



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Issue 11 (October 2025)



Critters prance to the tunes of a lizard man in the Book of Hours, Use of Reims made in France around 1380 and held in the Special Collections of the University of Houston Libraries

Welcome from Department Chair Catherine F. Patterson, PhD

Greetings once again from Agnes Arnold Hall. History is all about change. Analyzing and understanding change (as well as continuity) is what historians do in our research and teaching every day.

In this newsletter, we highlight some of the many ways that the UH History Department has excelled as we trace the forces, large and small, that shaped the past and inform the present.





History is all about change. Analyzing and understanding change (as well as continuity) is what historians do in our research and teaching every day.

The past year has seen many changes in the History Department. We mourned the loss of our colleague Dr. José Angel Hernández to cancer and the deaths of Dr. James Kirby Martin and Dr. Joseph Allen Pratt, Professors Emeriti. We said farewell to two long-time colleagues, Dr. Bob Buzzanco and Dr. Karl Ittmann, who retired after decades of service to the department. We celebrated their retirements, along with the recent retirement of Dr. Guadalupe San Miguel, Jr., at the Spring Awards Banquet.

Our building itself is in a process of change. A large-scale renovation plan began early in 2025 with the erection of construction fencing, upgraded security systems, and new entrances. Our department, along with all the occupants of Agnes Arnold, will move out entirely in December for more extensive renovations. We will be in a temporary home for about 18 months before returning to a new and improved AH.

Even as we negotiate change, we also continue with the productivity and energy that have been hallmarks of the department for years. You will see notices in the pages below of faculty publications and projects, graduate student research and professionalization, and undergraduate activities and excellence. Our partnership with the Center for Public History connects our academic work with the community. Outreach to the community colleges is helping to build a new pipeline for History majors to UH. We have much to celebrate, including philanthropic gifts that will continue to provide support for students for years to come.

Please enjoy reading the pages below to see how UH History faculty, staff, and students are educating, creating, leading, learning, and engaging with our community.

Best regards,
Cathy Patterson
Professor and Chair
Department of History



Newsletter Contents

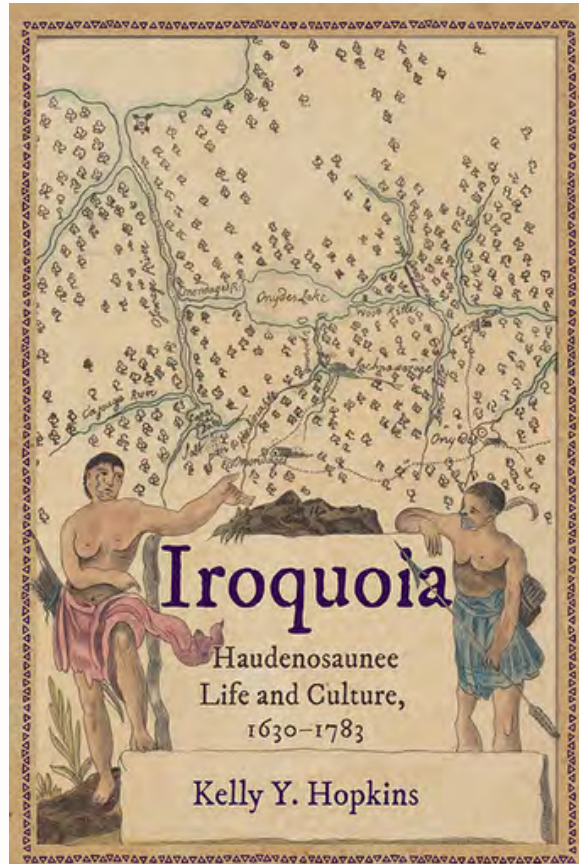
- 1 Welcome from Department Chair Dr. Catherine Patterson
- 4 Faculty Books
- 11 In Memoriam: Dr. José Angel Hernández's Book, Colonizing Ourselves
- 12 A Tribute to Dr. José Angel Hernández by Dr. Carlos Blanton
- 14 Remembering Dr. James Kirby Martin and Dr. Joseph Allen Pratt
- 15 Faculty Publications and Awards
- 23 Sharing Stories Launches Editorial Board Fellowship by Dr. Sandra Davidson
- 24 Faculty News and Retirements
- 25 Staff News and Welcome
- 27 Letter from Graduate Director Dr. Raúl Ramos and Associate Director Dr. Scout Johnson
- 28 Graduate News
- 32 Katie Truax Joins Winning Team of Interdisciplinary Researchers
- 33 Amr Essam Abdelmoniem Draws on Personal Collections in Publications
- 34 John L. Nau, III Endowed Fellowships in Texas History for Graduate Students
- 36 Civil War Painting Turns into Scholarships for Students by Dr. Catherine Patterson
- 37 Letter from Undergraduate Director Dr. Philip Howard
- 39 Undergraduate Awards and Achievements
- 40 Reflections on Summer Research as a 2025 HLAB Fellow by A'vion Robinson
- 41 Undergraduate Research and Professionalization at UH by Nine Abad
- 42 A Graduation Speech in Celebration of African American Studies by Andrea Tribble
- 44 Recent Alumni with Majors and Minors in History
- 45 On Strong Mentorship and Fellowship Cohorts at UH by José A. Gutiérrez
- 47 Letter from Center for Public History Director Dr. Nancy Beck Young
- 55 "Public Historians at Work" by Dr. Kristina Neumann
- 56 Letter from Center for Arab Studies by Dr. Hanan Hammad
- 57 "Health is Politics" by Muthuvel Deivendran
- 58 The Project on Race and Capitalism Supports Events in Honor of George Floyd
- 59 Latin American Studies Program Sponsors Global Events
- 60 Africa/African Diaspora Conference, June 2025 by Dr. Kairn Klieman
- 61 "Looking at Italian Africa Nature, Animals, and Safari" by Dr. Beatrice Falcucci
- 62 Historians in the News
- 64 Alumni News
- 65 New PhD Graduates Offered Tenure-Track Jobs
- 74 An Academic Year in the "Land of Enchantment" by Dr. Alberto Wilson
- 76 Digital Research on Mid-American Jewish Communities by Dr. Tim Quevillon
- 77 Building the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards by Dr. Rikki Bettinger
- 78 Credits

Faculty Books

“*Iroquoia* highlights the innovation of the Haudenosaunee peoples in retaining sovereignty over their homelands through seven generations of social and environmental change following European contact and the settler invasion. Kelly Y. Hopkins argues that Haudenosaunee men and women incorporated articles of European manufacture into their daily lives to fulfill conventional social and cultural needs. They used new trade items and alliances to enhance their lives and to pursue goals specific to their communities. In *Iroquoia*, Hopkins explores how engagement in the global market economy irreversibly transformed the local environment, severed Indigenous relationships and responsibilities to human and other-than human kin, and challenged longstanding social and economic relationships within Haudenosaunee communities. The People of the Longhouse produced distinctive new material cultures and new land use practices that incorporated features of the colonial settlement template into longstanding subsistence and settlement patterns.”

--- Cornell University Press

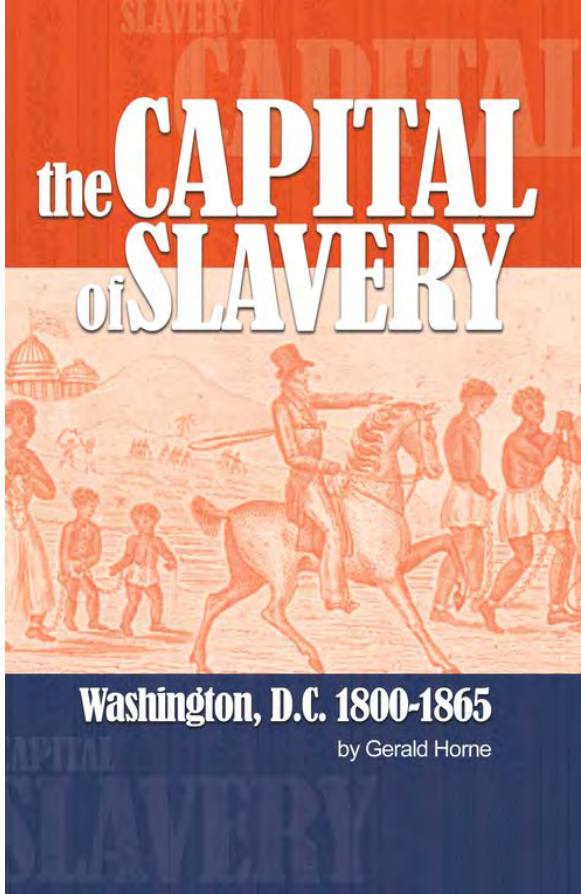
Kelly Y. Hopkins, *Iroquoia*
Haudenosaunee Life and Culture, 1630–1783 (Cornell University Press, 2025).



Dr. Kelly Hopkins Studies Student Learning in History Classrooms

Dr. Hopkins shared her research at the American Society of Environmental Historians conference in Pittsburgh and in a book talk with the Schenectady County Historical Society. She also participated in two conferences focused on teaching and improving the student learning experience in history classrooms, at the annual meeting of the National Council for the Social Studies and that of the American Historical Association.

Gerald Horne, *The Capital of Slavery: Washington, D.C. 1800-1865*
(International Publishers, 2025).



“*The Capital of Slavery* continues a salient trend in African-American Studies: i.e. stressing the impact of Slavery and Indigenous Dispossession in the origins of the republic, which in turn sheds light on contemporary politics. Washington, D.C., still referred to by many as “Chocolate City”, continues to bear the imprint of enslavement of Africans and their historic penchant for class struggle, a trend which has rested ominously with the opposing trend of class collaboration which has inhered in Settler Colonialism.”

---Dr. Gerald Horne



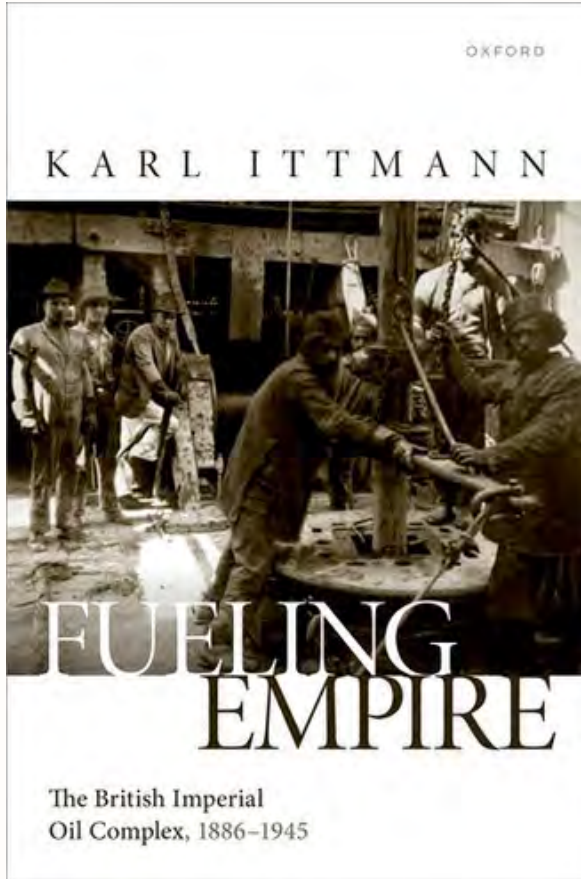
Boston Review Spotlight

In 2025, *Boston Review* included an essay on Dr. Horne’s scholarship in its issue “[Celebrating 50 Years of Boston Review](#).” The selection of Dr. Horne for the anniversary publication reflected his “indispensable scholarship,” according to historian Greg Grandin. He writes, “I came of political intelligence listening to Gerald Horne’s commentary show in the 1980s on WBAI in New York, and to this day I remember the clarity and sharpness of his analysis, his ability to make sense out of current events by placing them in a larger social context. Horne’s show was perhaps my first encounter with historical thinking.”

Dr. Gerald Horne Interviewed on History of Black Music for BBC Two

In September 2024, BBC Two featured Dr. Horne on the program [Paid in Full - The Battle for Black Music](#), drawing on his 2019 book *Jazz and Justice: Racism and the Political Economy of the Music* from Monthly Review Press and his many other publications on labor, civil rights, and domestic and international politics.

Karl Ittmann, *Fueling Empire: The British Imperial Oil Complex, 1886–1945* (Oxford University Press, 2025).



Dr. Karl Ittmann Publishes Third Book

During his three-decade career at UH, Dr. Ittmann published award-winning, single-authored articles and books, such as *A Problem of Great Importance: Population, Race and Power in the British Empire, 1918-1973* (University of California Press, 2013) and *Work, Gender and Family in Victorian England* (New York University Press, 1995), which was honored by *Choice* at the time of its publication and has since been widely cited. With Dennis D. Cordell and Gregory H. Maddox, Dr. Ittmann co-edited *The Demographics of Empire: The Colonial Order and the Creation of Knowledge* from Ohio University Press in 2010.

“Beginning in the late nineteenth century, British companies used the resources of empire to create an imperial oil industry that controlled 20% of global oil reserves by 1939 and allowed for the movement of capital and labor between regions and companies. The imperial oil complex encompassed colonies-Burma and Trinidad -and dependent states-Iraq and Iraq. In both, the imperial state used its political and military power to support British oil interests. The oil complex drew on the resources of empire but also bolstered it with profits and tax revenues while a global set of oil sites supplied the British military and civilian consumers. British companies built an infrastructure of oil production that gave them quasi-state power in oil regions while connecting these areas to global and imperial networks of communication and transportation.

Fueling Empire highlights the significance of Britain to the development of the global oil industry. It demonstrates the ways in which the global histories of oil and empire are inextricably interlinked. The imperial oil complex relied on a racially stratified hierarchy of labor where white supervisors managed indigenous and migrant workers. The harsh conditions of work and low pay fuelled labor conflicts that resonated with emerging colonial nationalist movements that sought to limit the power of oil companies. Despite robust private and state security operations, the imperial oil complex faced greater insecurity before World War II. While the imperial oil complex survived the war, in the postwar era decolonization and Britain's financial weakness led to its decline.”

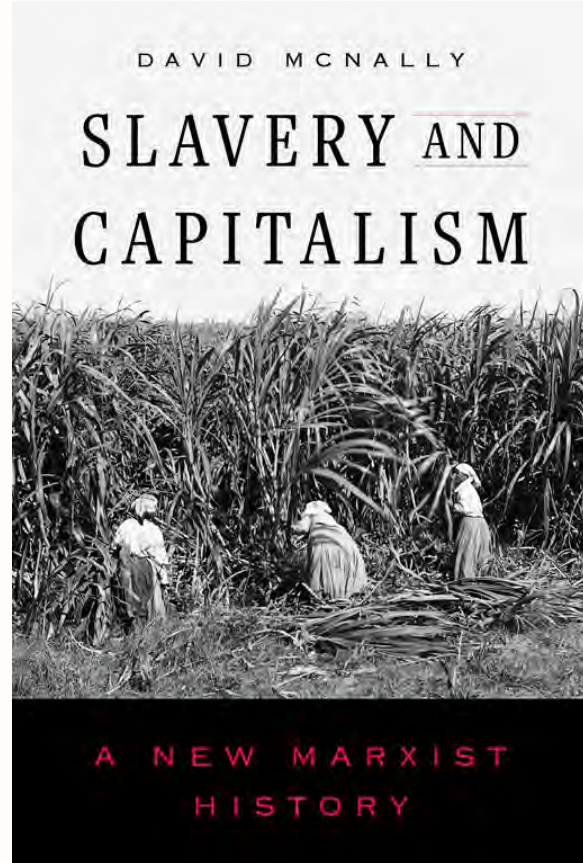
---Oxford University Press

David McNally, *Slavery and Capitalism: A New Marxist History* (University of California Press, 2025).

“Karl Marx’s writings on enslavement and labor have fallen out of favor among historians, but David McNally injects new life into them. *Slavery and Capitalism* gives the first systematic Marxist account of the capitalist character of Atlantic slavery—using colonial travel literature, planter records and diaries, and slave narratives—to support the provocative claim for enslaved labor in the plantation system as capitalist commodity production.

Weaving together history, political economy, and radical abolitionism, McNally demonstrates that plantation slaves formed a modern working class. Unlike those scholars who insist that enslaved people were too sensible to set their sights on liberty, he highlights the self-activity of enslaved people fighting for their freedom and reframes their resistance as labor struggles over production and reproduction, with significant implications for US and Atlantic history and for understanding the roots of racial capitalism.”

---The University of California Press



Dr. David McNally Publishes on History of Capitalism

Dr. David McNally is NEH-Cullen Chair in History & Business and the Director of the Project on Race and Capitalism (see page 58). In addition to his latest book, he published “Living in Bondage: Vampires, Zombies, and the Occult Powers of Money in Nigerian Film and Video” in *Transnational Horror: Folklore, Genre, and Cultural Politics* edited by Cüneyt Çakırlar (Liverpool University Press, 2025). He gave interviews about current events as well as *Slavery and Capitalism* to the podcast *New Books Network* and other media outlets.

Pratik Chakrabarti, *Inscriptions of Nature: Geology and the Naturalization of Antiquity*, trans. Kirill Saveliev (Academic Studies Press, 2025).



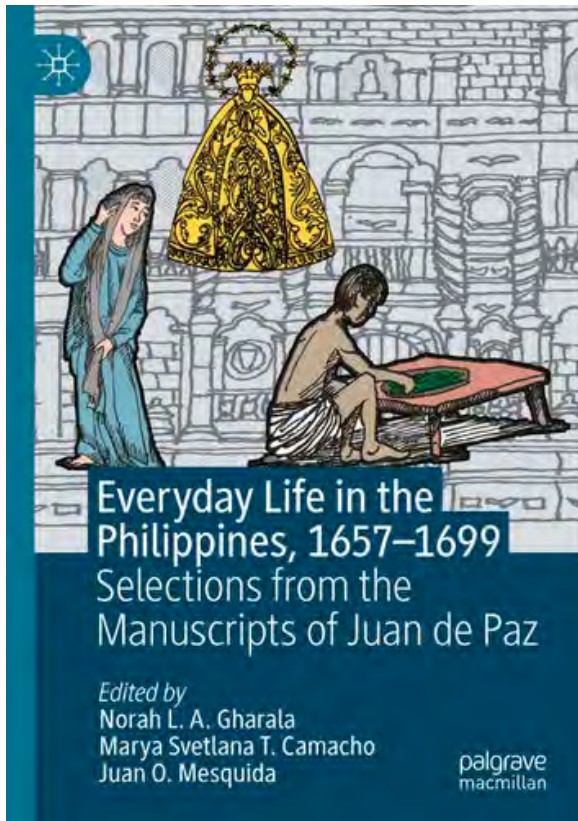
Dr. Pratik Chakrabarti is the NEH-Cullen Chair in History and Medicine and the Director of the Project on Health is Politics (see page 57). A new Russian translation of his *Inscriptions of Nature*, winner of the Pickstone Prize from the British Society for the History of Science, came out this year. “In *Inscriptions of Nature*, Pratik Chakrabarti argues that, in both the real and the metaphorical digging of the earth, the deep history of nature, landscape, and people became indelibly inscribed in the study and imagination of antiquity. The first book to situate deep history as an expression of political, economic, and cultural power, this volume shows that it is complicit in the European and colonial appropriation of global nature, commodities, temporalities, and myths. The book also provides a new interpretation of the relationship between nature and history. Arguing that the deep history of the earth became pervasive within historical imaginations of monuments, communities, and territories in the nineteenth century, Chakrabarti studies these processes in the Indian subcontinent, from the banks of the Yamuna and Ganga rivers to the Himalayas to the deep ravines and forests of central India.



Based on extensive archival research, the book provides insights into state formation, mining of natural resources, and the creation of national topographies. Driven by the geological imagination of India as well as its landscape, people, past, and destiny, *Inscriptions of Nature* reveals how human evolution, myths, aboriginality, and colonial state formation fundamentally defined Indian antiquity.”

