



*The Department of History*

# HISTORY WORKSHOP

**TUESDAYS 12:30-1:30 PM via ZOOM**



## **RYAN BACHMAN**

*PhD Candidate*

**November 2, 2021**

*[Click HERE for  
Zoom Registration](#)*

*Wax models of Indigenous peoples were a common sight in the early American republic. Bachman uses one such figure to explore how wax Indians simultaneously embodied the fantasies and realities of race and empire in the early United States. Outwardly, wax bodies were built and arranged in ways that supported developing pseudoscientific notions of race. At the same time, the objects that adorned wax Indian figures challenged these triumphalist narratives, showing how Indigenous nations controlled their interactions with residents of the United States.*

## **SPEAKER BIO**

**Ryan Bachman is a fifth year PhD candidate in the History of American Civilization Program.**

**His dissertation examines the construction and exhibition of ethnographic waxworks in the early American republic.**

**Ryan currently lives in Winchester, Virginia with his wife, Lauren, and cat, Vern.**