



Conference on Latin American History

Spring 2022 Newsletter

Vol. 58 No. 1



CONFERENCE ON LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY

Spring 2022 NEWSLETTER
Volume 58, Number 1

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2022 CLAH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Executive Committee:

President: Ben Vinson III
Vice President: Celso Castilho
Past President: Bianca Premo
Executive Directors: Jurgen Buchenau & Erika Edwards

Elected Council Members:

Danielle Terrazas Williams
Tamara Walker
Maria Barreiros Almeida Reis
Luisa Fernanda Arrieta
Brandon Byrd
Orlando Deavila Pertuz

Ex-Officio Council Members:

HAHR Editors:
The Americas Editor:
H-LatAm Editor:

Standing Committees:

Nominating Committee:

Brenda Elsey, Chair
Camilo Trumper
Corinna Zeltsman

Program Committee:

Sharika Crawford (2022 Chair)
Robert Franco (2023 Chair)
Jesse Cromwell

Regional & Thematic Sections

Andean Studies:

Sarah Hines, Chair
Javier Puente, Secretary

Atlantic World Studies:

Juan José Ponce Vázquez, Chair
Anne Eller, Secretary

Borderlands/Frontiers:

Jessica Ordaz, Chair
Nick Villanueva, Secretary

Brazilian Studies:

Yuko Miki, Chair
Benjamin A. Cowan, Secretary

Caribbean Studies:

Reena Goldthree, Chair
Takkara Brunson, Secretary

Central American Studies:

Laura Matthew, Chair
Brianna Leavitt-Alcántara, Secretary

Chile-Rio de la Plata Studies:

Debbie Sharnak, Chair
Denisa Jashari, Secretary

Colonial Studies:

Mariana Dantas, Chair
Mónica Ricketts, Secretary

Gran Colombia Studies:

Shawn van Ausdal, Chair
María José Afanador, Secretary

Mexican Studies:

Mónica Díaz, Chair
Edward Wright-Ríos, Secretary

Teaching and Teaching Materials

Carlos Dimas, Chair
María de los Ángeles Picone, Secretary

I. MESSAGE FROM CLAH PRESIDENT BEN VINSON, III



The Cosmic Background of the Cosmic Race: Sharing Pandemic Insights

A Curious Moment in Time

Thanks to the crucible of the pandemic, the eruption of global crises, and the pressure of social ruptures, the year 2022 may well be remembered as a time when many scholars and their work took new directions, explored new questions, and acquired unexpected perspectives. Certainly, the AHA has taken notice and has been addressing the unique impact these times have had on our teaching, learning, and research

(<https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/april-2022/aha22-online-a-new-gathering>). I know I've been impacted.

Typically, I'm one who shies away from authoring writing that is too personal. That's perhaps one reason why I'm in love with history. At the end of the day, it's someone else's story. But truth be told, in its recovery, reconstruction, and eventual retelling, stories written by the pen of the historian become intimately and undeniably: our own.

Against my better judgment, I've decided to share with you how some of my coping this year has led to fun and exciting new perspectives on my own work. The intention of this act is to serve as a sort of confessional that may prod others to share their stories too, with colleagues and friends who've been coping and trying to make sense of our times, and importantly for us in the CLAH, our own work *in* these times.

A Cosmic Journey in COVID

As my family and I have wrestled with COVID, racial justice, political discord, and now Ukraine, I've been tempted on many occasions to escape to the heavens (not literally, of course). Over the past several months, I've been reading a fair amount of popular science—especially

astrophysics. [Alien Oceans](#) (Kevin Hand), [The First Three Minutes](#) (Steven Weinberg), [Until the End of Time](#) (Brian Greene), [The End of Everything](#) (Katie Mack), and [How to Die in Space](#) (Paul Sutter) have been strangely comforting vessels of escape during these uniquely turbulent times, even as several of these titles portend to our eventual demise.

These books have unexpectedly offered me a bit of unforeseen perspective on our world today, and on my own work as a Latin American historian. For instance, how does thinking about *stretching* time itself refresh our view about our society's past and future? How does the universe's deep cosmic history work to reframe our thinking about human history? Are there clues in the patterns of the universe that can align with understanding social systems, social behavior, and the ingredients of human history?

I am more convinced than ever that there are multiple useful connections and analogies to be gleaned. The one I'd like to share is drawn from a simple rethinking of the Cosmic Microwave Background and Cosmic Neutrino Background, which exists all around us.

Cosmic Backgrounds

Before I get started, please keep in mind that I'm not a physics professor, nor will I ever be. So please forgive me if in the following paragraphs I err, dear reader.

Nearly 14 billion years ago, packed within an unimaginably hot singularity, was everything that we now know to be the vastness of our universe. I'll spare you the debates surrounding the Big Bang, but for now, let's just assume that it happened. Within the first fractions of a second of the existence of our universe, space expanded wildly (and started to cool), while a cornucopia of forces, including gravity and electromagnetism, were hard at work. Early space was born, and it was plasma.

For my purposes in this column, a key moment occurred around the first second of time. Neutrinos, which until that point were held in thermal equilibrium with electrons, protons, and neutrons; suddenly decoupled. Today, billions of years later, these neutrinos are still traveling through the cosmos, forming a vast and all-encompassing Cosmic Neutrino Background (CNB) that we can't see, but that comprises a relic of our universe's infancy.

Now let's leap ahead to the moment when the universe was really starting to age—celebrating its 370,000th birthday. In cosmic terms, of course, this was quite young. At this time, nothing could be seen because there was no light. When the light switch was flipped, it must have been absolutely glorious. Around this time, some of the universe's atoms began releasing their photons. The universe revealed itself to be transparent and orange in color. This luminescent state was not slated to endure. Once again, the universe returned to total darkness, with the first stars forming roughly 200 million years later. Nonetheless, today we can still “see” this magnificent moment of our early glowing universe, since the evidence is everywhere, at every time in space. The evidence is in microwaves that comprise the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) of absolutely everything we know.

The Cosmic Background of the Cosmic Race

I find these two cosmic backgrounds to be useful concepts when thinking about race in Latin America. In the 1920s, on the heels of the Spanish Flu pandemic, World War I, and some of the remarkable advances being made in the field of physics and astrophysics by Albert Einstein and

his professional colleagues—in Mexico, Jose Vasconcelos was borrowing metaphors from the stars to chart a new course in racial history. In his highly influential, *La Raza Cósmica*, he asserted that humanity was on a developmental trajectory. We would be soon emerging from an age where reason and science predominated. We would enter a higher-level form of development, a new “aesthetic age” where principles such as love and joy would steer our relationships, decisions, and practices. Bereft of the shackles of scientific thinking, racial mixture would rapidly increase. And in this age, Latin America (already enjoying a head start) would be at an advantage. The ensuing global population would comprise a cosmic race, thoroughly mixed, and guided by love.

As influential as this ideology of the cosmic race has been in underwriting *mestizaje*, what Vasconcelos missed was its own version of the CNB and CMB—omnipresent relics of the past. For the cosmic race, the comparable “cosmic background” is caste. Preceding *mestizaje* was a caste order formulated in the 16th century. Arguably, it never left.

Today, we appreciate that the CMB and CNB are more than just signals from a previous era, from deep time. These backgrounds actually are part of the fabric of the cosmos itself. Similarly, caste has found way into the relationships, ideologies, and attitudes of our times, just as subtly, and just as imperceptibly as the cosmic backgrounds of space and time. By faintly living inside our social and racial constructs, caste is perhaps equally as real.