--Johns Hopkins University Press

*Everyday Life in the Philippines (1657-1699): Selections from the Manuscripts of Juan de Paz, edited by Norah L. A. Gharala, Marya Svetlana T. Camacho,
and Juan O. Mesquida (Palgrave Macmillan, 2025).*



“This book examines the legacy of one of the most influential members of Spanish society in the seventeenth-century Philippines, Dominican scholar Juan de Paz. Using a unique manuscript from the collections of the Archivo de la Universidad de Santo Tomás in Manila, the authors provide a window into the concerns, problems, and entanglements of people of different ethnicities, occupations, and stations in life. Paz’s writings resolving conflicts and weighing in on questions (consultas) have not previously been translated into English. The transcriptions, translations, and editorial introductions collected in this volume therefore make it an invaluable resource for students and scholars interested in the cultural and social history of the Philippines and the Spanish empire.”

---Palgrave Macmillan

Dr. N. L. A. Gharala Presents Edited Volume in Metro Manila



Right, Dr. N. L. A. Gharala with colleagues at the University of Asia and the Pacific

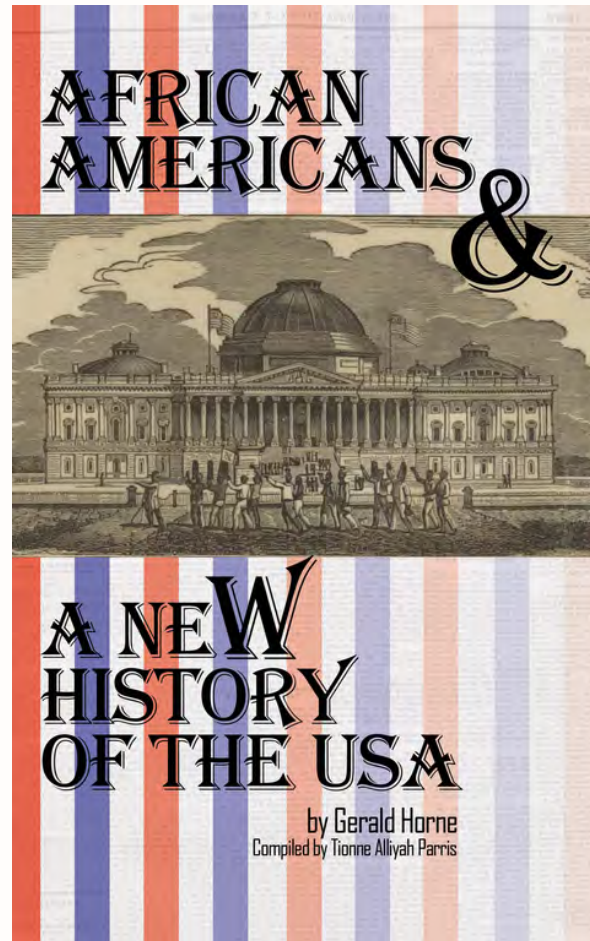
As lead editor of the volume, Dr. Gharala was co-author of the “[Introduction: The World and Work of Fray Juan de Paz](#),” with Marya Svetlana T. Camacho and Juan O. Mesquida of the University of Asia and the Pacific in Pasig City. Dr. Gharala is a contributing author, with Kristie P. Flannery of Australian Catholic University, on the chapter “[Slavery between the Indian Ocean World and the Spanish Pacific](#).” With Dr. Sherwin Bryant of Rice University, Dr. Gharala formed part of a keynote plenary panel for the Lolita Gutiérrez Brockington Memorial Symposium at North Carolina Central University in Durham in April, 2025. The UH Department of African American Studies awarded Dr. Gharala a Faculty Affiliate Grant this summer.

Gerald Horne, *African Americans and A New History of the USA*,
compiled by Tionne Alliyah Parris (International Publishers, 2025).



"African Americans and a New History of the USA is a compendium of Introductions and Prefaces from my works stretching from the late fifteenth century to the present. In the process, this work touches on the epochal Haitian Revolution; the complicity of U.S. enslavers in the Slave Trade to Brazil; The "Confederate Diaspora" to Hawaii and the South Seas after the U.S. Civil War—up to and including "Armed Struggle" in Los Angeles in the late twentieth century and the Black Panther Party."

---Dr. Gerald Horne



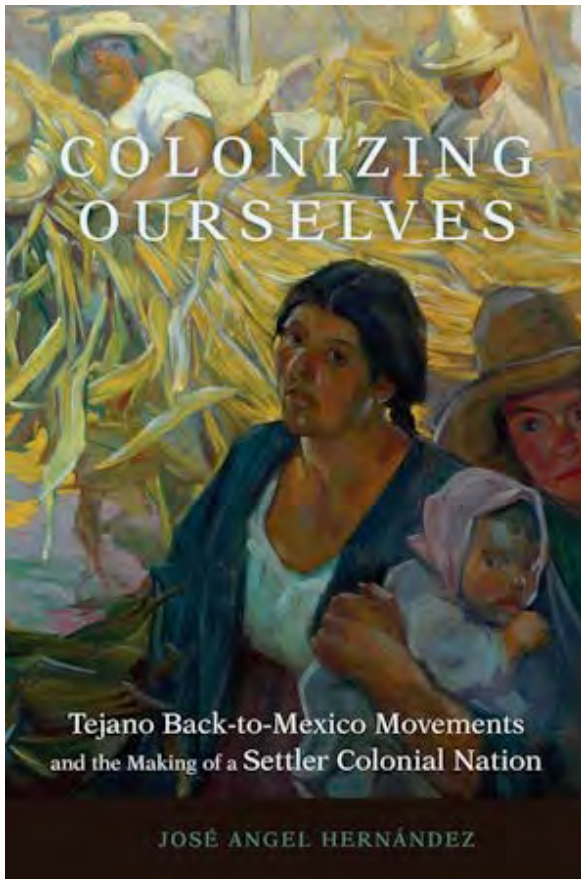
Dr. Gerald Horne Honored by Texas Institute of Letters



The author of more than 30 books, Dr. Gerald Horne has been recognized this year as a noted historian by institutions across the humanities and the performing arts. In 2025, Dr. Horne accepted a nomination to the Texas Institute of Letters. An elected position, membership in this nonprofit Honor Society celebrates outstanding writers across disciplines in Texas.

In Memoriam

José Angel Hernández published *Colonizing Ourselves: Tejano Back-to-Mexico Movements and the Making of a Settler Colonial Nation* with Oklahoma University Press on October 15, 2024



Dr. Hernández was interviewed following his Hispanic Heritage Month Lecture at Midland College on September 30, 2024



Dr. José Angel Hernández (1969-2024) published his second book last fall. His scholarly work earned him the recognition of prestigious institutions, including the Fulbright Scholar Program to the Sociedad Nuevoleonesa de Historia, Geografía y Estadística. The following comes from the press release for *Colonizing Ourselves*:

“In the late nineteenth century, the Mexican government, seeking to fortify its northern borders and curb migration to the United States, set out to relocate ‘Mexico-Texano’ families, or Tejanos, on Mexican land. In *Colonizing Ourselves*, José Angel Hernández explores these movements back to Mexico, also known as autocolonization, as distinct in the history of settler colonization.

Unlike other settler colonial states that relied heavily on overseas settlers, especially from Europe and Asia, Mexico received less than 1 percent of these nineteenth-century immigrants. This reality, coupled with the growing migration of farmers and laborers northward toward the United States, led ultimately to passage of the 1883 Land and Colonization Law. This legislation offered incentives to any Mexican in the United States willing to resettle in the republic: Tejanos, as well as other Mexican expatriates abroad, were to be granted twice the amount of land for settlement that other immigrants received. The campaign worked: ethnic Mexicans from Texas and the Mexican interior, as well as Indigenous peoples from Mexico, established numerous colonies on the northern frontier.”



Recasting the Colonial Project in the U.S. Mexican Borderlands: An Appreciation of the Scholarship of Dr. José Angel Hernández

by Carlos Blanton, PhD

Barbara White Stuart Centennial Professor in Texas History
University of Texas at Austin

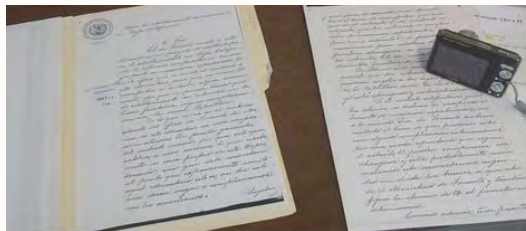
Professor José Angel Hernández was an outstanding historian of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands and of Mexico who won external book awards, the prestigious Fulbright Fellowship multiple times, and published books and numerous essays. Unlike many U.S.-Mexico Borderlands scholars who focus on *Mexicanos* coming to the U.S. and the communities and cultures they built here, Hernández focused his scholarly attention on *Mexicanos* in the U.S. during the years and decades immediately after its violent territorial expansion, who moved into Mexico and how they built communities and culture there. This means that Professor Hernández has always been a borderlands historian who follows his historical actors south rather than north, making his borderlands scholarship Mexico-oriented, not U.S.-oriented. Yet, throughout his career Hernández remained very connected to Chicana/o history and incorporated that important perspective into his work. There is often a divide, metaphorically speaking. It is something of a wall between Mexican history and Chicana/o history. José Angel was one of the scholars to really bridge that wall. This kind of unique positionality was evident from his first book, the 2012 *Mexican American Colonization During the Nineteenth Century: A History of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands* with Cambridge University Press. Until this study, borderlands historians had known little about Mexican colonization schemes that drew upon *México de afuera* communities consisting of dislocated former citizens now residing in the U.S. Professor Hernández taught many historians, including me, of this vital component to Borderlands history that said as much about the local agency of people responding to rising racial prejudice, violence, and land loss as about the weaknesses of the national project in the U.S. and the corresponding strength of the national project in Mexico—a flipping of conventional assumptions by U.S.-focused historians unfamiliar with Mexican history. Hernández connected these two uncommunicative historiographies through a wealth of sources that documented very real people and their ideas as they sought a better future for themselves and for future generations.

Colonizing Ourselves is a complex work with multiple levels of intellectual contribution. At a basic level it is a documentation of Tejano colonization to Northern Mexico primarily in the 1890s and early 1900s as cracks began to appear in the Porfirian regime. At a deeper level it is an examination of Mexican state-building and national ideology that rejects simplistic, easy characterizations of the *Porfiriato* and, by extension, the Revolution. The kind of deep thinking about the Mexican nation and its obligations to its people in and outside of Mexico was also a rich and vibrant phenomenon experienced in the nineteenth century. This is one of the major interpretive contributions, for me personally, that Professor Hernández makes in *Colonizing Ourselves*: extending the intellectual debate about *Mexicanidad* and the nation long before the Mexican Revolution.

There are many hidden gems of historical knowledge in *Colonizing Ourselves* that I must mention. First, as scholar who is also vitally interested in Texas history, I was struck by Hernández's wide scope of framing Mexican colonization efforts as beginning deep into the nineteenth century by the Spanish Crown in its evolving borderlands policy that took shape after the lulling effect of the 1819 Transcontinental Treaty with the U.S. (the Adams-Oñís Treaty). The Chickamauga Cherokees, comprised of former members of the confederated Delaware, Creek, and Choctaw tribes, began migrating to Texas in 1819 and sent delegations to Mexico City to formally negotiate a treaty alliance first with Spain and then with Mexico. They migrated to Texas at roughly the same time as Anglo colonization entrepreneur Moses Austin first entered Texas, also seeking to gain access to new homes and land at the expense of a formal incorporation as subjects of Spain and later citizens of Mexico. So even before the Mexican state was created, the colonization impetus was already a paramount policy goal in this frontier zone that eventually would become the U.S.-Mexican borderlands.

In a larger sense, *Colonizing Ourselves* deepens and extends Professor Hernández's lifelong scholarly effort to tell the story of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands and both nations that inhabit this bordered space through the lens of how to make their territorial claims—the subject of colonization—a reality. His future work, as I understood it, would have continued exploring colonization in the Mexican nation's sense of itself as well as its global impact in the wider Spanish-speaking world. While we will not see that work, Professor Hernández has gifted us a plethora of published works that have reshaped our understanding of the importance of Mexico's efforts at colonizing its northern borderlands with Mexicanos de afuera in the United States, what it meant to the entire national project of Mexico, and what it meant about who was left out of the state-building project here in the United States. I learned a great deal from Professor José Angel Hernández and though I am saddened that he is no longer here with us, I am grateful for the life-long learning and scholarship he has left us, which shall endure.

Dr. Blanton delivered these remarks on a visit to our campus on March 25, 2024, to celebrate the work of our late colleague Dr. José Angel Hernández. The publication of a monograph is a major achievement in our field, one which we commemorate with a book discussion. Below, Dr. José Angel Hernández conducted field research as a Fulbright U.S. Scholar in Mexico and the Philippines.





Remembering Dr. James Kirby Martin and Dr. Joseph Allen Pratt

We honor the legacies of two professors who were leaders in the field of history and in the University. We acknowledge with sadness the passing of Emeritus Professor James Kirby Martin, who died in December of 2024. He was a nationally renowned scholar of the American Revolution and early America and a Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen University Professor. After teaching at Rutgers University, he joined UH in 1980. Jim played an important role in building the scholarly excellence of the faculty as well as the strengths of the graduate program and undergraduate education. A respected scholar-educator, he wrote numerous articles and books, including *A Respectable Army: The Military Origins of the Republic 1763-1789* (now in its third edition) and *Benedict Arnold, Revolutionary Hero: An American Warrior Reconsidered* (NYU Press, 1997).

Emeritus Professor Joseph Allen Pratt, a dear colleague and friend to many at UH, died in September of 2025. Joe came to UH in 1986 as the NEH-Cullen Chair in History and Business. He published widely in his field, authoring seven books on the history of business and the energy industry. Over many years, he served as department chair, Interim Dean of CLASS, and Executive Director of UH's Scholar's Community. In 2003, he founded [Houston History magazine](#). Deeply devoted to student success at all levels, Joe won multiple Teaching Excellence Awards. In 2014, he won a Piper Professor Award for superior teaching at the college level in the State of Texas.

The many contributions of Drs. Martin and Pratt over the years continue to support the strengths in scholarship on American history, teaching, and community engagement that characterize the Department of History.



A new scholarship honors the legacy of Dr. James Kirby Martin (1943-2024)



Dr. Joseph Allen Pratt (1948-2025) won the prestigious Piper Professor Award in 2014

Faculty Publications and Awards

Dr. Natalia Milanesio Awarded Research Grants by National Endowment for the Humanities and University of Houston

Dr. Natalia Milanesio was awarded an Award for Faculty at Hispanic-Serving Institutions from the National Endowment for the Humanities in January of 2025, the only faculty member at UH to be selected for this prestigious award this year. This funding supports her project, “Feminism, Democracy, and Citizenship in Postdictatorial Argentina.” A UH Small Research Grant further supported this innovative research, which will lead to Dr. Milanesio’s next book on feminism in Argentina during the 1980s.



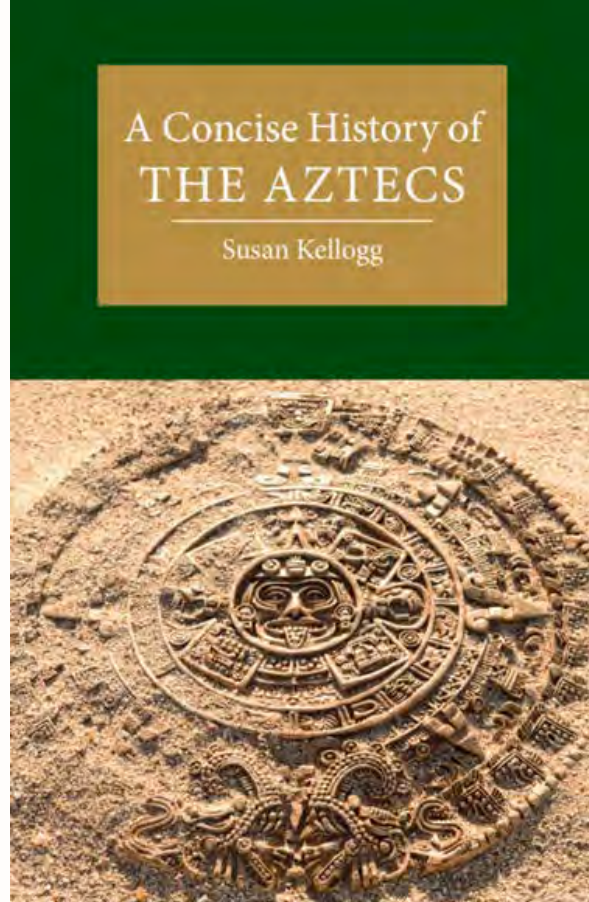
Dr. Milanesio continues to publish on the *destape* in Argentina, with “El mercado del destape. Consumos culturales y publicidad en el regreso de la democracia,” *Anuario del Centro de Estudios Económicos de la Empresa y el Desarrollo* 17: 23, June-November 2025, 69-94. Dr. Milanesio describes this cultural moment in Argentina as “the biggest and most explosive sociocultural phenomenon after the fall of the military dictatorship... that made sexual culture into a powerful metaphor for democracy and the reconstruction of Argentine society” in her 2019 monograph. *Destape: Sex, Democracy, and Freedom in Post-dictatorial Argentina* garnered multiple recognitions and awards, including the Bolton-Johnson Book Prize from the the Conference on Latin American History (2020); and the 2020 Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies Judy Ewell Award for Best Publication on Women’s History (see next page for more on this book prize).

R, An image Dr. Milanesio analyzes in her recent article to illustrate the polarizing effects of the objectification of women in the destape.



Dr. Susan Kellogg, Professor Emerita, Wins Book Prize for *A Concise History of the Aztecs* (Cambridge University Press, 2024).

Dr. Susan Kellogg has been honored with the 2025 Judy Ewell Award from the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies, an interdisciplinary organization now more than 70 years old. The award recognized *A Concise History of the Aztecs* (Cambridge, 2024). According to the press, “Susan Kellogg’s history of the Aztecs offers a concise yet comprehensive assessment of Aztec history and civilization, emphasizing how material life and the economy functioned in relation to politics, religion, and intellectual and artistic developments. Appreciating the vast number of sources available but also their limitations, Kellogg focuses on three concepts throughout – value, transformation, and balance. Aztecs created value, material, and symbolic worth. Value was created through transformations of bodies, things, and ideas. The overall goal of value creation and transformation was to keep the Aztec world—the cosmos, the earth, its inhabitants—in balance, a balance often threatened by spiritual and other forms of chaos. The book highlights the ethnicities that constituted Aztec peoples and sheds light on religion, political and economic organization, gender, sexuality and family life, intellectual achievements, and survival. Seeking to correct common misperceptions, Kellogg stresses the humanity of the Aztecs and problematizes the use of the terms ‘human sacrifice’, ‘myth’, and ‘conquest’.” The author of *Weaving the Past: A History of Latin America’s Indigenous Women from the Prehispanic Period to the Present* (Oxford University Press, 2005) and *Law and the Transformation of Aztec Society, 1500-1700* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1995), Dr. Kellogg received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society for Ethnohistory in 2022.



Dr. Alexey Golubev Wins Fellowship from Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine

Dr. Alexey Golubev was awarded a Research Fellowship at the Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine for the summer of 2025, which supported his archival research in the libraries of Princeton and Columbia Universities, American Philosophical Society, and the Rockefeller Archive Center on the public communication of science in the Cold War Soviet Union. In 2024, he published, “Conclusion: The Matter of Time,” in *Time and Material Culture*, edited by Julie Deschepper, Antony Kalashnikov, and Federica Rossi (Routledge, 2025).



