Brief Biography of James M. Beeby, Ph.D., F.R.Hist.S.

James M. Beeby is professor of history and chair of the Department of History at Middle Tennessee State University. James hails from a small village in Northamptonshire, England, and was always fascinated with the history around him. Professor Beeby earned his B.A. Hons. from the University of Wales, and an MA and PhD in History and American Culture Studies from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. At MTSU, he chairs a large department with a nationally ranked PhD program in Public History, and currently serves on MTSU’s Chairs Council, the President’s Leadership Council, with a focus on student success, and on the leadership team of the College of Liberal Arts. Working with his colleagues in History, he has led efforts at curricular changes, course redesign, a faculty-mentoring program, new research agendas, and uses the budget to invest in faculty development and student scholarships. Before arriving at MTSU in 2012 as chair, Dr. Beeby served on the faculty at Indiana University Southeast (as Coordinator), West Virginia Wesleyan College (as Director of the Honors Program), and Bowling Green State University.

Dr. Beeby has published extensively in the fields of U.S. southern history, African American History, race relations, and the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, including scholarly journals and book chapters. He is the author of two university press peer-reviewed books: Populism in the South Revisited: New Research and Interpretations (2012) and Revolt of the Tar Heels: The North Carolina Populist Movement, 1890-1901 (2008 and 2012). Dr. Beeby has been awarded numerous fellowships and recognition for his research and teaching throughout his career. He is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society of Great Britain, the highest honor in that country for the contribution to the scholarship and profession of history. James is passionate about teaching and the role of faculty in mentoring and educating students. In his free time, James likes to travel, listen to music, bake, and ride his bicycle.