Just as we don’t know the full impact of the CMB and CNB on our universe, the same is likely true of caste. We don’t know its full impact. But knowing that the background is there can guide us to look for it, to seek to understand the form of its modern signals, and to trace its potential connections and lineages. Over time, appreciating the “Cosmic Caste Background” may give us both a clearer sense of the past, a fuller understanding of the present, and a potential barometer for the future.

II. MESSAGE FROM CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JURGEN BUCHENAU



Colegas:

I send you greetings from the CLAH office in Charlotte on behalf of our co-Executive Director, Erika Edwards, and our graduate assistant, Madison Green. We are very grateful for your loyalty as CLAH members and steadfast supporters, in these difficult times marked by war, climate change, a pandemic that will not end, threats from the extreme right at home and abroad, and an ongoing crisis in higher education generally and in the discipline of History, specifically. We are all exhausted, and yet, the challenging times in which we live makes an organization like the CLAH ever more vital.

Despite these challenges—and in part because of them—we have a lot to be thankful for. We managed a two-track annual meeting this year. The CLAH/AHA meetings in New Orleans took place against the backdrop of the rise in the Omicron variant, and attendance was the smallest in decades given an exponential increase in COVID cases. Only some 70-80 CLAHistas rolled the dice and attended the meeting, but those who did enjoyed the companionship and intellectual stimulation that face-to-face meetings provide. For that reason, we held the Council meeting online and canceled the reception.



Our luncheon, which featured Adriana Chira reading Rebecca Scott's Distinguished Service speech, included 54 guests and a boxed lunch. We thank all those who were able to come to New Orleans despite the threat of the virus. Then, in late February, AHA Online provided a great opportunity to meet up again for virtual panels. Because of a family obligation in Germany, I was not able to participate, but I heard lots of favorable comments about the panels afterward. This Newsletter contains section reports from both the face-to-face and the virtual programs.

I am also grateful for the energy that we continue to see in the organization. Our Fall ballot (which featured mini bios for all positions, even the Section secretaries, thanks to Erika's determination to provide that information for all of our members) once again featured a very diverse slate of candidates. The demographic transformation of the CLAH and its leadership (which you can trace in the historical information available on our website) is our major accomplishment in the past ten years and bodes very well for the future of our organization. In addition, I would like to draw everyone's attention to an initiative by the Teaching and Teaching Materials Section to establish a Teaching Prize to honor exemplary teaching in our field. As with all prizes, we need donations either by check or online on our website (please designate "CLAH Prizes and Awards" on our online form).

It's a true honor to serve the CLAH as your co-Executive Director, and I wish you the best for final exams and a productive summer! Do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns.

III. APPROVED CLAH GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (2021)

Bianca Premo, President
Ben Vinson, III, Vice President and President-elect
Jurgen Buchenau and Erika Edwards, Co-Executive Directors

January 7, 2021, cyberspace

President Bianca Premo opened the meeting at 6:02 pm EST.

1. Call to order and roll call of voting members of the General Committee

Present: Bianca Premo (president), Ben Vinson (vice president and president-elect), Lara Putnam (past president), Jurgen Buchenau (co-Executive Director), Erika Edwards (co-Executive Director) Celso Castilho, David Carey, Eileen Findlay (elected members of the Council), Zach Morgan (*HAHR* representative), John F. Schwaller (*The Americas* representative), Marc Becker (H-LatAm representative).

Absent: Gabriela Ramos (elected member of the Council)

CLAH members present: Carmen Soliz, Tamara Walker, María Barreiros Almeida Reis, Christine Hunefeldt, Josh Mentanko, Laura Matthew, Angela Vergara, Jessica Ordaz, Julia Poppell, Rossmery Palacio Pérez

2. Approval of minutes of the 2020 meeting in New York

Zachary Morgan moved that the minutes be approved, and Eileen Findlay seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Fall 2020 Election results and prize committee appointments

Erika Edwards pointed out that the ballot for all of the Regional and Thematic Sections featured slates of three candidates, and that the closeness of many of the races reflects the energy of the CLAH and its Sections. Some sections have begun to propose multiple panels.

Eileen Findlay moved ratification of the results and appointments, and John F. Schwaller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Report of the Program Committee

Carmen Soliz, Chair of the CLAH Program Committee, provided a brief report. The committee received 58 panel submissions. The AHA Program Committee accepted 49 of these proposals, and 9 were rejected. The CLAH Program Committee placed 12

CLAH-sponsored panels into the program, including these 9 panels and 3 panels, created from among single paper submissions, in addition to the 11 Section meetings.

Erika Edwards and Jurgen Buchenau reported on the transition to the online meeting. When the AHA canceled its annual meeting, the fate of our panels and the entire CLAH conference was in doubt. The Executive Committee decided to go ahead with a virtual meeting. First, Erika consulted with the accepted panels and Sections whether the participants were interested in a virtual meeting. In the end, 26 panels decided to continue and 10 of the 11 Sections resolved to proceed with virtual panels. In addition, Bianca Premo and Ben Vinson organized two presidential panels, to be held on Friday (January 8) of the virtual conference in the absence of competition from other panels. Then, Jurgen shopped around for the best platform to use for the virtual conference, ultimately settling on LASA's MaestroMeetings. Virtual conferences are expensive, and MaestroMeetings charged \$8,500 for the platform itself, plus expenses for Zoom licenses and moderators. Fortunately, the CLAH office was able to utilize the services of four UNC Charlotte graduate assistants as well as the university-owned Zoom accounts to which these students had free access:

Rossmery Palacio Pérez (Latin American Studies)
Julia Poppell (Latin American Studies)
Susanny Acosta (Latin American Studies)
Paul Telljohann (History)

A brief discussion ensued about general topics associated with the annual conference. Continued face-to-face meetings are important, but we will want to incorporate virtual components to include members who cannot travel to the annual meeting, especially from Latin America. Bianca reminded the Council of the charge from last year's survey and asked how we can expand our vision or mission while spreading out the workload among Council members, Section leaders, and members.

Attendance at this meeting is good. There were 120-135 total attendees today; an average of 30 attendees per session.

Erika Edwards announced that Section candidates will need to submit bios for the election next year to give members more information about their choices.

5. Report on the CLAH Office

Jurgen Buchenau gave a brief report on the CLAH office. He thanked our CLAH graduate assistant, Rossmery Palacio Pérez, for her help. He noted that the office has been virtual since March 2020, complicating our daily operations such as membership renewals and journal fulfillment.

6. Review of Executive Secretary's 2020 Annual Report, discussion and vote on Proposed FY 2021 Budget

Jurgen Buchenau presented the financial report and general budget. Our endowment is doing very well. Membership renewals are down 15%, which was to be expected due to many 2- and 3-year memberships in the past two years and the effects of COVID-19. The New York meeting was very expensive, even more so than anticipated. There were issues with journal fulfillment, and members who did not receive journals in 2020 will be offered a free subscription for 2021.

For planning purposes, we will budget another 15% decline in membership revenue next year and take some money out of our cash reserve if needed. Due to the pandemic, Scobie Awards were offered but not yet funded, pending pre-dissertation travel. These will come out of next year's budget. There were no applications for the Cabrera Award, which will save the organization \$5,000 from next year's budget. Our Distinguished Service Award recipient, Tom Holloway, donated his \$500 prize back to the CLAH, and, of course, we will not have travel expenses to the annual meeting this year.