First Annual Workshop for SovMode Held at Princeton University

On October 11–12, 2024, Princeton University hosted the first in a series of annual workshops under the title *SovMode: Reconsidering Modernity and Socialism*. Co-organized by Professors Serguei A. Oushakine (Princeton University) and Alexey Golubev (University of Houston), and supported by a Collaborative Humanities Grant from the Princeton University Humanities Council, the workshop marked the launch of a three-year project aimed at renewing scholarly engagement with Soviet modernity beyond essentialist and Cold War-era paradigms. This inaugural workshop, *A Decentered Empire: Imperialism, Socialism, and Soviet Modernity*, brought together over 45 scholars at various career stages, including graduate students, junior and mid-career faculty, and senior researchers, from institutions across North America, Europe, Central Asia, and East Asia. The event focused on interrogating the Soviet Union’s contradictory position as simultaneously a post-imperial and modernizing force in global history. Based on a series of close readings and prepared short responses, the workshop participants engaged in lively debates, some including the authors of the discussed works, on how imperial legacies and socialist aspirations collided, converged, and informed each other.



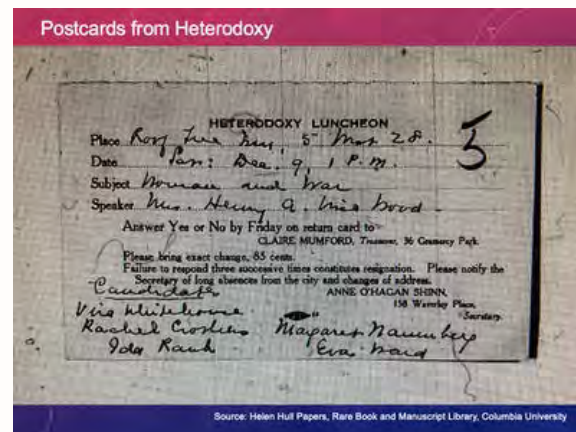
On the Research Trail with Dr. Leandra Zarnow

Dr. Leandra Zarnow spent weeks this past year on the research trail hunting down traces of Heterodoxy, a women-only secret society in the early twentieth century that purposely left little record. The clandestine group known for its frank talk about what animated women's lives, both personal and political, met regularly in New York City between 1912 and 1939. Thankfully a few of its nearly one hundred members—a venerable who's who of American women—kept postcards announcing next meetings and discussed Heterodoxy's importance in their memoirs, unpublished writings, organizational papers, and personal letters.

Drawing on the idea of a circuit board, Zarnow has been exploring how women moved in and out of Heterodoxy, each meeting giving them a charge that fueled their work in other spaces. They led game-changing legal and legislative campaigns, contributed to transformative cultural movements, and were instrumental in establishing significant organizations and institutions from the American Civil Liberties Union to the New School of New York. A history of ideas, "The Heterodites," under contract with W.W. Norton & Company, zeros in on connections among six members: journalist Bessie Beatty, lawyer Crystal Eastman, civil rights advocate Grace Nail Johnson, artist Lou Rogers, anthropologist Elsie Clews Parsons, and labor organizer Rose Pastor Stokes.

R, Dr. Leandra Zarnow in Maine, where she did oral histories with descendants of Lou Rogers and Elsie Clews Parsons.

To tell their stories has required visiting numerous archives in more than fifteen states. Zarnow crisscrossed the nation in 2024-2025 to complete final research before writing in Indiana, Pennsylvania, Maine, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Washington, DC. This research was generously supported by the National Endowment for Humanities and the Rockwell Center for Ethics and Leadership at the University of Houston.



Dr. Mark Goldberg Wins Two External Fellowships

Dr. Mark Goldberg has been awarded a 2025-26 Herbert R. Bloch Jr. Memorial Fellowship from the American Jewish Archives. This grant will support Dr. Goldberg as he conducts research at the AJA in spring 2026 for his book project, “Double Diaspora: Cuban Jewish Migration to Great Miami.” He also received a Project Completion Grant from the Southern Jewish Historical Society. This grant will support transcription of oral histories for his public history project, the “Latino Jewish Digital Archive.” An integral part of Dr. Goldberg’s scholarship is public-facing work. In September of 2024, he spoke at the Holocaust Museum Houston about, “Searching for Belonging: Being Jewish and Latina/o/x in Postwar America.”



Above, Dr. Mark Goldberg delivers a lecture at the Holocaust Museum Houston

Dr. Hanan Hammad Honored by Office of the Mayor

Dr. Hanan Hammad, the Arab-American Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Arab History and Director of the AAEF Center of Arab Studies, received a congratulatory proclamation from Rebekah Williams on behalf of Mayor John Whitmire and the City of Houston. Dr. Hammad joined the Department of History last fall and has proved to be an excellent leader for CAS (see more on page 56). In addition to providing this crucial academic leadership, Dr. Hammad published “Begging, Stealing, and Striking: Labor Resistance and Survival in Interwar Egypt” in *Reconstructions in Middle East Economic History: Essays in Honor of Roger Owen*, edited by Don Babai from Routledge last year.

Below, Dr. Hanan Hammad (right) receives a certificate in appreciation of her leadership



CLASS Awards and Renews Research Professorships for History Faculty



Above, Dr. Sarah Fishman on a recent research trip to France

Below, Dr. Josiah Rector at the 2024 Health is Politics conference



Awards from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Sarah Fishman Receives Distinguished Faculty Award from CLASS

Sarah Fishman, Moores Professor of History and a specialist in twentieth-century France, has been honored with a Distinguished Faculty Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Dr. Fishman is the author of many books, the most recent of which is, *From Vichy to the Sexual Revolution: Gender and Family Life in Postwar France* (Oxford University Press, 2017).

Josiah Rector Awarded CLASS Research Excellence Professorship

Dr. Josiah Rector received a CLASS Research Excellence Professorship for his current book project, entitled “Disaster Capital: Environmental Inequality, Climate Change, and the Struggle for a More Resilient Houston,” which will consist of 2 course releases over the next 3 years. His first book, *Toxic Debt: An Environmental Justice History of Detroit*, was a 2023 Choice Outstanding Academic Title.

Nancy Beck Young Renews Competitive Moores Professorship

Dr. Nancy Beck Young, Director of the Center for Public History (see page 47), holds a competitive Moores Professorship in History. She is co-director, with Dr. Leandra Zarnow, of [Sharing Stories from 1977: Putting the National Women's Conference on the Map](#).



In 2025, Dr. Cedillo published two book chapters in edited volumes, marking another year of multiple publications. In a multi-volume series about the history of women in Mexico from the INEHRM (Instituto Nacional de Estudios Históricos de las Revoluciones de México), she published, “Las guerrilleras socialistas durante la Guerra Fría mexicana (1964-1982),” in *Historia de las mujeres en México: panorámicas, abordajes y aproximaciones*, vol. 3, edited by Ana Lau and Margarita Vásquez Montaña. She also contributed the chapter, “Del memoricidio a la memorialización oficial de la Guerra Sucia mexicana,” to *Contrahistoria del “Pueblo” Mexicano*, edited by Irmgard Emmelhainz and published by Debate.

Dr. Adela Cedillo signed a contract with the University of California Press for her forthcoming book *Crossroads of Violence: The Dirty War and the War on Drugs in Northwestern Mexico (1965-1985)*.

She was chosen as Faculty Research Mentor in the Crossing Latinidades Research Mentoring Program/Mellon Fellowship at the University of Illinois at Chicago for the academic year 2025-2026. She will mentor Andrea Cuevas, a PhD student in Spanish with a Concentration in Creative Writing at the University of Houston.

This partnership with the University of Illinois at Chicago, as part of a consortium of research universities, has benefitted our department since the Mellon grant was awarded in 2021. Dr. Shine Trabucco (PhD ‘25) was previously a fellow with “Crossing Latinidades: Emerging Scholars and New Comparative Directions” in 2022-23.



Dr. Richard Mizelle published a chapter, “Chronic neglect Race, dialysis, and vulnerable patienthood,” in the edited volume, *Technology, health, and the patient consumer in the twentieth century*, edited by Rachel Elder and Thomas Schlich, from Manchester University Press this year.



Dr. Scout Johnson contributed a chapter to the volume, *Racism in the USA: Handbook on history, society, politics* edited by Silvan Niedermeier and forthcoming from Narr Francke Attempto.



Dr. Kristina Neumann published, "Coinage in Roman Syria," in *The Oxford Handbook of the Hellenistic and Roman Near East* edited by Rubina Raja (2025) and worked with the Digital Humanities Core Facility to pilot new software at UH. [ClioVis](#) is a visualization tool from the University of Texas at Austin that allows students to build interactive timelines and chronological networks.

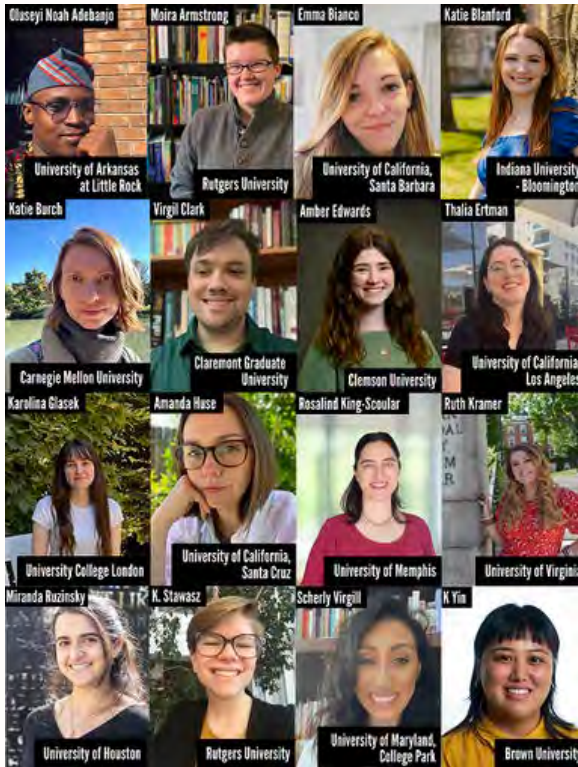
Dr. Emire Cihan Yüksel delivered, "Changing Dynamics between Edirne and Cairo: Image Cultivation of Murad II at the Mamluk Court through Diplomacy," the opening presentation the 40th Anniversary Conference of the Skilliter Centre for Ottoman Studies at Newnham College.



Dr. Kairn A. Klieman sits on the Board of Directors of the Houston Climate Justice Museum. She is working on a history of the role of arts in environmental justice activism from the 1970s to the present.



Sharing Stories Launches Editorial Board Fellowship by Dr. Sandra Davidson



In 2024, the *Sharing Stories from 1977: Putting the National Women's Conference on the Map* co-directors, Dr. Nancy Beck Young and Dr. Leandra Zarnow, laid the groundwork for an exciting new opportunity for student participation on the project via an [Editorial Board Fellowship](#). They finalized plans this past summer and officially launched the Editorial Board in the fall.

Twenty graduate students were chosen from a competitive pool of forty-eight internal and external applicants. Nineteen students hail from colleges and universities from thirteen different states; one student resides in London, England. Fellows will hold a one-year term through July 2026. This project is housed at the Center for Public History.

Much like the board of an academic journal or university press, this body will be a peer-review powerhouse. Nationally renowned faculty serving as lead reviewers include Dr. Judy Tzu-Chun Wu, University of California, Irvine; Dr. Emily Westkaemper, James Madison University; Dr. Stacie Taranto, Ramapo College of New Jersey; Dr. Nancy Beck Young, University of Houston; and Dr. Leandra Zarnow, University of Houston. The review leaders will oversee the fellows in a multilayered editing process of all digitally published scholarship.

The board's efforts will enable publication of the biographies and demographic data over 3000 undergraduate and graduate student researchers have already conducted at UH, and at colleges and universities nationally, pertaining to 1977 National Women's Conference (NWC) participants. This digital humanities project originated in 2017 following the NWC's fortieth anniversary commemoration on the UH campus.

"Using Public Digital Humanities to Excite Students"

Dr. Sandra Davidson (PhD '17), Project Manager for *Sharing Stories from 1977* at CPH, led a group of scholars to produce a new article on the scholarship of teaching and learning. Co-authors included Drs. Peggy Lindner (Honors); Elizabeth Rodwell (CCS); Jamie Wagman (Saint Mary's College); Emily Westkaemper (James Madison); Judy Tzu-Chun Wu (Irvine); and Nancy Beck Young and Leandra Zarnow. "Using Public Digital Humanities to Excite Students" appeared in *Proceedings of the H-Net Teaching Conference*, vol. 3, no. 1 (2025).

Faculty News

The Department Celebrates Three Distinguished Retiring Faculty Members



Above, Dr. Guadalupe San Miguel, Jr. with Dr. Raúl Ramos at the Spring Awards Banquet.

Below, Dr. Karl Ittmann with his longtime colleague Dr. Sarah Fishman



It is with mixed emotions that we recognize the retirement of three long-serving faculty members in the Department of History. Though their dedication to research, teaching, and service will be missed, we celebrate their accomplishments and wish them success and happiness in all their future endeavors. We wish all the best to Professors Robert Buzzanco, Karl Ittmann, and Guadalupe San Miguel, Jr.

In his more than three decades of employment at UH, Dr. San Miguel established himself as a leading scholar of Mexican American history. While teaching a variety of courses in United States and Chicano history, he published six books and dozens of scholarly articles and anthology chapters. The History of Education Society awarded Dr. San Miguel its Outstanding Book Award for *Brown, Not White: School Integration and the Chicano Movement* (Texas A&M University Press, 2001). His scholarly interests have ranged from bilingual education policy to Tejano music. With a commitment to history that extended beyond the classroom and campus, Dr. San Miguel served as president of the [National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies](#) and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the same association.

Congratulations to Dr. Karl Ittmann, who leaves UH just as his third book, *Fueling Empire: The British Imperial Oil Complex, 1886-1945*, comes to press with Oxford (see page 6). He co-taught the course, "Work and Family Life in Modern Europe," with Dr. Sarah Fishman, who celebrated him at the Awards Banquet.



For more than three decades, Dr. Ittmann has taught Western Civilization and modern British History to undergraduate and graduate students, while publishing two monographs: *A Problem of Great Importance: Population, Race and Power in the British Empire, 1918-1973* (University of California Press, 2013) and *Work, Gender and Family in Victorian England* (New York University Press, 1995), which was an Outstanding Academic Book selected by *Choice*. Dr. Ittmann's long commitment to students, the Department of History, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the entire university leaves a lasting legacy.



A former Chair of the Department of History and a scholar of the twentieth century U.S., Dr. Robert Buzzanco (pictured left) retires after teaching for thirty years. Known in the department and across campus for his informative and entertaining lectures as well as his colorful seersucker suits, he leaves behind a record of award-winning teaching and scholarship. His publications include *Vietnam and the Transformation of American Life* and *Masters of War: Military Dissent and Politics in the Vietnam Era*. As Dr. Buzzanco transitions into retirement, he continues to co-host the *Green and Red* podcast.

Staff News

Armeshia Love Joins Department as Graduate Academic Advisor for History

Armeshia Love is a higher education professional with five years of experience in academic advising, student success, and program coordination. She has worked at UH for two years and currently serves as a Graduate Academic Advisor for History. With prior roles at Rice University and experience in career development, she brings expertise in student support and program management. Armeshia recently graduated with a Master of Science in Higher Education Administration from Texas A&M University - Commerce and holds a B.S. in Psychology from the University of Houston - Downtown. A native Houstonian, she enjoys exploring the city's food scene and spending quality time with friends and family.





The Department Welcomes Financial Coordinator James Curioso

In Spring 2025, James Curioso began a position as Financial Coordinator 1. As those working in the Department will already know from working with James, this position entails processing vouchers, requisitions, and contracts, as well as managing and supporting other business operations.

James is an alumnus of the C. T. Bauer College of Business, where he graduated *summa cum laude* in 2024. He made the Dean's List four times at UH. In 2021, he earned his Associate degree from Houston Community College.

Prior to joining the Department, James worked for Catholic Charities in Houston and studied non-profit funding. James enjoys the outdoors, playing soccer, and hiking.

We thank our new Department staff members, as well as our Department Business Administrator Carol Aikels and Financial Coordinator Darius Miller, for their many contributions to the Department of History!



Dr. Patrick Higgins Named Center for Arab Studies Program Director

Dr. Patrick Higgins began a new position this year as Program Director for the Arab-American American Education Foundation Center for Arab Studies, of which he is also an alumnus. In his new role, Dr. Higgins promotes CAS events, raises the profile of the Center in new ways, and organizes workshops and events for the campus community, especially graduate students.

Dr. Higgins earned his PhD in Arab History in 2023 and is interested in Palestinian and Arab views of the United States in the later twentieth century. In 2024-25, Dr. Higgins was awarded the Palestinian American Research Center (PARC) US Fellowship, which took him to archives in Lebanon and Jordan for research to expand his dissertation, "Palestinian Revolution and World Imperialism in the 'American Century,' 1945-1972," into a book. Patrick visited the historic Baalbek Temples in Lebanon's stunning Beqaa Valley, pictured above.



Letter from Graduate Director Raúl Ramos, PhD and Associate Director Scout Johnson, PhD

This fall, the department welcomed 13 new graduate students into our program, three pursuing their MA and ten in the PhD track. Included in the MA degree are several students enrolled in the Public History program. We are excited to see these students develop their research and scholarly agendas. Overall, we currently have 46 students enrolled in various stages of the graduate degree. The Graduate Studies leadership organized our annual “Grad Camp” the Friday before classes where we welcomed our students. Thanks to Drs. Goldberg, Reed, Rector and Young for their insights and support.

Our students have been active presenting at conferences, receiving grants and fellowships and generally engaging in the profession. Nancy Katz is holding the Nau Fellowship in Texas History supporting her dissertation. She was also awarded the Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies’ 2025 David Gitlitz Emerging Scholar Award at the Society’s annual conference in August. Congratulations to Priscilla JudsonWallace and Rahil Asgari for receiving the inaugural James Kirby Martin Endowed Scholarship in US History for the 2025-2026 academic year. Katie Truax was part of the winning team at this year’s Summer Health Research Program sponsored by the Humana Institute.

Congratulations go to Dr. Allison Sáenz (PhD ’24), for receiving the 2025 University of Houston Outstanding Dissertation Award in the Humanities and Fine Arts.



Incoming graduate students at the 2025 “Grad Camp”



The department would also like to congratulate the graduation of the following doctoral students this past year.

John Fairchild, “They Intend to Conduct Us Out of Their Country: The Choctaw Diaspora”
Advisor: Dr. Todd Romero

Samantha Shine Trabucco, “Returning to Roots: The History of Adobe and Earthen Structures in San Antonio, Texas,”
Advisor: Dr. Raúl Ramos

Seth Whitty, “Fearocracy: Race, Slavery, and Conspiracies in Nineteenth Century Tennessee.”
Advisor: Dr. Matthew Clavin

Our graduate department continues to be a leader in the state in cutting edge research and preparing scholars for higher education and beyond.

Dr. Raúl Ramos
Director of Graduate Studies

Dr. Scout Johnson
Associate Director of Graduate Studies

Graduate Student News

Dmitrii Blyshko Lead Author on Study in *Journal of World Prehistory*

PhD Candidate Dmitrii Blyshko, advised by Dr. Alexey Golubev, has published original research in the peer-reviewed *Journal of World Prehistory*. With co-authors Alexander Zhulnikov, Oleg Lavrov, Alexey Tarasov, and Dmitry Gerasimov, Dmitrii is credited as the lead author on, “Complex Social Relations Among Eneolithic Hunter-Fisher-Gatherers: The Social Agency of Material Objects at the Complex Mining Center at Lake Onega in Eastern Fennoscandia.” In April of 2025, Dmitrii received the John King Prize for the Outstanding Graduate Student in History of the academic year. Dmitrii’s focus is on the history of Soviet archaeology.



Dmitrii Blyshko, R, and Dr. Raúl Ramos, L, at the Spring Awards Banquet



Miranda Ruzinsky (MA Student in Public History advised by Dr. Nancy Beck Young) held a Lydia Mendoza Fellowship from the Center for Mexican American Studies. She works as a research assistant for the *Houston History* magazine with Dr. Debbie Harwell, who presented Miranda with the Joséph A. Pratt Houston History Prize, which honors the graduate student with the best paper or public history project that focuses on any topic related to the history of the greater Houston region. She won the award for, “Sylvia Ortiz: An ‘Everyday Woman’ Who Became a Feminist Celebrity.” The Harris County Historical Society Award for Excellence honored Miranda’s success with its annual award to an undergraduate or graduate student for a public history project focused on Houston or Harris County history. With Alexander Kelly (MA Student in Anthropology), Miranda created an archive and museum exhibit for the Greater Houston American Red Cross Legacy Project. Miranda was selected to serve on the inaugural Editorial Board of the prominent digital humanities project *Sharing Stories from 1977*. She will be part of a multilayered editing process of all digitally published scholarship.



