

## Unit 2: Video 1 Transcript

### Introduction

A: Good, so I'm Eric Sager, and I'm in the History Department at University of Victoria. I teach courses on the history of Canada. I teach a course on the history of protest movements in Canada. I teach a course on the history of family in Canada, and I teach a course on the history of sport in Canada. My principal area of research is family history, and I also have a project on the history of income and wealth inequality in Canada.

**Q: What are key themes in the field of history of maritime trade in the 19<sup>th</sup> century?**

A: I've published two books on the history of the shipping industry in Atlantic Canada. One of them was labour history. It was a history of seafaring labour. That was the title of the book too, *Seafaring Labour*, history of sailors and the sailing ships of Atlantic Canada in the 19th century. The other book, it's called, *Maritime Capital*. It was the history of the rise and decline of the shipping industry in Atlantic Canada. I guess the main purpose of the books was to help us to understand why there was such a big shipping industry in Atlantic Canada in the 19th century. It was-- Canada had the fourth largest merchant marine in the world in the 1870's, and most of those ships were built and owned in the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland. So the big question was, why did we have such a big shipping industry, and then why did it decline? So that's what particularly the second book, *Maritime Capital* was all about.