Ben Vinson asked about the cost of the virtual meeting with a view of possibly paying for both a virtual platform and a traditional face-to-face component next year. Jurgen Buchenau responded that a hybrid component would add approximately \$10,000 to the budget at the current size of the virtual component. A question would be whether participants who would normally come to the meeting might now opt to attend online.

This question led to a more general discussion of our "rainy day" fund in the endowment. The fund is no longer earning meaningful interest, and it is equivalent to two years of operations. It is there for us to spend if we need it, but we need to be careful in using it. Bianca Premo said that a hybrid conference may well bring new members into the organization, increasing our revenue.

John Schwaller moved to approve the report and budget. All in favor.

7. New Business

Bianca Premo proposed the following addition to the language of the Scobie Awards for 2021 only, to facilitate digital and other projects not requiring travel in light of the pandemic

Scobies are traditionally awarded "for exploratory research trip abroad to determine the feasibility of a Ph.D. dissertation topic dealing with some facet of Latin American history." However, because of disruptions of the Covid-19 pandemic, in the 2021 cycle, the committee will consider a broader range of uses of pre-dissertation funding, as long as applicants offer compelling justification and a clear statement on how the expense is related to establishing the feasibility of a dissertation on the people and past of Latin American and the Caribbean. This includes but is not limited to expenses related to digital or oral history projects, survey research, data analysis software, reproduction or rights to materials.

Ben Vinson moved adoption of this addendum, and John Schwaller seconded. The

motion passed unanimously.

7.1. CLAH Conduct Policy

Bianca Premo crafted a CLAH Conduct Policy for review of the Executive Committee, now before the Council. This policy will cover interactions outside the AHA meeting (which is governed by AHA policies), and especially in the new virtual environment. The AHA has encouraged all affiliates to develop such a policy. Under the proposed policy, the Vice President, President, and ex-President will serve as the intake team that conducts initial investigations. Sanctions range from censure to expulsion from the CLAH, and appeals come to the Council. Unfortunately, we cannot communicate about behaviors that occur across organizations, with the exception of the AHA.

Erika Edwards asked for more context about the policy. Bianca Premo replied that we have already benefited from having the AHA policy in place during past meetings. Having our own conduct policy that covers interactions outside the CLAH/AHA annual meeting will benefit the organization in the future. Ben Vinson stated that this policy is long overdue and gives us a path to respond to misconduct and take care of our members. Bianca clarified that the process is not public, and that there would not be public release of findings, in language on confidentiality adopted from the AHA.

Zachary Morgan suggested changing wording to include unwelcome solicitation of intimacy.

A discussion ensued on the subject of general parameters of the policy. Ben Vinson explained that he attended an AHA session on this topic. The panel emphasized that if a person is experiencing an interaction as crossing the line that is enough. We should approach it in this way and understand the victim rather than getting caught up in the definition. Responding to a question from Julia Poppell what mechanisms will be in place to support victims, Bianca Premo stated that the AHA gives information to victims so they can seek help although they do not provide the services themselves. This is not included in the policy because they are not acting as an advocacy group. The policy mainly focuses on the investigations and possible sanctions. Eileen Findlay inquired: What if all three presidents are white men from North America? How comfortable would a victim be in bringing up their complaint? She argued that we should create a committee that is more diverse and well informed and trained to deal with these situations to deal with investigation in a sensitive and timely manner. Jurgen Buchenau responded by pointing out that the leadership of the CLAH, including the presidents, have been highly diverse in recent years, and that we need to keep it that way. In fact, the new policy will be one more reason for the Nominating Committee to continue to craft diverse slates of candidates for the elections.

Eileen Findlay summarized the discussion by suggesting a change to the first bullet point under “Unacceptable Behavior” as follows:

- Current version: Persistent and unwelcome solicitation of emotional or physical intimacy.
- New version: “Persistent, belligerent and/or unwelcome solicitation of emotional or physical intimacy, regardless of intent.”

Bianca Premo moved this amendment as well as the policy itself; all in favor

7.2. Call to host CLAH Office for the quinquennium 2022-27 (attachment 5)

Jurgen Buchenau reported on the process of hosting the CLAH office. The Council awards a university the office for a five-year term. UNC Charlotte has hosted since 2007, and the current term—the first ever with two rather than one executive director—ends in June 2022. The Council is responsible for issuing the call for proposals, and a draft of the call was distributed to the group prior to the meeting. Bianca Premo stated that UNC Charlotte has done a wonderful job. How can we discuss with interested parties what the executive director’s job entails? Jurgen Buchenau replied that candidates interested in the position of executive director should talk to him or Erika Edwards to find out the time commitment and what the job entailed. Erika Edwards told the group that she appreciates working as part of a team; a job that allowed her to get sections more involved. Having two people working together is beneficial for engagement. Bianca Premo stated that this is a two-person job.

There being no objections to the draft call, it will be distributed to the membership as written.

7.3. The CLAH in the Age of COVID-19

Ben Vinson outlined some strategies for the CLAH to follow in the current public health and economic crisis. We as an organization are fighting for visibility in a tough resource environment. It is our job to support members as much as we can, possibly with letters to administrators pointing out the good work our members do. What can be the role of Latinx history/studies in our organization? How can we be more engaged with the public to advocate for the study and teaching of Latin American history? To carry out this expanded mission, we have to draw upon our Council members and the Section officers to a greater extent.

Bianca Premo reminded the Council of outstanding tasks identified through our survey. In addition to the structural and constitutional changes that the group has undertaken, members want the CLAH to do more for the preservation of and advocacy for Latin American archives; serve as a clearinghouse for current issues as in the example of the presidential panels; and get historians from Latin America involved to a greater extent.

To close the meeting, Bianca Premo thanked Lara for her six-year term on the Executive Committee and welcomed Ben to the presidency and Celso Castilho, as the

new vice president/president-elect. Many on the Council expressed their appreciation to Bianca for her excellent work as president of the CLAH. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

IV. CLAH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS ELECTED AND APPOINTED

On December 9, 2020, Co-Executive Director Jürgen Buchenau presented the results of balloting by CLAH members for a vice president/president elect, three new members of the Council, as well as new secretaries of the eleven CLAH Sections to President Bianca Premo and Vice President Ben Vinson for their verification as per the CLAH Constitution. The verified members-elect are:

Vice President and President Elect:

Celso Castilho, Vanderbilt University

Council (two-year term):

Danielle Terrazas Williams

Tamara Walker

María Barreiros Almeida Reis (non-TT position)

Section Secretaries: (elected to two-year terms, first year as secretary, second as chair)

Andean Studies Committee: Sarah Hines, University of Oklahoma

Atlantic World Studies Committee: Juan José Ponce Vázquez, University of Alabama

Borderlands/Frontiers Committee: Jessica Ordaz, University of Colorado

Brazilian Studies Committee: Yuko Miki, Fordham University

Caribbean Studies Committee: Reena Goldthree, Princeton University

Central American Studies Committee: Laura Matthew, Marquette University

Colonial Studies Committee: Mariana Dantas, Ohio University

Chile/Río de la Plata Studies Committee: Debbie Sharnak, Rowan University

Gran Colombian Studies Committee: Ana María Otero, Universidad de los Andes

Mexican Studies Committee: Mónica Díaz, University of Kentucky

Teaching and Teaching Materials Committee: Carlos Dimas, UNLV

*These names are submitted to the Council for certification as required by the CLAH Constitution.