Fadi Kafeety, PhD Candidate in Modern Arab History advised by Dr. David McNally and Dr. Abdel Razzaq Takriti (Rice University), won a prestigious predoctoral fellowship and has been appointed the first Program Manager at the Palestinian and Arab Studies Program at the University of California, Berkeley. Fadi shared this update with the Department: “I spent the Fall semester abroad studying the history of the Jordanian Communist Party (JCP) as part of a monograph I am working on. In Jordan, I spent my days researching at the party’s library, conducting oral history research, and consulting primary source documents at the National Library of Jordan and other cultural centers, gathering substantial materials and making great strides in the writing process. The Council of American Overseas Research Centers (ACOR-CAORC) fellowship also supported my research trip to the United Arab Emirates, where I found droves of new archival materials to study with a heart warmed by spending invaluable time with my parents after the libraries closed for the day. Though beneficial and rewarding, I left the fellowship midway to take up a position in DC’s nonprofit sector.”



As part of her Lydia Mendoza Fellowship (through Center for Mexican American and Latina/o Studies), Valeria González has been assisting Dr. Mark Goldberg in developing the Latino Jewish Digital Archive. Valeria has organized the various oral history materials and developed the metadata for the project's archival assets.



Priscilla Judson Wallace (PhD Candidate advised by Dr. David McNally) has been awarded an inaugural James Kirby Martin Endowed Scholarship in US History for the 2025-2026 academic year. The scholarship will support work on her dissertation, "Claudia Jones and the Black Radical Tradition: A Global Study."



Marquel Sennet (PhD Student advised by Dr. Linda Reed) spoke about Black media at The African American Library at the Gregory School as part of "Words of Defiance: How Black Newspapers Amplified Labor Justice and Social Change" for Black History Month.



Maya Bouchebl (MA '25) was a Student Intern at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, where she authored blog posts such as "[Witness to the Revolution](#)" for the museum's web site. She also received our Margaret Henson Prize for Best Paper on Women's History.



Said Sultan Al-Hashimi (PhD Candidate advised by Dr. David McNally) has published, "Palestine and the Omanis between the Nakba and the Flood: A Comparative Historical Reading of the Popular and Historical Positions" in the *Journal of Palestine Studies*.



Rahil Asgari (PhD Candidate in U.S. History advised by Dr. Josiah Rector) holds an inaugural James Kirby Martin Endowed Scholarship in US History for the academic year. In Spring 2025, CPH awarded Rahil the Valdes Prize for the best work on oral history.

Sutanwi Chatterjee, a PhD Student advised by Dr. Nandini Bhattacharya, participated and presented a poster titled "Quarantine and Preventive Measures in (Madras and Bombay) colonial port during the Nineteenth and Twentieth Century" at the Western Association of Women's Historians Annual Conference held in Costa Mesa, California in April 2025.



Heather Butina-Sutton (PhD Candidate advised by Dr. Philip Howard) delivered an invited talk to Princeton University's Keller Center for Innovation in Engineering Education, "Exploring Entrepreneurship as Resistance Among Black Women Street Vendors in Antebellum Charleston." Heather was also selected as a *Houston History* magazine intern for summer of 2025.



Katie Truax Joins Winning Team of Interdisciplinary Researchers

PhD Candidate Katie Truax, advised by Dr. Pratik Chakrabarti, was part of a winning team at the Summer Health Research Program (SHERP) hosted by the Fertitta College of Medicine and the UH Humana Institute. Katie writes, “The program included grad students from across UH, and we participated in three weeks of team development and subject specialty programming, including talks from speakers like Dr. Anthony Fauci and State Senator Molly Cook, as well as learning to process data using the programming language R. The program culminated in interdisciplinary group projects that presented to a ‘shark tank’ including the CEO of the Alzheimer’s Association and the Assistant Director of the Houston Health Department. My team worked on the project, ‘Familiar Faces, Caring Spaces: Enhancing Home-Based Dementia Care’ and included students from medicine, social work, economics, and computer engineering. I was interested in joining this project due to my interest in history of death so I could see what end-of-life systems were like. My contributions were to research current end-of-life care and after-death care support and identify that there were major gaps and misunderstandings about these when it comes to dementia. I then suggested the ways that our solution could address these gaps, which also helped me to identify areas for more historical research. We presented our technology-driven solution to support caregivers of final stage dementia and won the competition. We are working toward securing grant money to research the effectiveness of our solution.”



Katie Truax (center) and the Project Team for “Familiar Faces, Caring Spaces: Enhancing Home-based Dementia Care” in Summer 2025

Amr Essam Abdelmoniem Draws on Personal Collections in Publications



R, Cyclists in Maadi in the early twentieth century. Collection of Amr Essam Abdelmoniem

We welcome a new and distinguished cohort of graduate students who bring their own publications, research interests, and even collections of historical material. Incoming PhD student Amr Essam Abdelmoniem (advised by Dr. Hanan Hammad) comes to UH with publications in progress and in print. In 2024, he published in two edited volumes: *Madina shakkalatha al-quduban: tarikh al-tanaqul fi al-Qahira*, *Al-Qahira mu'arrakha* (Dar Al-Ain, Cairo, 2024); and *Min al-Qahira ila al-dawahi al-jadida: al-qitar wa al-nukhba wa al-madina, fi 'ard al-tariq* (Dar Al Maraya, Cairo, 2024). Amr has shared some of his new work and personal collections in the Newsletter.



An old train ticket in the collection of incoming PhD Student Amr Essam Abdelmoniem

I have recently contributed a chapter for a forthcoming edited volume on the heritage of the Maadi district in Cairo. The chapter, titled: *Al-Wusul ilā al-Ma'ādī wa-Manzūmat al-Tanaqqul fī al-Ḍāḥiyya* "Arriving at Maadi and the Suburb's Mobility System," examines the role of railways in the emergence and growth of Maadi as a suburban enclave in Cairo's southern outskirts, with particular focus on its connection to the Cairo - Helwan railway line. It also traces the suburb's growth through its street network and the evolution of mobility and transportation patterns, from the steam train era to the Cairo underground Metro. In addition, this chapter discusses sustainable modes of mobility, such as walking and cycling, which remain widely practiced in Maadi due to the quality of its built environment. The book is scheduled to be published in Arabic in early next year 2026 by the National Organization for Urban Harmony (NOUH), affiliated with the Egyptian Ministry of Culture. It will also include some rare photographs and archival materials from my personal collection.

---Amr Essam Abdelmoniem



John L. Nau, III Endowed Fellowships in Texas History for Graduate Students

In last year's newsletter, we were happy to announce the inaugural awarding of the John L. Nau, III Endowed Fellowships in Texas History. Mr. Nau's generous gift makes possible one Dissertation Fellowship for a PhD student and one Research Assistantship for an MA student studying some aspect of Texas history. Shine Trabucco, the 2024-25 recipient of the Nau Fellowship, completed her dissertation during her fellowship year and has been hired as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of History at Loyola University in Chicago. Jacob King, the 2024-25 Nau Research Assistant, worked on Texas-focused public history projects, including *La Louisiane en Tejas: Gulf Coast Foodways in Southeast Texas*, an oral history of food in the Gulf Coast region. He completed his MA in Public History in May 2025. Following on that inaugural success, two new students of Texas history have been selected to receive Nau awards. The Nau RA for 2025-26 is second-year public history MA student Daniel Killian; Daniel will work on Dr. Melody Yunzi Li's digital humanities project, *Mapping Houston's Old Chinatown*, as well as *Sharing Stories from 1977: Putting the 1977 National Women's Conference on the Map*.



Nancy Katz (above), a PhD candidate advised by Dr. Mark Goldberg, received a John Nau Fellowship, funding research for her dissertation, "The Memory of Being Hidden: Crypto-Jewish Identity Formation in the 20th-Century Borderlands." Nancy also received the Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies' 2025 David Gitlitz Emerging Scholar Award.



Nau Research Assistant Daniel Killian (fourth from left) with team members for Mapping Houston's Old Chinatown, including co-PIs Dr. Guadalupe San Miguel (left) and Dr. Melody Yunzi Li (second from right) of MCL.

James Burke and Claire Keck Apply Curatorial Skills to New Installations



*L, James Burke with pieces from the Houston Comets Memorabilia Collection
R, Claire Keck at the reception for Nevertheless, She Persisted!*

Graduate students from the Department of History selected and curated materials from the [Carey Shuart Women's Research Collection](#) at University of Houston Libraries for installations in Fall 2024. James Burke, a PhD student in US History advised by Dr. Todd Romero, worked with the Houston Comets Memorabilia Collection for *Leagues of Their Own: Selections from the Carey Shuart Women's Research Collection Representing 60 Years of Women's Athletic Achievements*. Claire Keck (MA 2025) applied her public history expertise to *Nevertheless, She Persisted! Women as Historic Influencers*. The Carey Shuart Women's Research Collection, Claire pointed out, "is important because it showcases the role women have played throughout the 20th century." [UH Libraries highlighted her role](#) as graduate assistant curator in the exhibition. She decided to include materials from the collection that would show how women in and around Houston propelled social, political, and artistic change.

James Burke at Battleship Texas

James Burke was a research assistant for CPH working on the University's centennial, in addition to his role as exhibit curator for *Leagues of their Own*. He became Collection Registrar for Battleship Texas and contributed numerous pieces highlighting artefacts in the collections there. At the end of last year, he wrote an essay on "[Christmas Correspondence](#)," which analyzed letters, postcards, and even holiday cards across the collections of Battleship Texas Foundation.



Faculty from History and Hispanic Studies attend an exhibition reception

Civil War Painting Turns into Scholarships for Students

History students will enjoy the benefit of a new scholarship fund due to an unusual philanthropic gift. About five years ago, the department received a framed oil painting as a bequest from the estate of Patrick R. Rutherford, Jr., a Houston businessman and philanthropist. The artwork, painted by Vermont artist Julian Scott in 1871-2, depicts a Civil War scene: “The Vermont Division at the Battle of Chancellorsville.” The donor’s intention was that following a period of display, the painting would be sold and the proceeds dedicated to student scholarships. After hanging in the History Department offices several years, the painting started a new journey in spring 2025 when it was determined that the time was right to sell the painting at auction and realize the donor’s intention of creating a scholarship fund.

Sold through a Houston art auction house, “The Vermont Division” sparked vigorous bidding at the May auction. In the end, the winning bidder was the Lyman Orton Collection of the Art of Vermont, which means the painting will return back to its home state. That good news also means good news for History students at UH. The sale of the painting netted over \$85,000 that will be used to establish a scholarship endowment benefitting students for years to come. We hope to be able to award scholarships from this fund by the 2027-28 academic year. Many thanks to the generosity and foresight of the Rutherford family in making this gift to support our excellent students.





Letter from Undergraduate Director Philip Howard, PhD

The work of the Undergraduate Committee during the 2024-2025 academic year included student outreach programs and events, curriculum development, providing awards and scholarships to our students, and efforts to increase the number of majors and minors in history. For example, in September, we scheduled a greet and meet event, welcoming our students back to school. "Ask a Historian!" was part of Faculty Mentoring Week on November 19. In February and March of 2025, Drs. Xiaoping Cong and Steven Deyle hosted movie nights. Dr. Cong selected a Chinese film about the educational system of the country, while Dr. Deyle showed the Civil War classic, *Glory*. Both films and the discussions that followed the showings were well attended. In March of 2025, we also hosted an Open House for our students. This social gathering gave our students the opportunity to meet representatives from the university's Career Services, the MD Library, the Center for Public History, the department's Graduate Program, and the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards. The objective of the event was to show our majors and minors some of the employment and career options that their degrees could provide.

We concluded the academic year as we have always done during the last twenty years by recognizing and honoring our best majors and minors as well as graduate students. The History Department's Annual Students Award Ceremony and Banquet occurred in April 2025.



Dr. Philip Howard, L. with this year's recipients of the P.C. and Joséphine Del Barto Scholarship: Hannah Dollinger, Gracia Rivera Ferrera, Keaton McGee, and Irving Zúñiga (not pictured: Rory Harris)



We added “The Historian’s Craft” to our curriculum. This course introduces students to historical research, writing and thinking as well as the tools historians use and the range of work that they do. In February 2025, the Undergraduate Committee began to discuss how the faculty could use AI in their classes. Our objective is to create a “best practice” document that faculty can refer to as they decide to whether employ AI in their courses.

To continue our efforts to increase the number of history majors and minors, in March and April of 2025, the Chair of the department, and the Director of Undergraduate Studies as well as several members of the faculty visited with students who were attending the Central and Katy campuses of Houston Community College. We discussed with the academic strengths of the department and how our curriculum would prepare them for various professional careers.

This academic year, we will continue hosting a number of special events during the fall 2025 and the spring 2026 semesters. On 7 October the History department will welcome back our majors, minors, graduate students and faculty at a gathering that will include food, refreshments. In October and November, a couple of movie nights will be hosted by two members of the faculty. The next Open House will take place in the spring of 2026, while the Annual Students Awards Ceremony and Banquet have already been scheduled and will occur on Wednesday 29 April between 12:00 and 2:00. It will take place in the M.D. Anderson’s Rockwell Pavilion.

The Undergraduate Committee will continue to discuss the pedagogical role that AI could play in our classes. Our efforts to increase the number of majors and minors will continue by traveling to the central and branch campuses of San Jacinto Community College and Lone Star Community College to meet with potential transfer students who are working on an Associate degree in History.

We recognize the many successes of our undergraduate students and degree program this past year.

Thesis Research and Outstanding Senior Honors Thesis Awards

Our students regularly win research awards (see below) and complete senior thesis projects. This year, Joaquín Dávila completed a thesis mentored by Dr. José Angel Hernández, and Reece Simmons worked on a thesis with Dr. David McNally.

The University honored two of our majors with its highest recognition for senior theses. In 2024, Megan Dagnall won an Outstanding Senior Honors Thesis Award for “University of Houston: The Expansion and Erasure of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, 1961-2024,” directed by Dr. Debbie Harwell. Underscoring his commitment to mentorship throughout his career, Dr. José Angel Hernández was also the mentor and director of Alivia Mayfield’s thesis “Alexander the Great: A Historiography of Power.” We also recognize this achievement in memory of Dr. Hernández’s commitment to undergraduate research.



Undergraduate Awards and Achievements

The Department of History bestowed Undergraduate Awards in 2025 that were earned by:

Outstanding Achievement in History Certificate

Charis Wu

Distinguished Achievement in History Certificate

Joaquín Dávila

Distinguished in the History Minor Certificate

Hayley Alvizuris
Sam Lindenberg
Sarah Shea

Chair's Recognition Certificate

Laura Pham
Charis Wu

P.C. and Joséphine Del Barto Scholarship

Hannah Dollinger
Gracia Rivera Ferrera
Rory Harris
Keaton McGee
Irving Zúñiga

Murray Miller Undergraduate Scholarship

Artemis Ward

Harris County Historical Society Award for Excellence

Ryan Victoria Banda

Welcome Wilson Houston History Internship

Winne Wong

In the academic year 2024-2025, our students conducted several research projects with the support of the following faculty mentors:

2024 Houston Early Research Experience Program (HERE)

Yuna O'Brien with Dr. Kelly Hopkins

2024 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)

Tessa Lemkuil with Dr. Robert Zaretsky
Jorge Palomo with Dr. Debbie Harwell

2024-25 Research for Aspiring Coogs in the Humanities (REACH)

Brian Holcomb with Dr. Nancy Beck Young and Dr. Sandra Davidson
Charis Wu with Dr. Guadalupe San Miguel, Jr. and Dr. Melody Yunzi Li (of MCL)

2024 Provost's Undergraduate Research Scholarship (PURS)

Andrea Tribble with Dr. Ameenah Shakir (AAS)

2024 Mellon Research Scholars Program

Joaquín Dávila with Dr. José Angel Hernández
CJ Thomas with Dr. Tshepo Masango Chéry
Andrea Tribble with Dr. Ameenah Shakir (AAS)

2025 Mellon Research Scholars Program

Carlos Alvaríño with Dr. Adela Cedillo
Keaton McGee with Dr. Casey Dué Hackney (MCL)
Bryce Sheffield with Dr. Cathy Patterson
Marcoantonio Vega with Dr. Andrew Werner (Honors)
Artemis Ward with Dr. Richard Armstrong (MCL)

Outstanding Senior Honors Thesis Award Recipients 2024

Megan Dagnall with Dr. Debbie Harwell
Alivia Mayfield with Dr. José Angel Hernández

Reflections on Summer Research as a 2025 HLAB Fellow with Johns Hopkins University's Humanities Collaboratory by A'vion Robinson

This past summer, I participated in the 2025 cohort of Johns Hopkins University's Humanities Collaboratory as an HLAB Fellow in Baltimore, Maryland, where my peers and I conducted research on various topics that spanned across the discipline. The program offered an exciting new avenue to continue my studies as a history student with an interest in librarianship, archival research and cultural preservation.

During the program, I researched the prevalence and impact of environmental racism on Black Americans in the southern United States. Throughout this inquiry, I gained a wealth of knowledge on the political and cultural factors responsible for the hostile environmental conditions across heavily impacted regions in the south, such as Cancer Alley in Louisiana and even here in Houston, Texas. The research experience highlighted the intersection between academia and real-world crises, an invaluable understanding for my endeavor into a career combining public-facing service and academic excellence.



A'vion Robinson is a third-year student in History at UH and a 2025 HLAB Fellow at JHU

The summer concluded with presentations of "From Pollution Comes Perseverance: Black American Responses to Environmental Racism Through Robert D. Bullard's *Dumping in Dixie* (2001)" at both the 2025 Hopkins Summer Research Symposium and the Leadership Alliance National Symposium (LANS) summer conference, which was held virtually this year. I am so thankful for the opportunity to have participated in an internship experience that solidified the field of history as one perfectly aligned with my goals, interests and ideas.

Undergraduate Research and Professionalization at UH **by Nine Abad**

Guided by the History Department faculty, I have explored Filipino history and broadened my research interests. Through Dr. Norah Gharala's mentorship and the Honors Thesis Program, I am investigating the historical impact of Spanish colonization in the Philippines, local accounts of folkloric monsters, and colonial notions of gender. These experiences have helped me develop essential skills as a historian and discover my voice in my writing and within my community.

Dr. Gharala and the History Department have played a crucial role in my scholarly development. For instance, they gave me the opportunity to serve as a discussant during Dr. Kristie Flannery's lecture on Philippine piracy. Serving as a discussant enabled me to connect with experts in the field and engage with new scholarship. The department's support has encouraged me to extend my studies beyond my majors and to link topics such as gender, politics, and Filipino history.



Nine Abad (above) served as discussant for the event "Piracy and the Spanish Empire in the Pacific," a lecture by visiting scholar Dr. Kristie P. Flannery attended by students, faculty, and staff (pictured below).

Nine is applying to Ph.D. programs in History.





A Graduation Speech in Celebration of African American Studies by Andrea Tribble, Class of 2025 and History Minor

In the 1952 novel *Invisible Man*, Ralph Ellison writes:

“All my life I had been looking for something, and everywhere I turned someone tried to tell me what it was. I accepted their answers too, though they were often in contradiction and even self-contradictory. I was naive, I was looking for myself and asking everyone except myself questions which I, and only I, could answer.” Ellison’s words capture the uncertainty and confusion that often defines our early search for meaning. And yet, in that uncertainty lies an invitation—to turn inward, to ask the hard questions, and to trust that the answers are not handed to us but built through study and struggle.



