11, 2026.
- * Legal History in Times of Crisis, Stanford Center for Law and History, May 15, 2026.
- * Faculty Workshop, University of Texas Law School, April 9, 2026.
- * Environmental Law in the Trump Administration, Harvard Environmental Law Review Symposium, March 27, 2026.
- * Workshop on Healthy Ecosystems: From Tropical Medicine to Planetary Health, Program in the History of Science, Princeton University, March 20, 2026.
- * Oxford Sustainable Law Programme, University of Oxford, March 5, 2026.
- * Keynote Address, New Directions in Environmental Law Conference, Yale University, February 7, 2026.
- * Reimagining Administrative Law Initiative, UCLA Law School, October 24-25, 2025.
- * Keynote Address, Future Environmental Law Professors Conference, September 5, 2025.
- * 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 Service

External

Peer 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*, *The British Journal for the History of Science*, and *Yale Law Journal*.

AALS Legal History Section Board, 2023 – 2026.

University of Michigan

Protections for Faculty Working Group, University Senate Committee, 2025 – 2026.

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.

Additional Legal and Policy Experience

Center for Progressive Reform, Member Scholar, 2024 – 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.

Legislative testimony, oral and/or written, provided to the state legislatures of California, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, and Vermont, 2022 – 2026.

Institute for Policy Integrity

Affiliated Scholar, July 2022 – December 2025.

Legal Fellow, March 2021 – June 2022.

Legal Intern, September 2019 – December 2019.

Natural Resources Defense Council

Legal Intern, Litigation Team, June 2019 – August 2019.

Legal Intern, Environmental Justice Team, September 2018 – December 2018.

Garvey Schubert Barer (now Foster Garvey PC)

Legal Researcher, Washington D.C., July 2008 – June 2009.

Environmental law, international law, lobbying law.

Other

Admitted to the New York Bar.

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