The Council is also asked to approve the President's and Vice President's nominations for the following committees:

2021 Standing Committees:

Nominating Committee: Jorell Meléndez-Badillo, Ana Lucia Araujo, Jocelyn Olcott

Program Committee: Thomas Rogers (2021 chair), Sharika Crawford (2022 chair), Jesse Zarley

2021 Prize Committees:

Distinguished Service Award: Reid Andrews (chair), Daryle Williams, Gabriela Ramos

Bolton-Johnson Memorial Prize: David Sartorius (chair), Angela Vergara, Sonya Lipsett-Rivera

Howard F. Cline Prize: Kevin Terraciano (chair), Barbara Sommer, Miguel León.

James R. Scobie Memorial Awards: Hal Langfur (chair), Fernanda Bretones, Sarah Foss

Paul Vanderwood Prize: Leslie Offutt (chair), Bill van Norman, Erin Stone

Antonine Tibesar Prize: James Krippner (chair), Tom Rogers, Karen Racine

James A. Robertson Memorial Prize: Ida Altman (chair), Seth Garfield, Edward Wright-Ríos

Lydia Cabrera Awards: Matt Childs (chair), Takkara Brunson, Aisha Finch

Lewis Hanke Post-Doctoral Award: Sylvia Sellers García (chair), Heidi Scott, Javier Puente

Warren Dean Memorial Prize in Brazilian History: Gabriel Paquette (chair), Alexandre Fortes, Mary Hicks

María Elena Martínez Prize: Alexander Aviña (chair), Susana Sosenski, Diana Montaña

Elinor Melville Prize: Myrna Santiago (chair), Jaime Rodríguez, Oscar de la Torre.

V. CLAH COMMITTEE SESSION REPORTS

ANDEAN STUDIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair: Sarah Hines
Secretary: Javier Puente

Nicole Pacino (2021 chair) and Sarah Hines (2021 secretary) organized a panel for the 2022 meeting titled, "Social Movements and Governments in the Andes, Past and Present." The slated speakers were Valeria Coronel (FLACSO Ecuador), Victor Maqqe (University of Oklahoma), and Waskar Ari-Chachaki (University of Nebraska). The speakers were to discuss recent elections in historical context in Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia respectively. The panel was scheduled to take place at the in-person conference in New Orleans in January. Due to pandemic-related travel issues, the speakers and section officers decided to move the panel to the online conference at the end of February. Unfortunately, the time slot we were given did not work for two of our speakers. We thus decided to cancel the panel and organize a new panel with these speakers for the 2023 meeting in Philadelphia.

In 2021, Nicole and Sarah organized and updated the membership and email lists to identify potential speakers for our section meeting and contact members about the section meeting. In 2022, Sarah and Javier plan to do research and outreach to invite Andeanist faculty and graduate students who are not yet members to join and participate in the section.

ATLANTIC WORLD STUDIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair: Juan José Ponce Vázquez
Secretary: Anne Eller

On February 25, the Atlantic Studies seminar convened in a roundtable titled "Resisting Empire: Opposition to Colonial Expansion." The Chair of the panel was Alex Hidalgo (Texas Christian University). The participants were Gabriel Avilez Rocha (Brown University), Ernesto Mercado-Montero (Darmouth University), and Tessa Murphy (Syracuse University).

Dr. Avilez Rocha explored the early Atlantic as a site of resistance through the establishment of communities of fugitives from slavery in São Tomé, Brazil, and Lisbon. Dr. Mercado-Montero focused on how Indigenous groups propelled political change and used their autonomy to profit from and disrupt colonial ventures in the Lesser Antilles in the sixteenth century. Dr. Murphy focused on Kalinago resistance to the impositions of French and English colonization of the Lesser Antilles in the seventeenth century. All three scholars called for a reframing of historiographies of resistance and the early Atlantic and Caribbean.

Dr. Hidalgo expertly guided the very fruitful ensuing conversation with the audience. We will end with an intriguing question by a member of the audience: what would happen if we viewed resistance to colonialism in this period not as a prelude to better-studied events (the invasion of Mexico, the rise of sugar cultivation in Brazil, etc.), but rather as the terminal points of other processes?

BORDERLANDS AND FRONTIER SECTION

Chair: Natalie Mendoza

Secretary: Jessica Ordaz

The Borderlands and Frontiers Studies section of the CLAH held a roundtable session entitled, “State of the Field – Migrant Incarceration” as part of AHA22 Online on February 25, 2022. Session Chair, Jessica Ordaz from the University of Colorado Boulder introduced panelists Kristina Shull, from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Elliott G. Young, from Lewis & Clark College, Carl Lindskoog from Raritan Valley Community College, and Patrisia Macias-Rojas from the University of Illinois at Chicago. The goal of the roundtable was to focus on scholarship that centers on migrant incarceration. Scholars discussed their research methods, theoretical framings, and how the field of migrant incarceration has grown in the last decade. Each panelist spoke for about ten minutes before the chair opened up the session for questions and comments.

Kristina Shull discussed her personal connection to the detention and deportation regime and shared stories from detention while emphasizing migrant resistance and the power of storytelling. She highlighted the role of racialization and national security within the context of migrant incarceration. Of critical importance, Shull centered the lives of incarcerated queer and trans migrants in her conversation and concluded with remarks about abolitionist imaginaries.

Carl Lindskoog started his conversation by centering Haitian activism, the legal history of asylum, and migrant resistance. He discussed black migrants and their experience in the detention and deportation regime, which is a significant and an under researched focus. Lindskoog concluded by discussing his upcoming work on the United States as a settler carceral state and how the nation developed from the colonial to carceral. He too ended his talk by highlighting abolitionist strategies.

Elliot Young focused on the long history of policing and militarization of the US-Mexico border. Centering Chinese migrants, he highlighted the way they crossed borders, escaped detention, and avoided apprehensions. Also inspired by prison abolitionists, Young contextualized our current massive immigration detention system among a system of various institutions and restrictions.

Patrisia Macias-Rojas started by discussing her solidarity work within the field of migrant incarceration. Her upcoming work will focus on bed space activism and the social possibilities that are presented, or beds as spaces of rebellion. She hopes to link neoliberal capitalism with the intimate and discuss beds as sites of confinement and dreaming.

The chair concluded the session by thanking the panelists for producing scholarship that centers on the violence of the detention and deportation regime, including how the transnational, settler colonialism, white supremacy, and empire shapes immigration enforcement. This roundtable encouraged those in attendance to think about resistance, solidarity, and futures without caging. The panelists scholarship has and will continue to shape the ways carcerality is thought and written about in the fields of Prison Studies, Legal Studies, History, and in the movement toward abolition.

BRAZIL SECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Section Chair: Gillian McGillivray

Prepared by: Yuko Miki (outgoing Secretary; Section Chair 2022)

Panel Chair: Thomas Rogers

Panelists:

Eve Buckley

Jennifer Eaglin

Frederico Freitas

Lise Sedrez

Sandro Dutra e Silva

How has Brazil's current political climate affected the process of researching environmental history? What sort of archives have you worked in?

Frederico Freitas (FF hereafter): Was conducting research in Brazil on National Parks since the 1960s at the Instituto Chico Mendes; last there in 2014. COVID closed archive, so unable to return.