Being a scholar of the African American Studies and History disciplines has offered me more than just textbook facts. It has given me tools to build answers for myself, and a lens through which I could begin to truly see the world that I hoped to define my place within; to see its beauty, to see its needs, and to see its possibilities.

When I think about my time in undergrad and the ways in which I began to craft my own definitions, my experience has been marked by scholarship, community, and direction. One of the moments that has contributed to this was getting the chance to develop original research and present at conferences like the Association for Black Women Historians and the National Council for Black Studies with my professors Dr. Shakir, Dr. Odewale, Dr. Langa and my amazing friend and AAS scholar Faith Carter. Sharing work focused on Black thought and life not only connected me to a wider intellectual tradition but also reminded me that our ideas don’t exist in isolation but that they grow when challenged, nurtured, and shared in community with others equally committed to using this discipline to uplift and advance the people and places we come from. This sense of community was present beyond only conferences, as the relationships I built with classmates, professors, and the broader Houston community grounded me and deepened my understanding that the classroom is never just a classroom, but a space of exchange, vulnerability, and collective building that extends beyond the physical walls of the university. Through organizing events, studying together, and showing up for one another, I came to see this work as a practice that thrives from care and collaboration.



The courses I've been fortunate enough to take through the AAS department have also given me direction. My sophomore year I had a class with Dr. Green in which we visited the UH Special Collections department and I fell in love with the archive, not just as a repository with old documents and photographs, but as a dynamic space of resistance and remembrance. After that visit I started an internship with the library and was eventually hired as an archival assistant. The early introduction to the archival world that I received through that course set the pace for my progress towards a career as an archivist, focused on the preservation, interpretation, and accessibility of the past, while also leaving behind narratives of our existence so future generations inherit a fuller, more truthful record of who we are and the things we lived through.

These experiences researching, building relationships, and refining my purpose have not only helped me find answers, but they've also helped me ask better questions. Questions about justice, memory, and responsibility. Questions about the kind of world I want to help shape.

My time in undergrad has taught me that we are accountable not just to ourselves, but to each other; to the histories that made us and the futures we are tasked with building. It has shown me that to know oneself is not a destination, but a discipline rooted in resistance and in love.

So, as we go forward into our careers, our communities, and our lives beyond these classrooms I hold on to the words of Frantz Fanon, who reminds us why this work matters: "For us, there is nothing optional about Black studies. We must know ourselves."

Andrea Tribble earned a B.A. in African American Studies with a Minor in History in 2025. Currently a Kaleidoscope Scholar through the Association of Research Libraries, Andrea is pursuing a Master's in Library and Information Studies (MLIS) at The University of Alabama with a concentration in Archival Studies. She delivered these remarks at the Celebration of Graduates and Awards Ceremony of the Department of African American Studies in May.



Joaquín Dávila Presents Original Research

Incoming graduate student Joaquín Dávila (B.A. '25) presented "Disease in the Making of the Border and the Mexican Race," about the 1916-17 typhus quarantine on the Texas-Mexico border, at the 2024 Save Texas History Symposium "Cartographic Frontiers: Putting Texas on the Map" at the University of Texas at Austin. His paper explored how the events of the early twentieth century influenced medical practices and led to the segregation of ethnic Mexicans while also putting Texas on the map for a febrile illness that was distinct to its geography. Dr. José Angel Hernández mentored Joaquín's research throughout his undergraduate studies.



Recent Alumni with Majors and Minors in History

- Angel Anchondo is a Social Studies Teacher at Alief Taylor High School, Houston
- Miles Bednorz is an Underwriter with Texas Mutual Insurance Company
- Abbey Burn is Team Lead at George P Johnson Experience Marketing Agency
- Xochiel Castelan is a teacher with Spring Branch ISD
- Niamh Clarke is a Phi Kappa Phi Fellow and Graduate Research Assistant in English at the University of Virginia and a Digital Research Specialist in the Digital Humanities Core Facility for Textual Recovery Projects
- Grace Conroy is a Junior Paralegal at Hicks Johnson
- Eberardo Cordova is a 7th-grade Texas History teacher at Park View Intermediate in Pasadena
- Megan Dagnall is an English Language Teacher with the city of Madrid, Spain
- Joaquín Dávila is a graduate student in the Department of History at UH
- Katherine Gallard is an Online Community Manager for Kaplan
- Ava Galluzzi is a J.D. Candidate with a Dean's Scholarship for tuition at Texas A&M Law School
- Alexandra Gurule is a probate paralegal at Milestone
- José Gutiérrez is a J.D. Candidate at the University of Houston Law Center and was a Law Clerk at Coane and Associates in summer 2025
- Emily Harris is Graduate Assistant for Public Art University of Houston System, working on programming for K-12 students and teachers, while completing the MA in Arts Leadership Program at UH
- Haadi Hasan is a Social Studies Teacher at the James Reese Career and Technical Center, Fort Bend ISD
- Christine Le has led translation and community programming projects at the South-East Asia Center in Chicago
- Jacob Loew is the AP Government Teacher at YES Prep Public Schools
- Chase Martin is Clinic Manager and Lead Technical Writer at Elite Medical Wellness
- Alivia Mayfield is a Research Assistant at The Honors College at UH
- Jenna Moffitt is a User Experience Designer with GovCIO
- Sarah Montero started as Operations Manager of Amalgamated Foundation, having previously worked as Manager of External Affairs Operations at Latinos for Education
- Ceros Mulgaonker, a published author, is a Development Assistant at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas at Austin
- Jack O'Connell is a PhD in student in Ancient History at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities
- Zoe Picciandra is an Archaeology Technician at Lassen National Forest in California and was a Cultural Resources Intern at Big Bend National Park, 2024-25
- Roberto Schoeneman is a teacher at Clear Creek ISD
- Morgan Thomas was a Fulbright Scholar and is an Adult ESL Educator at Harry S Truman College in Chicago
- Ian Thompson is a US Human Resources advisor at Shell and part of its Graduate Development Program
- Andrea Tribble is graduate student in Library and Information Studies at the University of Alabama with a concentration in Archival Studies
- Jaden Urdiales is Associate Account Manager at Nova 401(k) Associates
- Mavis Wilson is a Teacher of English Language Arts and Reading at the Ronald Thornton Middle School, Missouri City

On Strong Mentorship and Fellowship Cohorts at UH by José A. Gutiérrez (BA '23), J.D. Candidate

I am a member of the Lydia Mendoza Fellowship program. The program is through UH's Center for Mexican American and Latin American Studies. The fellowship provides funding to graduate students who have done or are currently doing academic work that elevates Hispanic voices.

The fellowship has provided a great sense of community. The cohort is comprised of a small, yet diverse set of students that specialize in physics, social work, and everything in between. I am the only cohort member pursuing a J.D. We meet up a few times each semester to attend personal development workshops.

Apart from the Lydia Mendoza Fellowship, I've been an active student at the University of Houston Law Center. I attend class four times a week, I serve as a mentor to a couple of first-year law students, and I will be working as a teaching assistant next semester for a couple of classes. Over the summer I worked at a law firm specializing in immigration, labor, and employment. I am currently enrolled in UHLC's immigration clinic, where I am representing two clients seeking asylum. It's meaningful work, and the program director, Dr. Anna Cabot, is a great mentor and advocate.

The Department of History at UH was instrumental in informing the way I think about the law. Because the law is both formed and interpreted in light of historical events, my undergraduate studies will always permeate how I understand case law and legal practice. Dr. James Schafer and Dr. Mark Goldberg were especially impactful in shaping my perspective.



Above, José Gutiérrez after a mock trial competition at UH Law Center

Below, the Fall 2025 cohort for the Immigration Clinic at the UHLC



While an undergraduate student at UH, José Gutiérrez majored in History and was a Mellon Research Scholar in 2023 and a researcher with CPH in 2022.

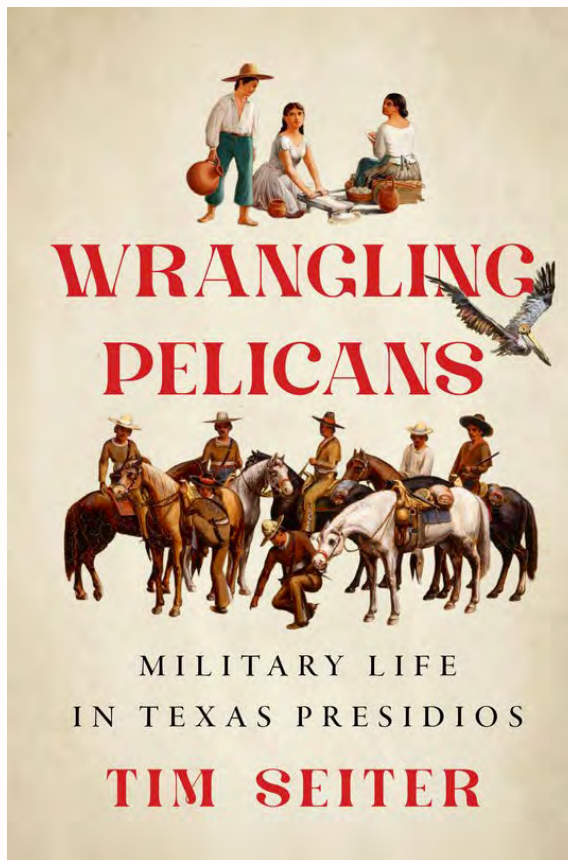


Dr. Tim Seiter (BA '19) Publishes First Monograph, *Wrangling Pelicans: Military Life in Texas Presidios* (University of Texas Press, 2025).

Dr. Tim Seiter, who graduated with a History BA degree in 2019, has published *Wrangling Pelicans: Military Life in Texas Presidios* (UT Press, 2025), based on his award-winning dissertation research completed at Southern Methodist University. After obtaining his PhD in 2024, Dr. Seiter started as Assistant Professor of History at the University of Texas at Tyler.

The author of numerous articles and chapters, Dr. Seiter has also designed museum exhibits, including [Karankawa: An Enduring Culture](#), which debuted at the Heritage Society at Sam Houston Park this past year. This research directly connects to projects Dr. Seiter completed while studying at UH. The recipient of an Outstanding Honors Thesis Award (2019) and a Del Barto Scholarship (2018), Dr. Seiter began research on Karankawa history through internal opportunities like the Mellon Research Scholars Program and the Provost's Undergraduate Research Scholarship. This past year Dr. Seiter joined the Inaugural Board of the Alliance for Texas History's Journal of Texas History.

According to UT Press, "*Wrangling Pelicans* brings to life the world of Presidio La Bahía's Hispano soldiers, whose duties ranged from heated warfare to high-stakes diplomacy, while their leisure pursuits included courtship, card playing, and cockfighting. It highlights the lives of presidio women and reveals the ways the Spanish legal system was used by and against the soldiers as they continually negotiated their roles within the empire and their community. Although they were agents of the Spanish crown, soldiers at times defied their king and even their captain as they found ways to assert their autonomy."





Danny Brooks (BA '18) Reflects on How History Minor Shaped his Career



I am an attorney with Ferguson Braswell Fraser Kubasta PC in Houston. I received my undergraduate with a history minor and law degree from the University of Houston. I have been practicing law since 2021. My history courses contributed greatly to my career. As a lawyer, much of what I do involves reading and analyzing a specific source of law (case law, statutes, etc.) then applying that law to the problems facing my clients and assisting in solutions to their unique problems.

This aspect of the law is incredibly familiar to me as a history student. All my history classes at UH involved analyzing a text, whether primary or secondary, and applying it to the questions being raised in the class or using the text to support historical arguments. I'm grateful for my history classes in aiding my development of these important skills.

Letter from Center for Public History Director Nancy Beck Young, PhD

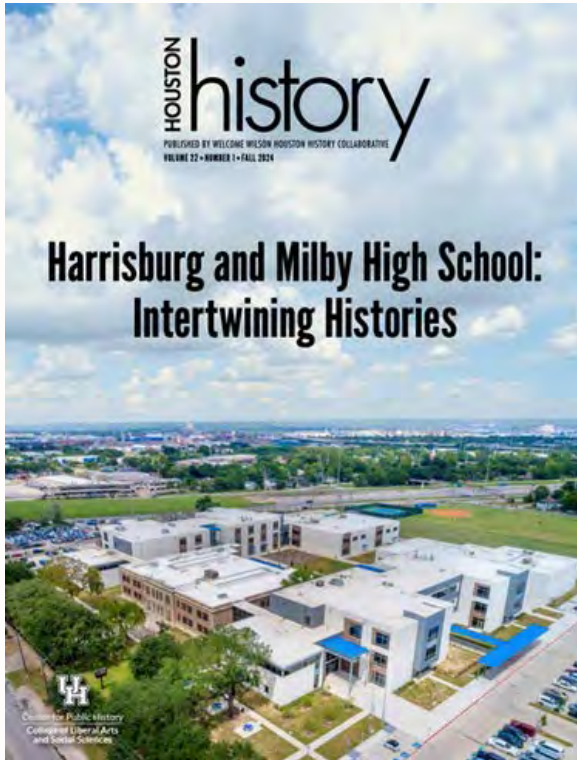
I begin this letter with a heavy heart. We learned recently that our dear former colleague Joe Pratt passed away. The encomiums for Joe told in full would exceed the space available for this letter. Suffice it to say that Joe excelled in everything he did—scholarship, teaching, and service—and deserved all the praise given to him. What matters most, though, in recalling Joe's legacy is his humanity and caring for the people around him. Joe was a kind soul who wanted to raise up the people around him. At CPH, we strive on a daily basis to live up to the example Joe set. Rest in peace esteemed colleague.

The 2024-25 academic year was a very busy one for CPH. The Houston History magazine published two issues and held two public launch events. In addition, the center sponsored eight additional events, and have seen our students reach new heights in their internships and careers.

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

CENTER for PUBLIC HISTORY

Houston History Magazine Issues



“Harrisburg and Milby High School: Intertwining Histories” (22.1, Fall 2024) tells the stories of the Houston neighborhood, Harrisburg, and the high school, Milby, that serves it. Harrisburg was a town all its own and was founded before Houston, but ultimately was subsumed into Houston. Other articles present the biography of Charles Milby and stories of the school that bears his name. All articles were written by students in Dr. Debbie Harwell’s classes and edited by Houston History magazine interns.



“The Spirit of Houston: 1977 National Women’s Conference” (22.2, Spring 2025) explores the political event Gloria Steinem commented was “the most important event that nobody knows about.” The National Women’s Conference was held in Houston in November 1977 to determine what policies American women wanted from the federal government. Funded by the Summerlee Foundation, this issue of the magazine features articles written by graduate students in Dr. Nancy Beck Young’s social policy seminar along with biographies and oral histories conducted by project interns. Dr. Caitlyn Jones, a historian of the memory of the NWC, was guest editor of this magazine.



Houston History Magazine Launch Events

The “Reflecting on Our History” Houston History 21.2 launch event was held September 12, 2024, and featured a panel discussion with Minnette Boesel, Ann Becker, Tanya Debose, David Bucek, and Mikaela Selley. Boesel, the immediate past president of The Heritage Society, oversaw the process by which 3 of the 10 historical houses at Sam Houston Park gained recognition from UNESCO, and Kellum-Noble House, the oldest house on its original foundation, received a Preservation Houston Good Brick Award. Becker is president of the Harris County Historical Society and member of the Harris County Historical Commission. She championed the creation of an annual endowed award at the University of Houston, aimed at supporting students pursuing careers in public history. Debose, the executive director of the Independence Heights Redevelopment Council, is an activist, organizer, and advocate for preserving African American history and culture. Most known for her work to preserve Independence Heights, Debose founded the Preserving Communities of Color Initiative to preserve these communities by transforming them into inclusive communities and cultural destinations. Bucek is a commissioner of the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission and cofounder of Stern and Bucek Architects. His expertise includes the design and construction of award-winning and sustainable architecture, the restoration of historic buildings, and preservation of modern landmarks. He has received awards from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Texas Society of Architects, Preservation Texas, and (American Institute of Architects) AIA Houston.



Selley is an archivist and program manager for Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage project at Arte Público Press (Recovery), where she oversees the Periodicals in the US-Mexico Border Region, and archival collections. She also works as an independent history consultant, and her recent projects include a 23-foot-long historical timeline of the Fraga Family on display at Ripley House. Last fall she curated a phenomenal exhibition titled “A Civil Rights Milestone: President Kennedy Visits LULAC in Houston” at The Heritage Society. Mikaela is also the former Hispanic archivist for the Houston Public Library. Over 100 people enjoyed the panel discussion.

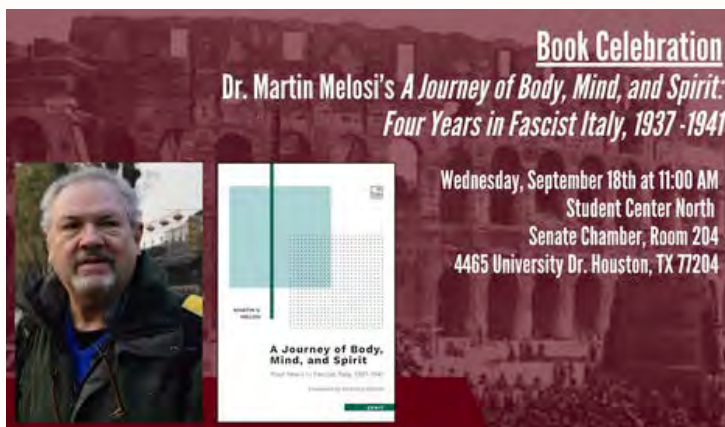


The “Harrisburg and Milby High School: Intertwining Histories” Houston History 22.2 launch event was held February 25, 2024. Panel participants included Les Fullerton, class of 1959, former starting quarterback of the football team, retired dentist and dental instructor, and scholarship donor; Jim Duffer, class of 1980, former student and assistant coach under Coach Boyce Honea, coached Milby to undefeated season and state basketball championship in 2004, and coined term Buffs for Life; Retired 1SGT Dr. Don Williams, class of 1984, a walking encyclopedia of Harrisburg and Texas history, African American Studies teacher and former JROTC instructor; and Ruth Peña, class of 1993, alumna and former member of the COED Cadettes, and principal since 2016, the first alumna to serve in that role. Almost 100 people attended the event and enjoyed food prepared by the Milby High School Culinary Program. The chef is Carlos Ramos and he teaches this academic program.

CPH Lecture Series

In 2024-25, CPH hosted eight events and talks in addition to the two magazine launch events.

In September 2024, we hosted an open house for public facing humanities projects in CLASS and McGovern College of the Arts. Sessions featured projects focused on race and gender, projects in digital humanities and archiving, projects about museum curation, oral history projects, and internships. Twenty faculty from ten different departments participated, and over 50 students attended.



On September 18, 2024, CPH hosted former director Marty Melosi for a talk about his book, *A Journey of Body, Mind, and Spirit: Four Years in Fascist Italy, 1937-1941*, which recounts his father's experiences as a seminarian in Italy during these crucial years before and during the start of World War II. An audience of 30 faculty and students attended this presentation.



CPH turned forty years old in 2024, and on October 10, 2024, we held a big party to celebrate. A half day symposium featured two panel discussions and a keynote address. One panel brought together former students—Mikaela Selley, Jovan Slaughter, Debbie Griggs Carter, Dr. Sandra Enriquez, and Dr. Caitlyn Jones—in conversation with Dr. Todd Romero. The panel explained how CPH alumni are using their training in their careers and how public history defines their working worlds. Another panel featured former directors and leaders of CPH—Drs. Marty Melosi, Kathy Brosnan, Monica Perales, Debbie Harwell, and Mark Goldberg—in dialog with Dr. Nancy Beck Young. Topics of conversation included the center’s founding, evolution, and future. Finally, Dr. Denise Meringolo, the President of the National Council on Public History and Professor of History at University of Maryland-Baltimore County, delivered a keynote address on the state of the public history field and the place of CPH within that larger legacy. The audience for these three panels numbered well over 100 people.

