



Erskine College

Dr. John Harris

Erskine College's 2022 SCICU Excellence In Teaching award winner is **Dr. John Harris**. As the McDonald-Boswell Chair in History, Dr. Harris teaches classes in American and World History. Originally from Northern Ireland, Dr.

Harris earned B.A. and M.A. degrees at Queen's University in Belfast before emigrating to the United States and completing a Ph.D. in history at Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Harris joined the Erskine College faculty in 2017. His positive contributions in the classroom were quickly recognized in 2020 with the Younts Excellence in Teaching Award.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic shaped Dr. Harris' instruction to help students develop skills in quantitative and qualitative analysis. Early in 2020, as classes moved to an online format, Harris assigned his Contemporary Global Issues students a "COVID-19 journal," with entries including analyses of data from the Johns Hopkins pandemic website, summaries of news articles, and personal reflections. "I wanted students to have a contemporary record of this important moment and how they experienced it," Harris said.

Dr. Harris' research focuses on U.S. connections to the wider world in the 19th century. His first book, *The Last Slave Ships: New York and the End of the Middle Passage*, was published by Yale University Press in 2020. Other publications include an article on financing illegal slaving voyages in the *Journal of Global History*, op-eds for *Smithsonian Magazine*, and other pieces for History.com and *The Washington Post*. He has created a digital exhibit on the slave trade that has been widely used in classrooms.