Lise Sedrez (LS hereafter): Is only Brazil-based scholar in this group. Has been able to access local archives, but has seen weakening of state institutions under Bolsonaro in the form of budget cuts, secrecy, and blackout on information on the environment. Even some information that is public, eg on deforestation, is made completely inaccessible. There is much denialism on climate change. For example, the entire discussion on climate in the Ministry of the Environment is being completely cut. Websites have shut down and information has disappeared. Fearful of what's going to happen after COVID shutdown.

While there aren't new secrecy laws, it is impossible for the archives to help researchers. Civil servants are demoralized. This creates greater obstacles for researchers to access archives, and COVID has just offered greater excuse for archives to block access. For the National Archives under COVID, historians have become their last priority. Meanwhile, attacks have escalated against indigenous people and universities, which have faced major budget cuts in terms of scholarship and research funding for scholars and students.

Jennifer Eaglin (JE hereafter): COVID has empowered silence on issues regarding the environment already in place under Bolsonaro, making the silencing strategy more effective and harder to expose. This is compounded by our difficulty of even going to Brazil or accessing

information, requiring even greater creativity and persistence than usual. Research is harder for Brazilians & Brazilianists and JE is grateful for Whatsapp for enabling communication.

Book on ethanol is coming out next week [Congratulations from everyone]. Next project is on nuclear energy, which is also hard to research. Some archives consulted for both projects: ISALQ – agricultural school in Piracicaba, which has amazing holdings that are still underutilized by environmental historians; and CETESP – environmental organization that came into being in '60s & 70s with an amazing but underutilized library in SP containing reports on water reports, air pollution.

Some “backdoor” ways to access Brazil’s nuclear history: Brazil’s 1st nuclear plant was built by Westinghouse whose archives are in Pittsburgh. Brazil later made an agreement with West Germany to build more nuclear plants with firms such as Siemens. JE is supposed to go to Germany for these archives.

Eve Buckley (EB hereafter): While not denied access to archives, there is a disregard for the importance of archives on environmental topics. The richest archives were in Ceará and the HQ of the Obras Contra Secas where EB researched the history of the droughts in the Northeast, maintained by the Federal University of Ceará. Found incredibly rich set of notes—kept in sheds, probably due to disinterest—by technocrats who’d come to look at drought and kept notes expressing their horror at the starvation. For new work, most of the sources are kept at the Fundação Joaquim Nabuco, which is much better endowed for NE Brazil standards. Yet even in the US, many archives like Rockefeller have been closed for 2 years.

Tom Rogers (TR hereafter) posed the following questions:

1. What do you see as pressing matters that need our attention in this field?
2. Given the challenges we just laid out, what genres and shapes should we take up in our future work? (TR is co-authoring work on Ethanol in BR and US and sees the importance of Op-Eds.)
3. What places of collaboration are there?

FF: There is a lot of work on the environmental history of Brazil. FF shifted research from national parks and conservation to studying cities, from rural to urban, and is currently focusing on Brasília. More broadly, is interested in approaching history and environmental history from geographical perspective and is doing a lot of work with GIS. Also thinking more theoretically about space, not just the environment.

On collaborative and sharing research: was part of a cluster hire at NC State with History, Computer Science, and Design, and is doing VR project with students. People in STEM want to work with humanities colleagues. FF used to write Op-eds, which sometimes has gotten him into trouble, esp with left-leaning work, and has decided to wait until tenure. Believes podcasting (interviews and more) can allow historians to reach broader audiences.

LS: COVID has made it hard to do oral histories with favela residents (interdisciplinary project on favelas and climate). Class & race inequalities have become more exacerbated with COVID. For example, before COVID, they already had mudslides, and when [the gang] Terceiro Commando took over the favela, the university team was not allowed to go. Same with COVID.

However, favela residents have no choice because they live there. In the meantime, has done fundraising to help communities.

A major challenge has been supporting students under deadline to finish their MAs and PhDs, who have been without archival access for 2 years. Although many institutions have digitized more holdings, haven't prioritized environmental issues. The History & Nature Lab weekly online meetings have brought people from all over the place including alumni now in Amazon, NE.

[Sarah Sarzynski adds: remember to support Brazilian colleagues and students, for example by hiring them to do research for you, since you can't travel.]

Threats in the Classroom: Prior to the pandemic, in mid-2019, someone tried to record LS's classes. In February 2020, after delivering a paper on denialism under Bolsonaro, somebody showed up at LS's Graduate Program asking about whether Prof. Sedrez taught there and named their parents, and asked, "Does she teach communism?" University did not share info. Although tenured, LS was scared. Younger colleagues have shared similar stories. Such incidents are very intimidating especially for those starting their career. Incorporating young researchers in our projects can help them against intimidation. Trained in US, LS has good networks, but wonders if the forthcoming July publication of "Environmental Policies in Times of Right Wing Populism" will make them into target again.

FF: Pre-pandemic, Bolsonaro govt's "unofficial/official" policy was that whenever a Brazilianist or scholar speaks, the government would send somebody from the consulate to the presentation to take notes.

LS: Escola Sem Partido [people showing up to film classes, denounce educators] predates all this current anti-Critical Race Theory and anti-gender studies movements in the US.

JE: When we push the boundaries of what environmental history can do, at minimum, it ruffles feathers; at maximum, it triggers authoritarian-like reactions such as accusing us of teaching communism.

Addressing other panelists: You are all addressing big questions about environment, but we sometimes get compartmentalized. For example, any conversation about ethanol (JE's work) is also about cars, so energy studies have immediate policy implications, eg transportation, electric vehicles. This means we should be more public-facing. Unfortunately, we are living through a visible acceleration of climate change (catastrophic mudslides, huge droughts that imperil hydroelectric power, monsoons), so it's harder for people to deny it. We have a platform to talk about this publicly in ways that other fields don't. It's therefore our responsibility to address this and engage the public. JE was also part of cluster hire at OSU's sustainability institute. Brings policy people to class, which students love, and also serves the University.

Podcasts are low lift, broad way of engaging wide public. Did a project with Untextbook in which JE was interviewed by an undergrad. Important to reach youth and general audiences.

EB: Environmental history is very powerful in its interdisciplinarity. EB was looking at food and global politics. Historians often have lower status among the disciplines, so it's good to be on par with fields like natural sciences. Students enjoy seeing long-term perspective on current issues, or "how we got here." A colleague, Mark Carey, has done great work by migrating from LA history to being a humanist in conversation with climate science.

Sandro Silva (joined now; SS hereafter):

Reading prepared remarks.

“Crossing over with the cattle drive” or *passar a boiada*. This refers to a comment made in April 2020 by Bolsonaro’s environmental minister, Ricardo Salles, who suggested that the pandemic promoted an extraordinary opportunity for the government to make rules more “flexible” and diminish legal norms and regulations related to environment. Shows the fragility of BR environmental policy, which sees Nature as an obstacle to be overcome. It is the basis of post-WW2 developmentalism in Brazil and Latin America which considers economic progress to be the most important thing at any cost. Under Kubischek, Brazil tore through Amazon, arguing that that the army of progress would not give into nature. Reflects the dominant cultural imagination in which “stubborn nature” is a feature of backwardness.