In collaboration with the *Sharing Stories from 1977* project, which details the history of the National Women’s Conference, CPH in November 2024 invited American University professor Mary Ellen Curtin to deliver a talk on her recent biography about Barbara Jordan. In the book, Curtin argues that Jordan was a powerful change agent who remade the world by combining the skills of an activist with the skills of a politician. Approximately 60 students and faculty turned out for this important talk.





UH Center for Public History Presents

Film Screening Event

With Guest Speaker:
Christy Carpenter,
Film Co-Director/ Co-Producer

5:00 PM Reception
6:00 PM Film Screening
Register @ Eventbrite
LizCarpenter.eventbrite.com

SHAKING IT UP
The Life & Times of Liz Carpenter

Tuesday March 4, 2025
6:00PM
University of Houston, Student Center South Theater

A Sharing Stories from 1977 event
sharingstories1977.uh.edu

QR code and UH Center for Public History logo at the bottom.

For Women's History Month, CPH and Sharing Stories from 1977 collaborated again in March 2025 to host filmmaker Christy Carpenter to discuss her documentary film, *Shaking It Up: The Life & Times of Liz Carpenter*. Carpenter made this documentary about her mother, who worked for both Lady Bird and Lyndon Johnson. Center Director Dr. Nancy Beck Young moderated the conversation with Carpenter after the screening of the film. An audience of over 75 enjoyed this presentation.



Wednesday, March 26
2:30PM Screening
(For Students)

5:00PM VIP Reception
6:15PM Film Screening + Talk Back
UH Student Center South
Register @
<https://tinyurl.com/2u5ss3vw>

LILLY

Join UH Center for Public History and the Sharing Stories from 1977 project for an exclusive film screening of *Lilly* starring Patricia Clarkson, dramatizing the story of Lilly Ledbetter and the fight for the 2009 Fair Pay Act.

Featuring a special talk back panel after the screening with Stephanie Tsuru (co-founder of SheSpace), Kelly (Kleinkort) Montes (Executive Director, Catalyst), Dr. Chinhui Juhn (Henry Graham Professor of Economics, University of Houston) and Dr. Nancy Beck Young (John and Rebecca Moores Professor of History, University of Houston)

Stephanie Tsuru Dr. Chinhui Juhn Kelly (Kleinkort) Montes Dr. Nancy Beck Young

Also for Women's History Month, CPH and Sharing Stories from 1977 hosted two screenings of the feature film, *Lilly*, which tells the story of labor rights activist Lilly Ledbetter. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 made it easier for workers to seek redress for unfair compensation policies. The evening screening included a talk back panel moderated by Stephanie Tsuru and featuring Dr. Chinhui Juhn, Kelly (Kleinkort) Montes, and Dr. Nancy Beck Young.

The panel discussed the history and policy challenges to ensuring equal pay for equal work. The film screenings, one in the afternoon and another in the evening, drew a total of over 225 people.

An American History

The UH Center for Public History Presents



Texas

Texas: An American History
Book Talk with Dr. Ben Johnson

April 8th, 6PM
Agnes Arnold 106
3553 Cullen Boulevard,
Houston, TX 77204
Register @
CPH-Texas-American.eventbrite.com



Benjamin Heber Johnson

CPH invited Dr. Benjamin Heber Johnson to discuss his new book, *Texas: An American History*, in early April. In this book, Dr. Johnson shows the myriad ways Texas has shaped the history of the United States, from TexMex and grocery shopping to watching football and grilling steaks. The talk was well received by the hundred or so students who attended.

April 17th at 5 PM
ARC 150 (Gerald D. Hines College
of Architecture and Design)
4200 Elgin St., Houston, TX 77204
Register @
<https://UHToshkua.eventbrite.com>





The UH Center for Public History Presents

A Film Screening and Discussion,
with Director, Ludovic Bonleux
and Professor Adela Cedillo



Toshkua director, Ludovic Bonleux is an independent producer and director of a number of films about violence and politics in Mexico. His 2017 film *Guerrero* won the Diosa de Plata award for best documentary from the PECIME.



Dr. Adela Cedillo is a professor of modern Mexican History at the University of Houston. She is also the author of *El Fuego y El Silencio, Historia de las Fuerzas de Liberación Nacional Mexicanas (1969-1974)*.

Our final lecture series event of the year was another film screening of *Toshkua*, a documentary film about the mothers whose immigrant children disappeared while attempting migration to the United States. The film and discussion, which featured commentary by the film's director, Ludovic Bonleux, and Dr. Adela Cedillo, was well received by the audience of over 140 students and faculty.



Sharing Stories from 1977

The *Sharing Stories from 1977* digital humanities project, in collaboration with CPH, hosted three additional events during the past academic year: two workshops for educators around the country interested in teaching the project to their students and a student showcase featuring students from around the country who have worked on the project by writing biographies and conducting oral histories.

CPH Projects

The Center is proud to host eight active projects:

- Houston History magazine
- Public Historians at Work, Podcast
- Sharing Stories from 1977
- SYRIOS: Studying Urban Relationships and Identity Over Ancient Syria
- Algorithms and Power Systems Architecture - Alfred P. Sloan grant project
- Environmental Justice Activism and the Arts in Houston, 1970s – present
- La Louisiane en Tejas: Gulf Coast Foodways in Southeast Texas
- Mapping Houston's Old Chinatown

CPH Student News

In October 2024, the Harris County Historical Society Award for Excellence in Public History was presented to Ryan Banda, pictured right, who developed an exhibit about Marvin's Angels, a non-profit started by Marvin Zindler for people with pressing needs. This is UH's first endowed scholarship for public history work.



In Spring 2025, CPH awarded the Pratt Prize for the best work on Houston history to Miranda Ruzinsky for her magazine article about the legacy of the National Women's Conference told through the story of Sylvia Ortiz, a torch relay runner.

The Valdes Prize for the best work on oral history went to Rahil Asgari for her paper using oral history and public history theory to understand trauma in Iran following the revolution.



Please join me in congratulating CPH faculty and students for their many accomplishments.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Beck Young
Moore Professor of History
Director, Center for Public History



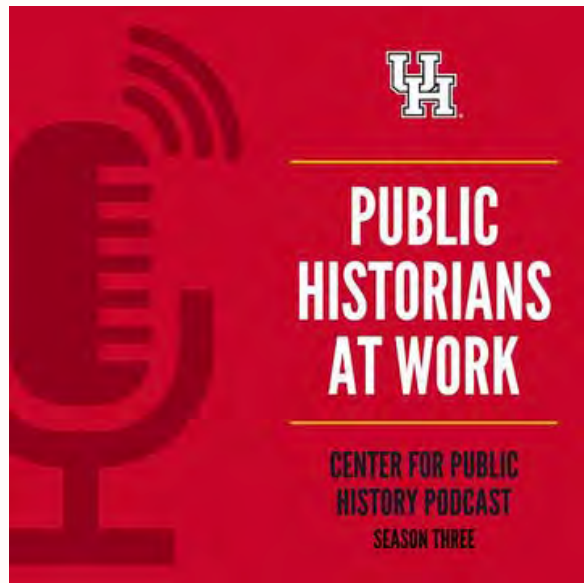
Student Interns Produce Digital Short



Students who participated in the 2024 [Summer Internship in Public History and Digital Humanities \(SIPHDH\)](#) discussed in the previous issue of the Newsletter produced a digital short in 2025. Alexandria Crosby, Maryam Eldershaby, and Maxine Cabiquez made [“From Ancient Coins to Digital Data,”](#) which contributes to Dr. Kristina Neumann’s digital humanities project [SYRIOS](#).

“Public Historians at Work” by Kristina Neumann, PhD

Austin Lee (MA ‘25) and James Burke (PhD Student) made [“Stories from the Third Ward: War and the Third Ward”](#) for the *Public Historians at Work* podcast from the Center for Public History. All over the United States, communities and individuals banded together to support the country during the Second World War. Houston’s Third Ward was no different in this respect. In this special episode, UH graduate students Austin Lee and James Burke weave together accounts originally documented in the African American newspaper, the *Houston Informer*. From the men and women in the Armed Forces to the Merchant Marine sailing supply ships and the volunteers on the home front, Third Ward residents supported their country even amid segregation and racism. After the war, many of these same volunteers returned to their community and gave back in the form of long careers serving their neighbors. This episode was written and recorded by Austin Lee and James Burke for the Center for Public History at the University of Houston.



In their special episode, [“Stories from the Third Ward: A Pastor, a Teacher, and an Ex-Pharmacist Walk into a Funeral Home”](#) Miranda Ruzinsky and Katie Truax – UH graduate students in public history – highlight the tradition of community support in Third Ward demonstrated through the institutions and public spaces associated with the funeral process. The role of Black-owned businesses, churches and religious leaders, and public remembrance like murals are central to the neighborhood’s resilience in times of death and grief.



Letter from Hanan Hammad, PhD, Director of the Arab-American Educational Foundation Center for Arab Studies

The Arab-American Education Foundation Center for Arab Studies is the hub that brings together cutting-edge scholarship, rich culture, and vibrant local and global communities. It maintains lively community-based learning, community and public engagements and superb academic traditions and praxis of the Arabs and the West. Its programs are packed with prestigious guest lectures, live musical performances, film screenings, online webinars, and summer writing boot camp for our graduate students and faculty. We are proud of the prolific output of our faculty and students, including books, dissertations, articles, book chapters, invited lectures, published poems and poetry readings, and more. Our cutting-edge scholarship brought CAS scholars and educators into contact and collaboration with a variety of pedagogical institutions: The Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the University of Bologna, American University of Beirut, Harvard University's Institute for World Literature, UC Berkeley's newly launched Palestinian and Arab Studies Program, and much more. We thank the vibrant Arab community in Houston for their engagement and support!



Above, Maha Abdelwahab at the MFAH for its Writers Remix Series | Art of Islamic Worlds



Above, Muhammad Nurul Islam at the Institute for World Literature's Summer 2025 Workshop

Below, graduate students at a summer writing boot camp with CAS Chair Dr. Hanan Hammad



Below, soprano Liliane Kheirbek performs at the 2025 Paul Kardoush Endowed Lecture



“Health is Politics” by Muthuvel Deivendran PhD Student

The Project on ‘Health is Politics’ in the past academic year has had an active role in engaging the students, graduate scholars, and faculty in the department on the topics of the history of science and medicine, and their intellectual, social, and political characteristics in contemporary times.



Dr. Pratik Chakrabarti (left), Director, at The Politics of Women’s Health conference

In October 2024, we invited and hosted researchers and scholars from the Social Sciences Department of the French Institute of Pondicherry (also known as IFP – Institut français de Pondichéry). IFP is a public institution in India under the joint supervision of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Center for Scientific Research (UMIFRE 21 CNRS-MEAE). It is where the Project on ‘Health is Politics’ had the inaugural workshop in July 2023 by Dr. Pratik Chakrabarti. As part of the further directions and intellectual discussions, scholars Dr. Senthil Babu Dhandapani, Mr. Ganesh Gopal, and Mr. Shibi Nandan visited and intellectually engaged with the graduate students and faculty at the UH History department. On October 24, Dr. Senthil Babu Dhandapani gave a Guest Lecture on ‘Mathematics as Work: Recording Practices from Tamil History’ as part of the Tamil Chair Endowment under the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

In Spring 2025, the Project on ‘Health is Politics’ hosted The Politics of Women’s Health, a panel lecture showcasing the scholarly contribution centering on the gendered nature of the politics of health. The event took place on April 22 with three talks given by following scholars: Dr. Matty Hemming, Rice University, on ‘Beyond Empathy: Literature and the History of Healthcare,’ Dr. Pratik Chakrabarti, University of Houston on ‘Hormones and Women’s Health’ and Dr. Beth Merfish, University of Houston on ‘The Crisis of Reproductive Healthcare and Women’s Well-being in Houston.’ The Panel was moderated by Dr. Sue Ferguson and Chaired by fellow grad student Ms. Katie Truax.

Part of my experiences in being part of the project on ‘Health is Politics’ has consistently provided newer insights in the field, which I consider one of the most important and relevant subdisciplines in History. While the field has been growing with new academic trends in decolonization and looking through healthcare policies from the grassroots, often through radical approaches, I am glad to be part of these events that showcase some of the larger trends in the field. On the fun managerial side of things, my involvement also pushed me forward with new situations and challenges in organizing events and navigating the administrative maze at the University.

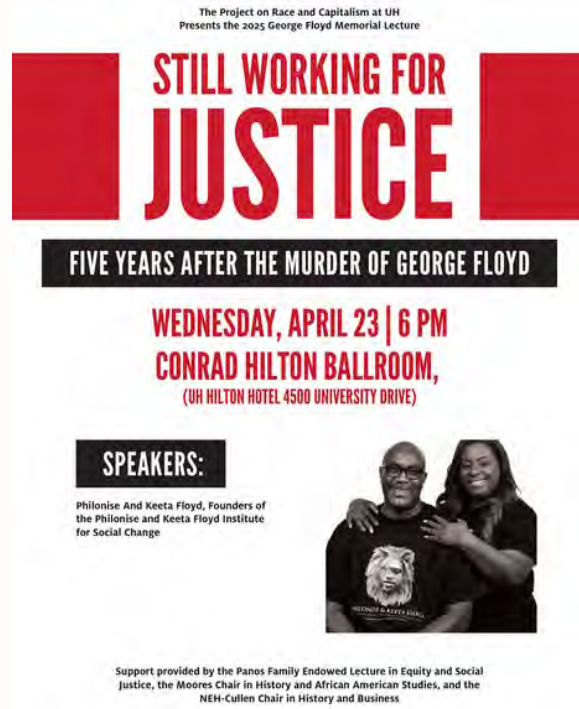
Muthuvel Deivendran (PhD Student advised by Dr. Pratik Chakrabarti) who studies environmental history, labor history, and British colonialism. Dr. Chakrabarti directs the Project on “Health is Politics” and is National Endowment for the Humanities-Cullen Chair in History & Medicine.

The Project on Race and Capitalism Supports Events in Honor of George Floyd and Floyd Family

The tradition of the George Floyd Memorial Lecture, presented by Project on Race and Capitalism under the direction of Dr. David McNally, continued in the spring of 2025. Philonise and Keeta Floyd, Founders of the Philonise and Keeta Floyd Institute for Social Change, spoke at the event, “Still Working for Justice: Five Years after the Murder of George Floyd,” which was also sponsored by the Panos Family Endowed Lecture in Equity and Social Justice and the Moores Chair in History and African American Studies. The event took place in the Conrad Hilton Ballroom on the UH campus.



Above, attendees at “A Juneteenth Conversation with the Family of George Floyd.” Below, Dr. David McNally (L) with George Floyd’s brother Philonise and his wife Keeta and Sam Collins (R), founder of the Juneteenth Legacy Project.



In addition to the annual George Floyd Memorial Lecture, The Project on Race and Capitalism held an event in Galveston, “A Juneteenth Conversation with the Family of George Floyd,” co-sponsored by the Rosenberg Library (Galveston). Held on Saturday, June 21, the event was a highlight of Galveston’s 2025 Juneteenth celebrations.





Latin American Studies Program Co-Sponsors Global Events

The Latin American Studies Program offers students the opportunity to learn and become familiar with the history, economy, societies, and cultures of the people of Latin America as well as the people who live in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean. The 15-hours interdisciplinary Minor program relies on the scholarly expertise of professors in Art History, Comparative Cultural Studies, English, Hispanic Studies, History, Political Science, Sociology and Spanish.

To convey the significance and excitement of Latin America's dynamic histories and cultures, LAST helps to support and sponsor lectures, conferences, films, and cultural events. LAST co-sponsored multiple events, including two guest lectures on Latin American history organized by Dr. N. L. A. Gharala. Dr. Kristie Flannery, of Australian Catholic University (pictured below), delivered, "Piracy and the Spanish Empire in the Pacific." Nine Abad (see page 41) served as the discussant.

Later in October, Dr. Edward Polanco (pictured below), now Associate Professor of History and Director of the Indigenous Studies program at Virginia Tech, spoke about his book, *Healing Like Our Ancestors: The Nahuatl Tzitzitl, Gender, and Settler Colonialism in Central Mexico, 1535–1660*. Community members from across Houston attended this event, opened by Dean Dan O'Connor and a ceremony by Lorissa Saiz, a native Mexica PhD Candidate in the Department of Biology and Biochemistry.



*L, Dr. Kristie Flannery visits UH from Australia to speak about the Spanish Philippines
R, Lorissa Saiz, PhD Candidate in Biology, welcomes visiting speaker Dr. Edward Polanco*



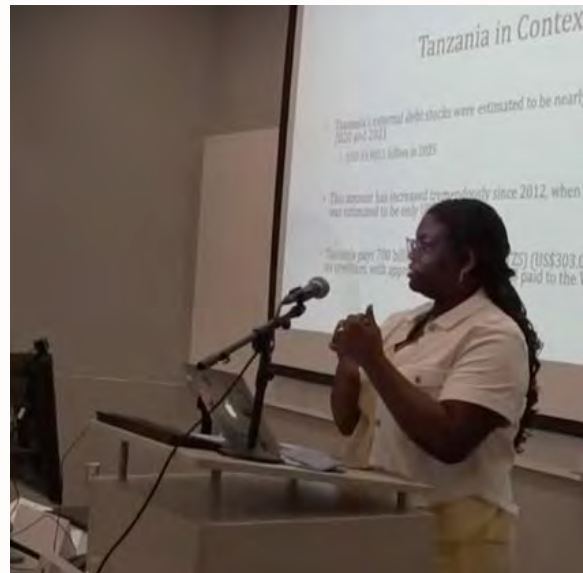


Africa/African Diaspora Conference, June 2025 by Kairn Klieman, PhD

Over the summer Dr. Kairn Klieman helped to organize a community-focused conference with the Congolese non-profit organization Leja Bulela. After planning for eighteen months alongside Mr. Tshiunza Kalubi (Deputy Executive Director) and Mr. Augustin Kabongo (Executive Director), the conference took place on June 20-21 on the UH campus. It was titled “Roots and Routes: A Celebration of The Congo, the African Diaspora, and Its Impact on Service at Home and Abroad” and sponsored by the UH Department of African American Studies, the UH Department of History, and the Houston-based professional organization The African Think Tank. Two days of panels and events took place, including a student-organized panel on the topic of “Africans on College Campuses: The Current State of Affairs,” a community screening of the film *Why We Walk* (2024) and discussion with cast member Vanny Mwamba, and powerful Saturday panel titled “Birthing a Brighter Future: Black Women Leading the Way in Maternal Health.” The latter included Dr. Neema Langa, Assistant Professor of Sociology and African American Studies, Dr. Ndaya Muleba MD/OB-GYN (Memorial Herman Hospital), and Dr. Muswamba Mwamba, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology and Health Science (Stephen F. Austin State University). A lunchtime keynote address was presented by Dr. Kazadi wa Mukuna (Professor Emeritus of Ethnomusicology, Kent State University) who spoke on the history and politics of popular music during the Mobutu era (1965-1997). The conference was a great success, with a variety of diaspora Africans in attendance from Nigeria, Congo DRC, Senegal, and Tanzania.

Overall, the conference was a great success, with a variety of diaspora Africans in attendance from Nigeria, Congo DRC, Senegal, and Tanzania. Numerous discussions about the past, present, and future of non-profit efforts in Africa and the U.S. took place. A very special thanks go to Dr. Tara Green, Chair and Founding Director of the Department of African American Studies, who kindly provided welcoming remarks, as well as Jacob King (MA in Public History '25) who helped coordinate the happenings over two days.

Dr. Neema Langa Associate Professor of Sociology and African American Studies, speaks on maternal healthcare in Tanzania under Structural Adjustment Programs (1991-2016).





In April, Dr. Beatrice Falcucci was awarded funding for “Looking at Italian Africa Nature, Animals, and Safari,” for 2026-28, by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions program of the European Commission

I am a historian passionate about uncovering the complex legacies of colonialism in Italian culture, and I have dedicated my research to exploring how colonial experiences shaped Italian national identity, particularly through the lens of museology and cultural representation.

