

Jesse Olsavsky is a PhD candidate at the University of Pittsburgh. He studied history and German literature at the University of Toledo, before coming to study at the University of Pittsburgh. He is mainly interested in labor history, the history of social movements, intellectual history from the bottom up, and the history of American imperialism. His dissertation explores the ways vigilance committees transformed the abolitionist movement by organizing across races, classes, and genders, and by learning directly from the thousands of fugitive slaves whom they worked with on a daily basis.