The current *Reserva* legal system favors certain biomes over others. Law stipulates that 80% of the forest must be protected, but grasslands, only 20%. The government has thus promoted the destruction of grassland as the only way to protect the forest. Disregards how biomes are interconnected. Crossing over cattle drive hence means also easing use of pesticide, and the Brazilian congress is rushing to pass legalization of more pesticide use. Biogeographic environmental policies are therefore of tremendous importance and should be included in history conferences. The Serrado, which SS studies, was the most biodiverse grassland in the world, but was originally considered unsuitable for agricultural development.

JE: How do ideas of development and economic growth butt heads with ideas of environmental usage, preservation, and conservation? Brazil has often sacrificed the environment in name of economic growth, with huge implications for the present and future.

SS: Development and Conservation are strangely related. The Conservation Movement started in the 20th c., arguing that in order to protect the forest, we need to figure out how to develop grasslands. For example The Forestal Code (1930s) stated that to protect forested regions, we have to “use” biogeographical territories like grasslands, pamps, serrado, and caatinga. This policy doesn’t consider that an ecosystem is interconnected, so that what happens in one biome interferes in another. In Brazil, consideration of only one region for development or conservation will create many problems.

LS: we no longer can have a purely academic conversation. We see its policy implications especially under Bolsonaro.

Gillian McGillivray: I appreciate Eve’s note on interdisciplinarity, the need to breaking down disciplinary boundaries, and also challenging the boundaries of country/city and biomes.

[In comments, Bruno Baccalon shared <https://narratives.imaginerio.org/>]

- End of session -

CARIBBEAN STUDIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair: Kaysha Corinealdi
Secretary: Reena Goldthree

The Caribbean Studies Section convened virtually on Saturday, January 8, 2022, from 6:00-8:15 p.m. CST, hosting a session titled, “Black Women and World Making in the Caribbean.” The session explored Black women’s efforts to remake their communities through political activism, intellectual production, and care work during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The session highlighted innovative approaches for studying the history of Black women in the Greater Caribbean and emphasized the links between Black women’s productive and reproductive labor. The session featured presentations by Takkara Brunson (Texas A&M University), Kaysha Corinealdi (Emerson College), and Sasha Turner (Johns Hopkins University). Reena Goldthree (Princeton University) served as the commentator.

In her paper, “Slavery and the (de)valuing of Care Work,” Sasha Turner examined the devaluation of nursing as a legacy of slavery and gendered shifts in the medical field during the nineteenth century. Turner discussed how enslavers exploited Black women’s reproductive and productive labor and detailed how market logics shaped commodification with the household during slavery. As the medical field underwent new forms of professionalization in the nineteenth century, white male physicians positioned themselves as educated and skillful practitioners, while casting both enslaved and free midwives as dangerous. Female nurses, as Turner explained, responded to these shifts by redefining the role of the nurse. In the paper, Turner compared the work of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole, a Jamaican nurse who established a hotel that provided meals, lodging, and medical treatment for British troops during the Crimean War. Turner argued that Seacole, unlike Nightingale, challenged the nineteenth-century image of a nurse as subservient, devout, and charitable by combining her work as a healer with multiple entrepreneurial ventures and extensive international travel.

Following Turner’s presentation, Kaysha Corinealdi gave a paper titled, “More than Equality: Linda Smart Chubb and Black Feminist Internationalism in Panama.” In the paper, Corinealdi foregrounded the work of Linda Smart Chubb, a trailblazing journalist, feminist activist, and political organizer in Panama during the interwar years. Corinealdi revealed how Smart Chubb worked simultaneously within Panama’s feminist movement as a member of the Partido Nacional Feminista, while also advocating on behalf of Afro-Caribbean Panamanians through her work as a newspaper columnist and volunteer night school teacher. Furthermore, Smart Chubb used her position as a clerk at the British consulate in Colón to write reports that criticized British officials for failing to defend the rights of Afro-Caribbean British subjects who faced discrimination in Panama. Ultimately, Corinealdi argued that Smart Chubb “embraced a cross-racial, multilingual, and pluricultural approach” to Black feminist internationalism that allowed her to emerge as a respected leader in Panama’s Black community as well as in the local women’s movement.

In the final paper, “Black Women and the Cuban Communist Movement,” Takkara Brunson chronicled the activism of Black women communists in the decades before the 1959 Revolution. Brunson argued that radical Black women joined the Cuban Communist Party to address their economic grievances and the expose the “triple

discrimination” Black working-class women faced due to racism, sexism, and capitalist exploitation. The Communist Party attracted a significant number of Black Cuban members during the 1930s and 1940s and included Black women in its leadership, a fact that distinguished the Communists from other political parties at the time. Brunson analyzed the activist strategies of several Black women in the communist movement, including Esperanza Sánchez Mastrapa, Consuelo Silveira, Teresa García, and Zoila Castellanos Ferrer. Brunson noted that Black Communist women rarely discussed antiblack racism in their speeches or writings, but rather, emphasized the problems of class exploitation and government corruption in their public discourse.

In her comments following the presentations, Reena Goldthree identified several key themes that emerged from the papers about Black women’s world-making practices. Goldthree noted that all three presentations highlighted the importance of migration and ties to transnational communities and movements for Black women activists in the Caribbean. Likewise, the papers exposed how Black women have attempted to mobilize through women’s clubs as well as race- and class-based organizations in an effort to combat racism, sexism, and class inequality. Finally, several of the women profiled in the papers—including Mary Seacole, Linda Smart Chubb, and Zoila Castellanos Ferrer—used writing as a tool for self-fashioning and to participate in the public sphere. Following Goldthree’s remarks, the panel concluded with questions from audience members.

CENTRAL AMERICAN STUDIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair: Jordana Dym, Skidmore College
Secretary: Laura Matthew, Marquette University

Participants:

Hortensia Calvo, Tulane University
Yesenia Martinez, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras
Thelma Porres, Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamérica (CIRMA)
Margarita Vannini, Independent Scholar
Gerardo Monterrosa, CIMSUR de Chiapas

Comment: Sylvia M. Sellers-Garcia, Boston College

"Central America, Archives, and History"

The Central American Studies Section held its annual meeting on February 21, 2022, on Zoom, with attendees who registered for the virtual session. The election of Brianna Leavitt-Alcántara as incoming secretary was announced at the beginning of the session.

The Central American Studies Section was delighted to bring together four archivists from Central America and Hortensia Calvo, director of the Latin American Library of Tulane University in New Orleans, to discuss the role of archives in the production of

historical knowledge. Sadly, restrictions on international travel forced the session online, planned jointly to be hosted at the Latin American Library at Tulane with a reception for CLAH, to be held online rather than in person, with cancellation of the reception. Nevertheless, the Latin American Library created an exhibit in honor of the session, "Central America at The Latin American Library," on view at the 4th floor entrance to the Latin American Library.

Panelists offered a wide range of perspectives. Hortensia Calvo summarized the strengths in Central American history of Tulane's Latin American Library, rooted in the creation of the Middle American Research Institute (1924) and New Orleans' importance as a trans-hemispheric port city. Important collections include the papers of the early national leader of Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica, Francisco Morazán (1830-1842) and the German coffee investor Erwin Paul Dieseldorff from Guatemala; a meteorological collection from Belize; and the recently acquired Chamorro Barrios family papers from Nicaragua (1767-2000). From 1999-2003, federal funds from the Department of Latin American Studies at Tulane supported the first Central American Libraries and Archives Project (CALAP I) with 16 participants from Central America, which made valuable institutional connections but failed to bear much fruit. A second CALAP II (2015-2018) with the Instituto de Historia de Nicaragua y Centroamérica de la Universidad de Centro América (IHNCA) under Margarita Vannini and the Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamérica in Guatemala (CIRMA) with Guisela Asensio and Thelma Porres, were more successful despite administrative and other setbacks.