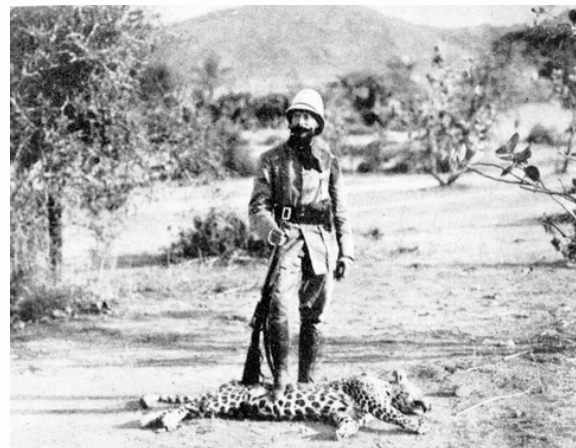
My current research examines how Italy perceived and represented African nature during and after the colonial period, focusing specifically on big game hunting imagery in the Fascist era. Through an interdisciplinary approach, I analyze literature, cinema, and museum exhibitions to trace how exotic wildlife became symbols of imperial conquest and leisure, while investigating the intersection of race, gender, and colonial power in hunting narratives.

Right, a still from the first big-game hunting documentary shot in the Italian colonies: Caccia al leopardo (Leopard Hunt) by Roberto Omegna in 1908.

“Looking at Italian Africa Nature, Animals, and Safari” by Beatrice Falcucci, PhD

I chose the University of Houston’s Department of History as a partner for my project specifically for the exceptional expertise of its researchers and professors in studies of colonialism, imperialism, and racism. The opportunity to work with Dr. Pratik Chakrabarti as my supervisor during the initial phase in the US was particularly compelling, given his extensive experience with competitive grants and his profound knowledge on the relationship between nature and colonialism.

This collaboration will significantly enhance my Marie Curie Global Fellowship project LIANAS, which explores safari culture’s colonial origins and enduring post-imperial legacy across multiple visual media and cultural products. This prestigious Global Fellowship involves a unique partnership between the University of Houston, the University of Florence, and Addis Ababa University, which creates unprecedented opportunities for transnational research collaboration in colonial studies.



Historians in the News



Dr. Kelly Hopkins with filmmaker Ken Burns

Dr. Kelly Y. Hopkins Featured in Discussion of *The American Revolution*

A panel discussion featured Dr. Kelly Hopkins at a special screening of *The American Revolution*, a documentary film by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein, and David Schmidt, in June, 2025. The event at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts drew on Dr. Hopkin's expertise in early American history. *The American Revolution* will air as a 12-hour documentary series on PBS in November, honoring the 250th anniversary of the war that led to the independence of the United States of America.

Riley E. Kramer Published Opinion in *Houston Chronicle*

Riley E. Kramer, a PhD student in U.S. History, published an op-ed, "[Camp Logan soldiers got justice one year ago. Houston shouldn't forget](#)," in the *Houston Chronicle*. One year after these wrongfully executed men finally received proper headstones that indicate their honorable service, Riley Kramer encourages historians to examine this hundred-year journey for justice. In 2025, he earned the Department's Stanley Siegel Prize for Scholarship in Texas History.



Riley Kramer (M.A. '25) is a PhD student and an Active Duty Army Logistics Officer

Experts Quoted in Newspapers

Dr. Sarah Fishman was quoted in *The Guardian* for the article, "[Capitulating to Trump: why people are warning about 'Vichy' America](#)" from this past January.

Dr. Pratik Chakrabarti was interviewed for "[Rocks and racism? How geologists created and perpetuated a narrative of prejudice](#)" published in March online in *The Guardian*.



From Railroad map of Texas (1884) held in the Special Collections of the University of Houston Libraries

Opinion by Dr. Raúl Ramos on Gulf of Mexico/Gulf of America

Dr. Raúl Ramos published his opinion, “Why did Trump rename the Gulf of Mexico? Shame is the point” in the *Houston Chronicle*. The piece reflected on the lack of official explanation regarding the change of a centuries-old name and the power of terminology and naming in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. The paper’s print edition on Sunday, February 23, ran Dr. Ramos’s opinion and Riley E. Kramer’s opinion (as “Salute service, stories of Camp Logan soldiers”) on a continuous page.



Dr. N. L. A. Gharala Interviewed for Moroccan News Site *Hespress*

“Estevanico: Tracing the Footsteps of a Remarkable African Explorer,” focused on recent scholarship and a documentary about the sixteenth-century historical figure. Dr. Gharala moderated the roundtable, sponsored by the Arab American Cultural and Community Center and the AAEF Center for Arab Studies, and spoke with reporters from [Hespress for a news segment](#) about the project following the event.

Media Cite Our Impact on the Houston Community

“[Harrisburg and Milby High School: Intertwining Histories](#),” published in the *Houston Chronicle* in March, covered a Center for Public History event and an [issue of *Houston History*](#) edited by Dr. Debbie Z. Harwell.

The Summer Internship in Public History and Digital Humanities, led by Director Dr. Kristina Neumann, [was cited as a University-wide achievement](#) by Houston Public Media in “University of Houston research grants halted because of federal spending cuts.”

In October 2024, the *Houston Chronicle* named Dr. Todd Romero as part of its expert panel in “[Meet the team behind the Houston Chronicle's Top 100 Restaurants](#)”

Alumni News



Dr. Sonia Hernández Elected President of Alliance for Texas History

Dr. Sonia Hernández (PhD '06) was elected President of the Alliance for Texas History. Dr. Hernández is the winner of several grants and prizes, recently from the National Endowment for the Humanities. She currently holds the George T. & Gladys H. Abell Professor of Liberal Arts II at Texas A&M University.

Dr. Hernández won the Bolton-Cutter Award from the Western History Association for best journal article in *Borderlands History* for her 2024 article, "Gendering Transnational Histories of State Violence: Intertwined Histories of Intrigue and Injustice along the U.S.-Mexican Borderlands, 1900-1913," in *Journal of American History*.

The digital humanities project co-founded by Dr. Hernández, *Refusing to Forget*, was recognized this year with an Honorable Mention from the National Council on Public History for its Outstanding Public History Project Award.



Dr. Jesús Jesse Esparza Awarded Book Prizes for First Monograph

Dr. Jesús Jesse Esparza (PhD '08) is Associate Professor of History at Texas Southern University and winner of three book prizes for his first monograph.

The Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education Book Award for 2024 went to *Raza Schools: The Fight for Latino Educational Autonomy in a West Texas Borderlands Town* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2023), based on Dr. Esparza's dissertation defended in the Department of History under the direction of Dr. Guadalupe San Miguel. *Raza Schools* won the 2024 Tejas Foco Non-Fiction Book Award from the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies and the 2025 Book of the Year Award in the Mid-Career Category from the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education.

Dr. Esparza is also the co-editor of *The Truth in Our Stories: Immigrant Voices in Radical Times* (2022).



New PhD Graduates Offered Tenure-Track Jobs

Dr. Allison Sáenz Begins Tenure-Track Position in Utah

Hello Houston! Greetings from Salt Lake City. I am now a few months into a tenure-track position at the University of Utah where I am settling into both the city and campus. I am currently teaching an online “Intro to Chicanx and Latine Studies” course while also editing my dissertation. My aim is to have sample chapters ready in anticipation of sending a book proposal to a press within the next year. Conversations with presses seem promising! Later this fall, I’ll be in Los Angeles presenting my work at the Urban History Association with a paper titled, “‘Another Urban Slum’: Policy and Protest in Central American Houston.” I’ll also be extending my time in town to check out relevant archival repositories across the Los Angeles area in order to better grasp what it has meant, and means, to be a U.S. Central American in other major urban areas like LA.

Con mucho cariño,
Allison (PhD '24)



Dr. Shine Trabucco Starts Tenure-Track Job in Chicago

Dr. Shine Trabucco (PhD 2025) was offered a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at Loyola University Chicago in Latinx/Indigenous History and Historic Preservation. She defended her dissertation, advised by Dr. Raúl Ramos, in the spring of 2025. A public and digital historian, this past summer, Dr. Trabucco offered a Hands-On Adobe Workshop for all ages at Log Cabin Village in Fort Worth. She previously has worked with the Digital Humanities Core Facility and was the Department’s inaugural Nau Fellow in Texas History.





Dr. Sandra I. Enríquez Creates Kansas City Monuments Coalition

Dr. Sandra I. Enríquez (PhD 2016), Associate Professor of History and Director of Public History Emphasis at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, received a grant from the Mellon Foundation's Monuments Project to create the Kansas City Monuments Coalition (KCMC). KCMC is a collaborative community-driven effort seeking to preserve, commemorate, and amplify overlooked stories of the Kansas City region. Funding from the Mellon Foundation Monuments Project will support the efforts of 16 organizations across the Kansas City metropolitan area. Dr. Enríquez also published a chapter entitled "Adobe Homes for the Sun City's Mexican Barrio: Community Housing Alternatives and Creative Self-Determination in El Paso, Texas" in *Metropolitan Latinidad: Transforming American Urban History* edited by A. K. Sandoval-Strausz (University of Chicago Press, 2025).

Dr. Gianncarlo Muschi Contributes to Research Group at Rutgers University

Dr. Gianncarlo Muschi (PhD 2021), Independent Scholar, has published "Peruvians in Paterson, New Jersey, 1920–1950" in *Latinas/os in New Jersey Histories, Communities, and Cultures*, edited by Aldo A. Lauria Santiago and Ulla D. Berg (Rutgers University Press, 2025). This volume is part of the [Rutgers Latino Studies Research Initiative](#). Dr. Muschi also signed a contract with Rutgers for his upcoming book about Peruvian immigration to New Jersey.

Andrew R. Gustafson Curates Award-Winning Exhibit

Andrew R. Gustafson (MA, 2012) is in his ninth year as curator of interpretation at the Johnson County Museum in Overland Park, KS (pictured below), researching, writing, and project managing exhibitions. Last year, Gustafson completed the transition of the REDLINED: Cities, Suburbs, and Segregation special exhibit to an online platform at JCPRD.com/Redlined. The physical exhibit in 2022 won seven national, regional, and local awards, including the American Alliance of Museums "Recognition of Advancement of DEAI in Museums," the National Association for County Park and Recreation Officials "Social Justice Award," and the Mountain-Plains Museums Association "2024 Leadership & innovation Award, Mid-sized Museum."

Gustafson served as co-chair of the local arrangements committee for the Western History Association's October 2024 annual meeting in Kansas City; completed two terms as president of the Heritage League of Greater Kansas City in November 2024; and was named to the board of directors for the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education in June 2025.





Daniel Mendiola publishes *The Mosquito Confederation: A Borderlands History of Colonial Central America* (University of Georgia Press, 2025).

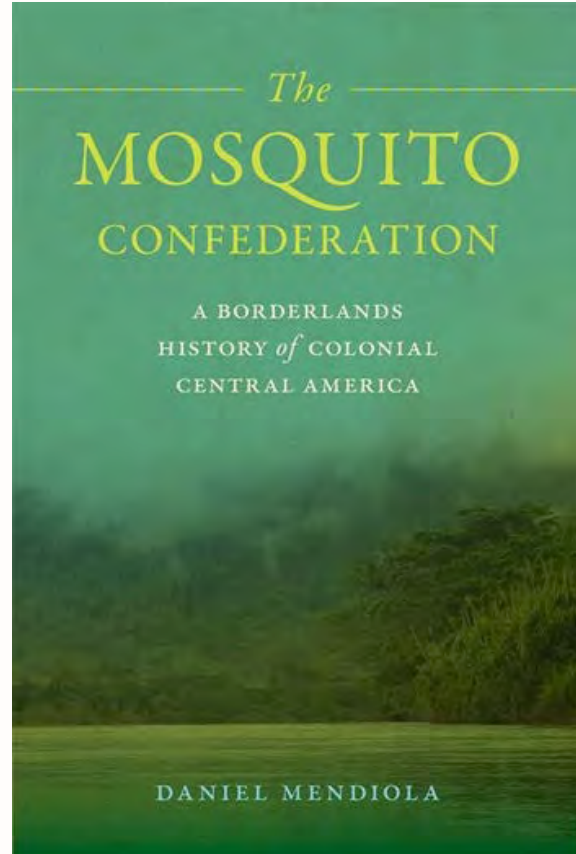
Dr. Daniel Mendiola (PhD, 2018) published his first monograph, *The Mosquito Confederation: A Borderlands History of Colonial Central America* in the “Early America Places Series” of the University of Georgia Press. He is Assistant Professor of History at Vassar College.

“*The Mosquito Confederation* is the first historical monograph to offer a thorough, chronological narrative of the rise and decline of the Mosquito Confederation: a powerful alliance of Amerindian and African-descended peoples that dominated much of Central America’s Caribbean coast throughout the eighteenth century.

This study addresses a straightforward set of questions: Who were the principal actors facilitating Mosquito expansion? What specific practices did they implement? And how did these processes shape the competing Spanish and English conquests in the region?

The specific answers to these questions vary over place and time, yet the overarching argument is that the rise and decline of the Mosquito Confederation—a process that depended far more on the novel practices of Mosquito leaders than on outside, colonial influences—was the driving force shaping imperial outcomes in the region. This research derives from a substantial body of previously uncited sources, especially from the National Archive of Costa Rica. Since Mosquito fleets routinely stopped in Costa Rican ports to trade and gather supplies, the Costa Rican archival record is both uniquely large and uniquely insightful.”

---University of Georgia Press



Angela F. Murphy publishes *Jermain Wesley Loguen: Defiant Fugitive* (Yale University Press, 2025).

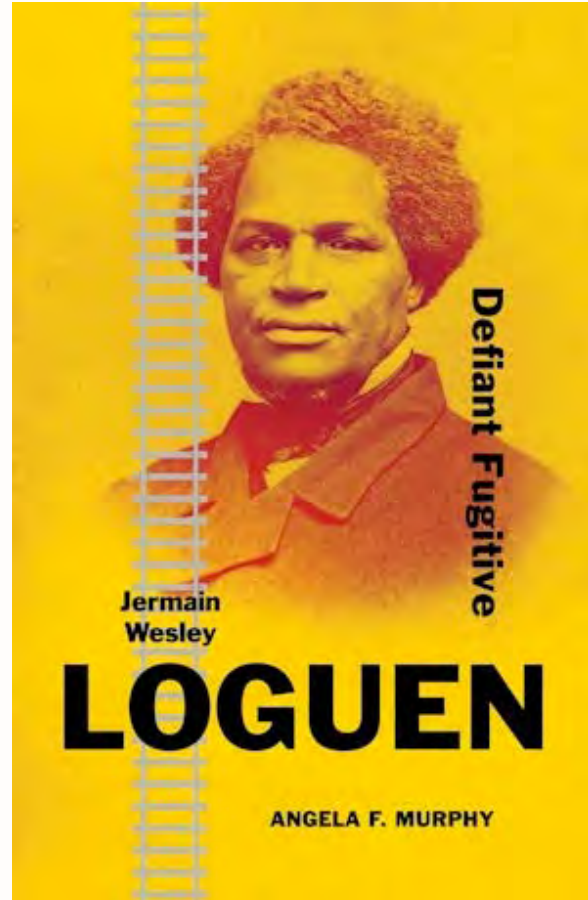
“A gripping biography of a man who escaped slavery to become an influential abolitionist, famously known as the ‘King of the Underground Railroad’

Jermain Wesley Loguen (1813–1872) was a fugitive from slavery, an abolitionist, and a minister, teacher, and political activist. He worked alongside Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass, and his home in Syracuse, New York, was among the most publicized Underground Railroad stations in the northern states.

Loguen’s political commitments in the years before the Civil War were carried out at great personal risk, for he had liberated himself from slavery in Tennessee and was in constant danger of being captured and reenslaved under the Fugitive Slave Law. Defiantly, however, he refused to purchase his own freedom, an act that he believed would have legitimized the rights of slaveholders. In addition to aiding fellow fugitives from slavery, Loguen worked tirelessly to promote Black equality and uplift throughout upstate New York and Canada. After Emancipation, he extended his work to aid freedpeople in the South and to advocate for Black equality on a national scale.

In this engaging study, Angela F. Murphy follows Loguen from his early years through his transformation into one of the brightest stars in the constellation of abolitionists and reformers in New York.”

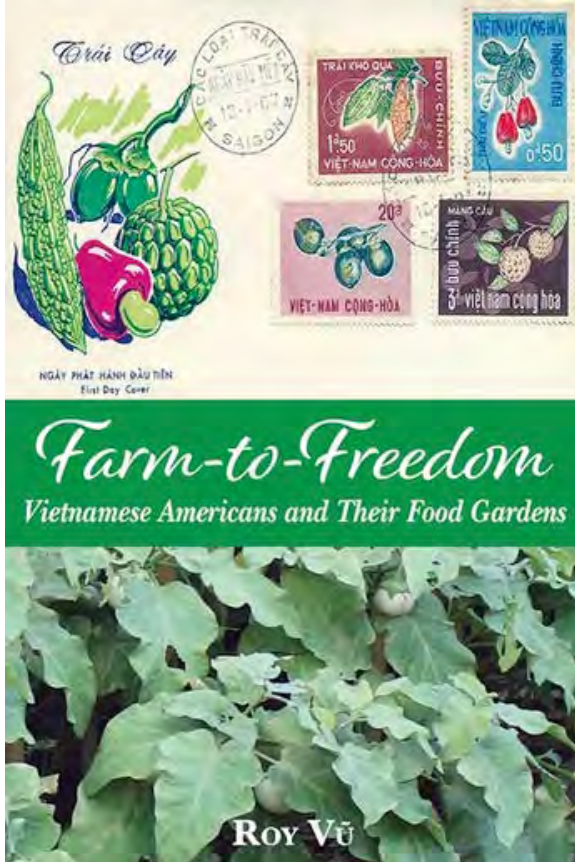
---Yale University Press



Dr. Angela F. Murphy Publishes Widely

Dr. Angela F. Murphy (PhD 2006), of Texas State University, published multiple scholarly works on slavery and freedom and nineteenth-century America, including her 2025 monograph. Dr. Murphy’s article, “Politicizing the Home: The Loguen Family’s Underground Railroad” was published in the *Journal of the Early Republic*; “My Freedom I Derived from God’: Jermain Wesley Loguen’s Rejection of Freedom Purchase,” came out in *Afro-Americans in New York Life and History*; and “Race, Labor, and Slavery in Antebellum Irish America,” appeared in *Routledge History of Irish America*.

Roy Vũ publishes *Farm-to-Freedom: Vietnamese Americans and Their Food Gardens* (Texas A&M University Press, 2025).

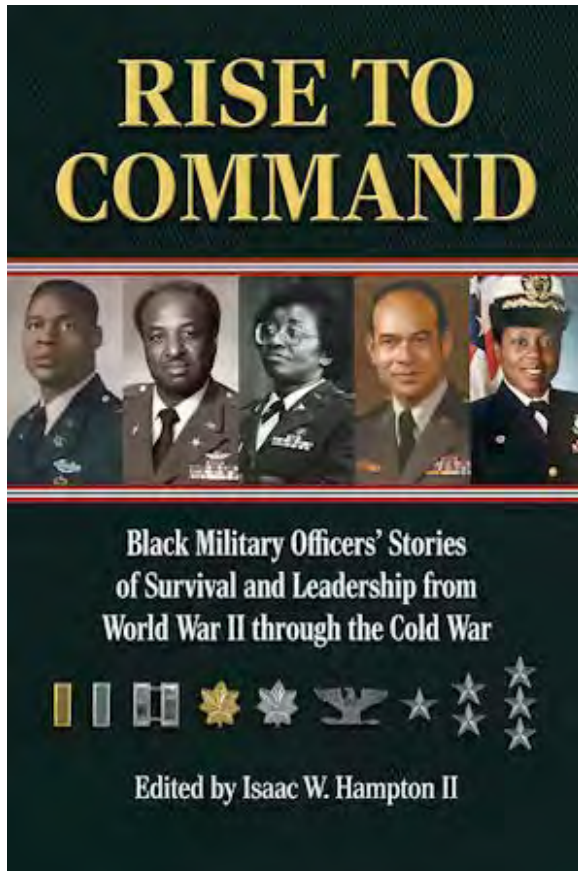


Dr. Roy Vũ (PhD 2006), of Dallas College North Lake Campus, published a new book in 2024. According to the press, “Home gardens, in addition to providing sustenance and satisfaction, embody a sense of self identity. In this groundbreaking work on Vietnamese foodways, *Farm-to-Freedom* brings to light how the Vietnamese diasporic population in Texas uses gardens literally and figuratively to set down roots in a new country. These gardens, often hidden in plain sight, establish the seat of Vietnamese immigrant culture, according to author Roy Vũ.