Yesenia Martínez of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras noted the support of Tulane University and its Library and summarized the situation of Honduran archives since the coup d'état of 2009. The Secretaría de Cultura was converted to a lower-level office in 2014 and along with the Instituto Hondureño de Antropología e Historia. Its staff was replaced by non-professionals with little background or interest in the conservation of historical patrimony. With the new presidential administration elected in 2021, it is hoped that the Secretaría de Cultura will be reinstated to its former institutional status. More positively, the Universidad Pedagógica Francisco Morazán and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras and its Dirección Ejecutiva de Gestión de Tecnología have collaborated with archivists at the Congresos Centroamericanos de Historia to safeguard and digitalize documents at the Archivo Histórico de la Corte Suprema de Justicia and the Archivo Histórico de la Municipalidad de San Pedro Sula, among others; see <https://ilkaya.unah.edu.hn/> and <https://tzibalnaah.unah.edu.hn/xmlui/>. A project begun by historians Dr. Darío Euraque and Dr. Rodolfo Pastor in the 2000s has survived and continues to grow, at <https://cdihh.ihah.hn/>. COVID-19 closed most Honduran archives for a year and a half, but institutions are now re-opening with health safeguards. Archivists have also been making digitizations of materials from international repositories available to researchers, always insisting that the original source be cited.

Thelma Torres, historian and director of the Archivo Histórico of CIRMA, emphasized the importance of professionalism in both archival organization and service to researchers. Training for students interested in archival careers has increased at the Escuela de Historia of the Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala since the founding

of a formal program in 1999. Many graduates of this program are now working in the field. Since the onset of COVID-19, most Guatemalan archives have re-opened but require appointments and limit the number of researchers allowed in the building per day. The Archivo General de Centro América also limits the number of documents that researchers may consult to 5 per day (a provision in place prior to the pandemic). Issues of digitization such as obsolescence of technology are of great concern, as is the lack of Guatemalan laws to support archives and protect documents from theft and deterioration. COVID-19 and the shift to online services has been very difficult, and the return to in-person services has required a lot of planning by staff. Funds and respect for archival professions as a career path are needed to dignify this work.

Margarita Vannini, historian and independent scholar from Nicaragua, spoke of the Instituto de Historia de Nicaragua y Centroamérica (IHNCA) of the Jesuit Universidad de Centro América of Nicaragua, from which she retired as director in 2017. Pioneering projects such *Memoria Centroamericana* <<http://ihncahis.uca.edu.ni/mc/>> and *Archivo Mesoamericano* <<https://archivomesoamericano.org/>> were made possible by regular meetings between regional partners at the Mesa de Archivos of the Congreso Centroamericano de Historia and international partners such as Tulane's Latin American Library, the University of Texas at Austin, the British Library, and UNESCO's Memoria del Mundo. Of grave concern is the progressive closing since 2006 of institutional archives and more recently, the confiscation of the archives of many of the sixteen private universities and over 100 NGOs including human rights organizations that have been closed by the government. At UCA, IHNCA's budget and staff numbers have been severely impacted by a drop in students due to imprisonment or exile for political protest and the slashing of government scholarships. A law has been proposed for the government to take control of private archives and in 2021 the government named specific institutions with holdings related to Sandino that are to be considered national patrimony, among them the IHNCA. In a different context this might be interpreted as promoting the conservation and study of historical documents, but the signs are ominous.

Gerardo Monterrosa, currently del Centro de Investigaciones Multidisciplinarias sobre Chiapas y la Frontera Sur (CIMSUR) in San Cristóbal de Las Casas in Chiapas and former director of the Archivo General de la Nación of El Salvador, spoke about the situation in that archive and also the Archivo Histórico del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores of El Salvador created in 2013. The AGN is currently open without need for an appointment and is particularly rich in chronologically ordered but unclassified and underexplored documentation from the 19th and 20th century. For instance, for the decade of the 1930s one finds ample information about military patrols, elections, state intelligence agencies, and the formation of "martinista" groups, etc. In the AHMRE one needs to apply through the governmental forms made available by laws of access to public information, which obligate the government to share the information requested. This archive has scarcely been consulted by researchers, and includes Salvadoran dispatches for anticommunist campaigns, official propaganda, records of international conferences, documentation regarding commercial relations with other countries, letters between diplomats, etc. To whet the appetite, Monterrosa shared a communication concerning a Guatemalan writer who was allowed to enter massacre sites after the El Salvadoran massacres of Nawat peasants in 1932.

Sylvia Sellers-García recognized the monumental work done by these archivists and their staff despite so many obstacles: different crises at the level of the state, lack of resources, weak or repressive laws, and a sense of uncertainty about the future than can be paralyzing. She raised three questions for the panel to consider: How to protect what has already been achieved and maintain the relationships that already exist? How to pursue digital culture to assist in this effort? How best to deploy our collective strengths?

The panelists emphasized the benefits that would accrue to national patrimony as well as to individual researchers by seeking collaboration and synergies, such as by identifying complementary collections across repositories, developing digital projects around coherent themes rather than simply digitizing everything, or focusing primarily on items in poor condition. It was noted that neither existing, overworked staff nor untrained students can be expected to do this kind of work; funds must be found to contract professionals who can dedicate their full attention to the task and exercise quality control. One source could be graduates of archival programs at the university level, for instance in Guatemala and Honduras. Conferences and collaborations – even when they don't come to fruition – remain excellent opportunities to carry connections into the future. The bicentennial year could have been taken much more advantage of as a regional project; the challenges of historical and archival work during the pandemic hindered potential outreach and collaboration. Moving forward, panelists discussed a strategy of garnering support to develop or identify projects that take advantage of existing strengths and therefore reduce new demands and additional workloads for any given unit.

The panel closed with the suggestion that the decade of the 1930s-40s might be a topic for one such project, and that more conversation between historians and archivists might be beneficial. Which historians are working on what themes in this time period, and what can they share about the documentation that exists? Another Zoom meeting was suggested to continue the conversation. **Members of the CLAH Central American section or other CLAH members interested in this topic may contact Laura Matthew or Jordana Dym.**

CHILE-RIO DE LA PLATA SECTION

Chair: María de los Ángeles Picone
Secretary: Debbie Sharnak

“Cultural History as Resistance”

The Chile-Río de la Plata Committee convened online on Friday, January 7, 2022, at 5:30pm CST. The topic of this year's panel was “Cultural History as Resistance,” and the panel posed questions about what's at stake when we examine resistance through the lens of cultural productions/performances (or vice versa)? How do these themes

intersect with questions of ethnicity, race, religion, sexuality, geography, and class? At heart, how do the panelists see culture and resistance in their own research? The panelists came from a wide array of scholars at various institutions and at different points in the academic trajectory. They included Rwany Sibaja, Rebekah Pite, Daniel Richter, Craig Johnson, Soledad Mocchi-Radich, Andra Chastain, and Joshua Frens-String.