Farm-to-Freedom uses the concept of emancipatory foodways as a lens into gardens that serve a semi-palliative purpose by succoring the experienced tragedies of war and exile for Vietnamese immigrants and Vietnamese Americans, which arguably adds another dimension to the importance of the home garden. Vũ covers topics including but not limited to culinary citizenship, food democracy, culinary justice, and food sovereignty. *Farm-to-Freedom* reveals how these gardens not only provide those who tend them a greater sense of security and agency in an unfamiliar land but also give them the means to preserve and expand Vietnamese cuisine for themselves while simultaneously enriching food culture in the United States.

With a wealth of original oral histories, community-based recipes and poetry, and photographs of home gardens in suburban and urban settings, *Farm-to-Freedom* provides a deeper understanding of the Vietnamese diaspora in Texas for scholars, professionals, and general readers alike.”

Isaac W. Hampton II edits *Rise to Command: Black Military Officers' Stories of Survival and Leadership from World War II through the Cold War* (University Press of Kansas, 2025).



Isaac W. Hampton II Publishes Second Book on Military History

Dr. Isaac W. Hampton II earned his PhD in History at the University of Houston in 2008. He is currently a historian for the United States Army and was previously a curator and historian for the U.S. Air Force. He contributed to *The Vietnam War: Stories From South Texas* presented on PBS. An Army veteran, he is also the author of *The Black Officer Corps: A History of Black Military Advancement from Integration through Vietnam* (Routledge, 2013).

This collection of oral histories represents “an intimate view of the triumphs and challenges experienced by Black officers in the twentieth century.

Rise to Command is a social history told in the words of twenty Black military officers who grew up in the Jim Crow era and served in the US military. The officers speak candidly about their careers and struggles and the important lessons they learned from their communities, which helped them succeed

Rise to Command examines the evolution of policies and cultural dynamics within the US military, with a critical focus on the complexities of racial integration and equity. It not only traces the history of change but also underscores the persistent challenges that continue to shape the experiences of service members. Through the memories of Black officers, *Rise to Command* provides a vital perspective on the struggle for inclusivity and justice within one of America’s most enduring institutions.

The many perspectives from across the wars of the twentieth century highlight the progress these soldiers fought for—from total segregation during World War II to the deployment of America’s first racially integrated military force during the Vietnam War. Although these officers may not have known it, they were blazing the trail for the next generation of Black Americans, in and out of military service.”

---University Press of Kansas

Culinary Mestizaje: Racial Mixing and Foodways across the United States, edited by Felipe Hinojosa and Rudy P. Guevarra (University of Texas Press, 2025).

From the press: “*Culinary Mestizaje* is about food, cooking, and community, but it’s also about how immigrant labor and racial mixing are transforming established US food cultures from Hawai’i to the coast of Maine, South Philadelphia to the Pacific Northwest. This collection of essays asks what it means that Chamorro cooking is now considered a regional specialty of the Bay Area, and that a fusion like brisket tacos registers as “native” to Houston, while pupusas are the pride of Atlanta.

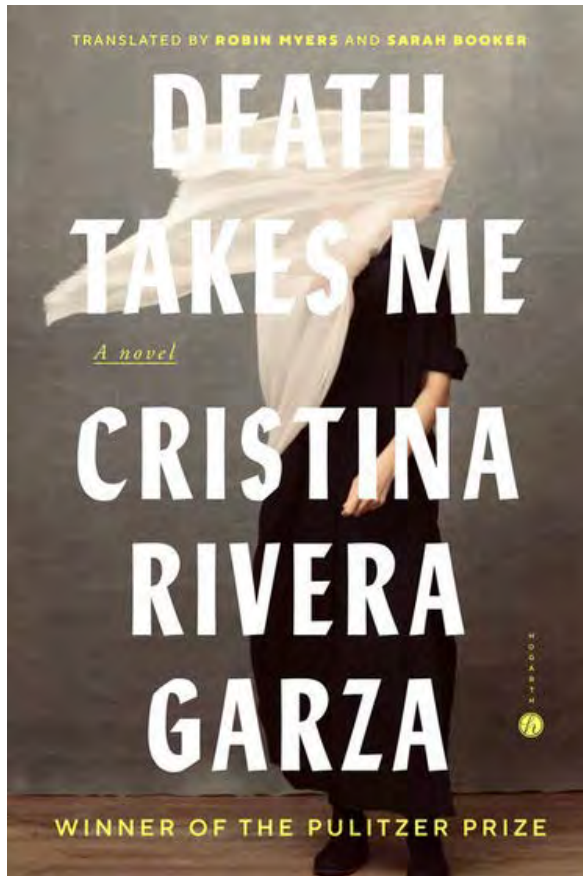
Combining community scholarly insights, cooking tips, and recipes, the pieces assembled here are interested in how the blending of culinary traditions enables marginalized people to thrive in places fraught with racial tension, anti-immigrant sentiment, and the threat of gentrification. Chefs and entrepreneurs matter in these stories, but so do dishwashers, farm laborers, and immigrants doing the best they can with the ingredients they have. Their best, it turns out, is often delicious and creative, sparking culinary evolutions while maintaining ancestral connections. The result is that cooking under the weight of colonial rule and white supremacy has, in revealing ways, created American food.”



Dr. Felipe Hinojosa Joins HACU’s Leadership Academy

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities named Dr. Felipe Hinojosa (PhD 2009) to its Leadership Academy/La Academia de Liderazgo for 2024-25. This one-year fellowship program trains leading faculty to attain executive-level positions in higher education administration. Dr. Hinojosa (pictured right) is the John and Nancy Jackson Endowed Chair in Latin America and Professor of History at Baylor University. His new research concerns the Latinx freedom movement and its roles in post-WWII America.

Cristina Rivera Garza's novel *Death Takes Me* translated by Robin Myers and Sarah Booker (Penguin Random House, 2025).



Dr. Cristina Rivera Garza's 2007 novel *La muerte me da* (Tusquets Editores), newly translated as *Death Takes Me* by Robin Myers and Sarah Booker, was celebrated at the Royal Society of Literature in London and the Texas Book Festival in Austin. Published by Penguin Random House earlier this year, *Death Takes Me* is a *Time* Most Anticipated Book for 2025. The book garnered a starred review from *Publishers Weekly* and was named a Best Book of the Year by the *New York Times*, *Esquire*, and *Marie Claire*. Dr. Rivera Garza's book has been reviewed widely and covered in national and international media outlets.

Dr. Rivera Garza is a celebrated author; alumna of our graduate program (PhD 1995); and M.D. Anderson Distinguished Professor in Hispanic Studies at UH. Her book *Liliana's Invincible Summer: A Sister's Search for Justice* won the 2024 Pulitzer Prize in Memoir or Autobiography and was a Finalist for the 2023 National Book Award.

Penguin Random House describes the novel and its new translation this way: "A professor named Cristina Rivera Garza stumbles upon the corpse of a mutilated man in a dark alley and reports it to the police. When shown a crime scene photo, she finds a stark warning written in tiny print with coral nail polish on the brick wall beside the body: 'Beware of me, my love / beware of the silent woman in the desert.'"

The professor becomes the first informant on the case, which is led by a detective newly obsessed with poetry and trailed by a long list of failures. But what has the professor really seen? As the bodies of more castrated men are found alongside lines of verse, the detective tries to decipher the meaning of the poems to put a stop to the violence spreading throughout the city.

Originally written in Spanish, where the word 'victim' is always feminine, *Death Takes Me* is a thrilling masterpiece of literary fiction that flips the traditional crime narrative of gendered violence on its head. As sharp as the cuts on the bodies of the victims, it unfolds with the charged logic of a dream, moving from the police station to the professor's classroom and through the slippery worlds of Latin American poetry and art in an imaginative exploration of the unstable terrains of desire and sexuality."



Dr. Caitlyn Jones Wins Dissertation Prize

Dr. Caitlyn Jones (PhD 2024) won the Lerner-Scott Prize for Best Dissertation in Women's History from the Organization of American Historians. She began a Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship through the National Park Service at the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument, where she published "[A Citadel of Women's Independence](#)." Her book manuscript, based on her award-winning dissertation, is "Forgetting Houston: The 1977 National Women's Conference and the Struggle Over Gendered Public Memory."

Dr. Diana Lovell Signs New MOU with Oklahoma National Guard

Dr. Diana Lovell (PhD 2003, MA 1992) is the current President of Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU). With Maj. Gen. Thomas H. Mancino, adjutant general for Oklahoma, Dr. Lovell signed an agreement with the Oklahoma National Guard and the city of Weatherford in Oklahoma. The March 2025 agreement continues the Guard Officer Leadership Development program, which supports Oklahoma Army National Guard Soldiers who attend SWOSU.



Dr. Diana Lovell and Maj. Gen. Thomas H. Mancino sign a memorandum of agreement (Photo courtesy of Oklahoma National Guard Sgt. Tyler Brahic)

Recent PhD Program Graduates Publish and Hold Positions in Academia

Dr. Seth Whitty (PhD 2025) joins the Department as a Lecturer.

Dr. Jonathan Fairchild (PhD 2024) is a Park Historian at Golden Spike National Historical Park in Utah.

Dr. Karla Lira-Moore (PhD 2024) is now a Full-Time Lecturer for CMALS at UH.

Dr. Patrick Higgins (PhD 2023) is Program Director of the Arab American Education Foundation Center for Arab Studies at UH.

Dr. Derek Ide (PhD 2023) is Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Grand Valley State University. He signed a contract for *Ghosts of Bandung: Black Internationalism during the Cold War*.

Dr. Alex Paul (PhD 2023) placed his forthcoming book with the University of Virginia Press in its "Democratic Ideals in Global Perspective" series.

Dr. Ezell Wilson (PhD 2023) is a Visiting Professor at Texas Southern University.

Dr. Alberto Wilson, III (PhD 2021) joined the Department of History at Texas Christian University as an Assistant Professor.

Dr. Tara Sewell-Lasater (PhD 2020) published "Kleopatra III: Not the Evil Queen" in *Queens in Antiquity and the Present: Speculative Visions and Critical Histories*, edited by Patricia Eunji Kim and Anastasia Amrhein. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2024.

Dr. Alex LaRotta (PhD 2019), a history professor at HCC, will be a Lecturer for CMALS this year.

An Academic Year in the “Land of Enchantment” by Dr. Alberto Wilson

Dr. Alberto Wilson, III (PhD '21) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History of Texas Christian University and was a Mellon Foundation Latino Studies Fellow at the School for Advanced Research in New Mexico.

Since 1907, the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico, promotes the study and stewardship of the Southwest’s Native American history and material culture, and since the 1970s, it has expanded its geographical, methodological, and temporal focus to become a global crossroads of academic exchange. Academic luminaries have spent time on SAR’s campus writing as the orange hue of sunsets in the high desert strikes the adobe buildings, illuminating all: shrubs, squirrels, and scholars.

During the academic year 2023-24, I held a residential fellowship at SAR dedicating myself to feeding a squirrel-friend with trail mix from Trader Joe’s, hiking nearby trails, and walking to the Plaza to eat Hatch green chile pozole.

It was a privilege, and as everything slowed down my writing picked up, and if I arrived with a dissertation, I began to understand the book I wanted to write. It helped I had a community of scholars; fellow grantees also trudging through their work and ideas, and a warm cohort of retired faculty who gravitated to Santa Fe to be near SAR where they continue to explore and write about the topics that animated their life’s work.



As snow covered the Sangre de Cristo mountain range, the manuscript came into a focus: a story situated in the colonias of Ciudad Juárez tracing the lives of the poor whose lives were upended by industrial work in *maquiladoras* in the 1960s and 1970s.

I thank SAR for the support and space to help develop my book project, and my time in northern New Mexico is a testament to the many hands that will touch a manuscript before it reaches print. I encourage all to seek residential or research fellowships that provide time – and to consider applying to SAR and spending a year in the ‘Land of Enchantment.’



Dr. Courtney DeMayo Pugno Named Provost of Heidelberg University

In August of 2024, Dr. Courtney DeMayo Pugno (PhD 2010) started a new position as the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost of Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio. She joined the faculty in 2010 as an Assistant Professor and has won multiple teaching awards. Her appointment to Provost builds on her extensive academic leadership experience, including founding the Center for Teaching Excellence at Heidelberg.

Dr. Sam W. Haynes Awarded Fellowships for Digital Texas History

Dr. Sam W. Haynes (PhD 1988) has won funding for the digital humanities project, *[Texas in Turmoil: Mapping Interethnic Violence, 1821-79](#)*. Dr. Haynes is Professor of History at the University of Texas at Arlington, where he also serves as Director of the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies. He was awarded a Portal to Texas History 2024 Research Fellowship and a 2025 Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) Research Fellowship in Texas History. Last year, he received the UTA Distinguished Record of Research or Creativity Award. His most recent book is, *Unsettled Land: From Revolution to Republic, the Struggle for Texas* (2022).

Dr. Alberto Wilson Wins Fellowships and Begins Tenure-Track Job

Dr. Alberto Wilson, III (PhD 2021) is currently an Assistant Professor at Texas Christian University and won multiple fellowships last year. He recently joined TCU in a tenure-track capacity. Last year, he received the Mary M. Hughes Research Fellowship in Texas History from the Texas State Historical Association. He is also supported by a Mother Theodore Guerin Research Travel Grant from the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at the University of Notre Dame. His project is, "Pan American City: Neoliberalism at the U.S.-Mexico Border and Ciudad Juárez's Working Poor."

Dr. Phillip Luke Sinitiere Publishes New Research on Du Bois Family

Dr. Phillip Luke Sinitiere (PhD 2009), Senior Research Fellow at the W. E. B. Du Bois Center at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, published, "Yolande Du Bois's Scrapbooks: Sketching an Archival History," in *Freedom: A Journal of Research in Africana Studies* in July 2025.

Dr. Holle Canatella Made Full Professor

Dr. Holle Canatella (PhD 2010) was promoted to the rank of full professor at Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania, Lock Haven Campus. She is the Program Director of Lock Haven Honors and a member of the Department of History, Philosophy, & Political Science on the Lock Haven Campus.

Cutting-Edge Digital Research on Mid-American Jewish Communities by Dr. Tim Quevillon

I arrived at Western Kentucky University in 2023 with the broad mandate of “build Jewish Studies.” A semester of meeting with Jewish communal leaders across western Kentucky brought me out to Paducah, where I discovered the need for an archive that covered the smaller Jewish communities of the lower-Midwest and upper-South. The [Riverlands Jewish Archive](#) project quickly grew to encompass a six-state region of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee.

Currently we have over 5,000 items that have been digitized and catalogued in our collection, with expectations of being well over 25,000 items by the spring. So far, our biggest collections we have collected and digitized archival materials include Paducah’s Temple Israel, Terre Haute’s United Hebrew Congregation, and Fort Wayne’s Jewish Federation, all of which will likely be dwarfed by our largest incoming collection from Congregation B’nai Israel in Little Rock.

The strength of our project is our partnerships. Since we exist as a digital space, we seek not to compete with existing museums, historical societies, libraries, and archives, but rather give them a digital service they might not otherwise be able to offer to their patrons.

Ultimately, beyond benefitting our regional Jewish communities, this project has been a boon to WKU’s graduate program in history, as we have GAs learning and getting hands-on experience digitizing paper records, audio and video cassettes, film reels, slides, and even vinyl records! This archive also allows our students to be on the cutting edge of research into Mid-American Jewish communities and allows me to help guide the next generation of scholars of Jewish Studies.

*Dr. Timothy Quevillon (PhD, 2020), right,
of West Kentucky University.*





Building the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards by Dr. Rikki Bettinger

It's the time of year that I'm reading many a personal statement. Between fellowships season and grad school applications, I spend quite a bit of time prompting students to expand on their experiences, clarify their goals, and prioritize their voice in the creation of a coherent narrative. Inevitably, curiosity and nostalgia lead me to return to my own statement I submitted when I applied to the history doctoral program at UH for fall 2013 admission. After an initial cringe, it feels good to reflect on how my work now as Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards (OURMA) in the Honors College at UH allows me to fulfill several of my goals.



Dr. Rikki Bettinger (PhD '18) works with Mellon Research Scholars at Special Collections

I get to develop programs and connect students to opportunities that support and challenge them to grow as thinkers, problem-solvers, analysts, and creatives.

In my role, I oversee a suite of undergraduate research programs, specifically directing the Mellon Research Scholars, Research for Aspiring Coogs in the Humanities (REACH), and Senior Honors Thesis programs. I also serve as the campus' secondary Fulbright Program Advisor and support advising on student fellowships applications. The Mellon and REACH programs have allowed OURMA to develop pathways for students in the humanities to pursue funded research as undergraduates. Students develop crucial skills that help them in academia and the world outside it, and it's particularly rewarding for me when my work overlaps with my home discipline. My office has provided funding for two history undergraduates in the Mellon program who presented "lightning talks" at the AHA while I was there presenting my own research. I have helped students weigh graduate school offers, carefully talking through complicated funding packages. Several REACH and Mellon students, after reflecting on their research experiences, are now pursuing graduate study in history – including here at UH! And I regularly have the opportunity to collaborate and scheme with faculty in the History Department about creative ways to support our students.

I've learned that as higher ed professionals and faculty, we cannot underestimate the importance of ample funding, community, and mentorship as key to students' growth and opportunity. This department is full of immensely talented scholars and curious, driven students; programs like REACH and Mellon allow me to support faculty's ongoing research projects and provide research opportunities for history students. It's a pretty great combo. The 2026 cohort will be the final year of this iteration of our grant-funded Mellon Research Scholars Program. I encourage any junior or highly motivated sophomore who might be interested in graduate school in the humanities to [apply this year to be a Mellon Scholar!](#)



Credits

The Director of Communications and the Communications Committee put together the 2024-2025 Department of History Newsletter. Drs. Adela Cedillo, Matthew Clavin, N. L. A. Gharala, Gerald Horne, Kairn Klieman, Kristina Neumann, and Josiah Rector made up the committee. Committee members envisioned and commissioned letters and pieces for this edition of the Newsletter. The editor is Director of Communications Dr. Norah Linda Andrews Gharala. We offer our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed!

The Department of History at the University of Houston is currently under the leadership of Department Chair Dr. Catherine Patterson. Dr. Sarah Fishman is the Associate Chair. Our Department Business Administrator is Ms. Carol Aikels, who works with Financial Coordinators Mr. Darius Miller and Mr. James Curioso. Armeshia Love is our new Graduate Academic Advisor. The vital contributions of our staff to the Department of History cannot be overstated. From managing grant funding to planning departmental events, and beyond, our skilled administrative team underpins our department. Similarly, the opportunities we offer our undergraduate majors are enhanced by the hard work of Undergraduate Advisor Ms. Aarti Arriaga.

Learn more about our [Undergraduate](#) major and courses, excellent faculty and students, or make a gift to the Department [on our web site](#) or with the [Development Office](#) of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

To follow the goings-on in the UH Department of History, visit our [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) (@uhhistorydept) and [our department web page](#).

The Center for Public History has its own [web site](#) and social media accounts on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) (@uhcphistory).

Find out how to apply to our [Graduate](#) programs on our [Admissions page](#) or by emailing the [Graduate Director](#).

Contact the Communications team [at our dedicated email address](#). This fall, the History office is located on the fifth floor of Agnes Arnold Hall in room 524.



From a recently acquired rare book in the Special Collections of the University of Houston Libraries, Instrucciones morales y religiosas, published in Manila in 1739.

Thank you for your interest in the Department of History at the University of Houston!