Rwany Sibaja started the conversation by connecting resistance as a natural element of sport to cultural resistance within society. Through the lens of Argentine fútbol, Sibaja looked at two sides of class and nation. He positioned the idea of Argentine fútbol as a symbol of modernity and progress against the sport as a product of the disordered masses. He asked questions about how soccer posed a dilemma for ideas of Argentina against the two divergent cultural images.

Rebekah Pite's work focuses on the place of yerba mate, particularly how the drink fostered connection and shaped regional identity. While her book stresses mate as a way to bring together society versus conflict in many cases, she offered two examples of resistance—the first during the independence era when mate was a symbol of resistance to colonial rule and the second as a symbol of dissent against the Cold War military dictatorships.

Craig Johnson focused on the far right wing group, the Tacuara Nationalist Movement. Instead of looking at cultural resistance in the name of social justice, he looked as cultural resistance to liberal democracy and multiculturalism. His presentation asked questions about how to study and examine groups that one might personally feel are morally abhorrent, but how to approach them as a scholar to understand, study and analyze their forms of resistance.

Soledad Mocchi-Radichi focused on the link between leisure and resistance. She used photographs to illustrate how to move beyond the classical binary between work and leisure in capitalist societies, either through workers taking the space to play games, smoke, or nap during the workday, or through others climbing over walls to get into soccer stadiums without paying. In this work, she questioned the extent to how we define free time, how to understand leisure among the popular classes, the limits and modes of consumptions in the 1920s and 1930.

Andra Chastain shifted the focus of the conversation to Chile, looking at the metro system as a form of state building and profitmaking. She looked at how the metro system was initiative of the Frei and Allende administrations, but ultimately was opened and coopted by the military dictatorship that then claimed it as an example of its rule. She examined popular forms of resistance to the metro through music and art, and then how in the post dictatorship period, the state attempted to remove the association of the metro from Pinochet. As a result, the presentation asked questions about multiple forms of cooptation and resistance to state building at different stages of the metro's construction and utilization within Chile.

Joshua Frens-String connected to Pite's work by looking at food as resistance. His work put a focus on fish as a form of political commitment, thinking about food as not just cultural history but as a link between culture and politics. Lastly, Daniel Richter looked at the case of Nordelta and the suburbs as a site of resistance.

While the audience was small and there was not much extra time after all the presentations. Therefore, a short discussion followed that posed questions about resistance during the 19th century, which none of the panelists addressed, as well as the ways talking about far right groups abroad allow us to also think about the cultural resistance of far rights groups in the US. In all, the panel offered a wide range of perspectives and ways of approaching cultural history through the notion of resistance, while also connecting it to various other fields of history such as politics, urban/suburban planning, and class.

COLONIAL STUDIES COMMITTEE

Chair: Mariana Dantas

Secretary: Mónica Ricketts

“Colonial Urban Spaces: Encounters, Exchanges, and Power Brokering”

The Colonial Studies Section of CLAH held its annual roundtable at the 2022 AHA/CLAH meeting in New Orleans, LA, on Friday, January 7, from 7:15-8:45PM EST

The roundtable counted with the presence of two of the four invited speakers, Jessica Criaes (Eiteljorg Museum/Lake Forest College) and Guadalupe Garcia (Tulane University). Two other invited speakers, Sherwin Bryant (Northwestern University) and John Marquez (Colorado College/Omohundro Institute Postdoctoral Fellow) cancelled their attendance at the conference because of concerns over COVID. Marquez was able to share some written remarks with the panel, which the chair read at the event. Bryant was unfortunately unable to do so.

The chair of the Colonial Studies Section, Mariana Dantas (Ohio University), opened the roundtable discussion by introducing the roundtable topic and the points of discussion the speakers were asked to address. The goal of the panel was to examine urban sites as places where the organization, administration, and weight of empire were devised, managed, and negotiated. These processes were shaped by those who inhabited and transited through these urban spaces, defining their uses and constructing their meanings through contentious negotiations that, as a result, also made cities and towns places of power brokerage.

The roundtable participants have produced rich scholarship that examine the legal structures, spatiality, and racial and gender dynamics that informed experiences of

freedom, spirituality, collective identity, and personhood in colonial Latin America. Their work draws our attention to urban spaces where law was debated and enforced, beliefs embraced and challenged, movement and encounters constrained and directed, and interpersonal relationships cultivated and lost. They were thus charged with facilitating a discussion of the urban as both context and lens of analysis to understand colonial societies. They were also asked to consider how, by centering the urban, we can engage better with scholarship that has yet to fully incorporate Latin America and indigenous and African descendant peoples in global narratives about the early modern era.

Guadalupe Garcia started our discussion with a presentation about her research and digital humanities work on Havana. Garcia shared with the audience the story of Margarita, a thirteen-year-old enslaved girl who was reported a runaway in 1823. Advertisements for Margarita inform us of the time and itinerary she might have taken. Her flight invokes a particular use of urban space by an enslaved person whose goals differed significantly from those of the colonial administration and Cuban elites. In her digital work with historical maps, however, Garcia has found that the representation of urban space in Havana was heavily distorted to shape an image of the city that corresponded to colonial conceptions of its uses, importance, and demographic and social realities. When historical maps are “corrected” with software used to rectify, according to contemporary spatial projections, cartographic representation of space, they reveal how past mapmakers and historical actors drew the city according to their own understanding or imagining of Havana. Layering this digitally acquired knowledge with other historical information about neighborhoods, households and businesses, and individuals, Garcia believes we can uncover new ways of understanding and imagining the city. This methodology allows us to revisit definitions of urban space and to foreground experiences like that of Margarita to examine the role enslaved women and girls played in shaping this crucial urban center of the nineteenth-century world.

In her presentation, Jessica Criales also invited us to consider the question of who defines the city and for what purpose, as well as how understudied urban agents challenged and reframed those definitions. Criales shared with the audiences some “curious cases”, as she called them, from her research on indigenous female convents in colonial Mexico – namely Mexico City, Valladolid, and Oaxaca. These convents were distinct urban sites that were at the center of negotiations (Criales’s curious cases) between Spanish/creole religious officials and local Nahuatl and other indigenous communities. They were indeed urban by definition since, as Criales explained, the Council of Trent stipulated that convents had to be located within the walls of a city. They were at the center of these colonial disputes because it was in the context of proposing and building more convents that indigenous communities sometimes attempted to extend the reach of the walled-city to include indigenous neighborhoods on its outskirts, or conversely to use the Council of Trent’s city walls rule to place their convent within the perimeter of the Spanish urban center. While the cases Criales discussed did not produce the exact results indigenous leaders had hoped for, they do underscore how the indigenous convent, as an urban institution, enabled spatial, social,

and religious negotiations in which indigenous women became key drivers of indigenous claims for spatial exclusivity and control in colonial Mexico.

John Marquez, in his written comments, shifted our attention from contested definitions of the urban, and the actors who shaped colonial social-spatial dynamics, to the methodological and historiographical potential of examining urban spaces and institutions as places of exchange—more specifically, places of intellectual exchange between Africans and African descendants. Marquez referenced the work of archaeologist Tania de Andrade Lima on Rio de Janeiro's water well, where recovered magico-religious artifacts point to the site's relevance as a place of exchange of knowledge. He noted that, similarly, historian Mary Hicks's study of the production, trade, and consumption of West African textiles (*panos da costa*) reveals the complex intellectual exchange between weavers in the Bight of Benin, Black mariners-turned-traders on slave ships, and Black urban consumers in Salvador. Urban sites, goods, and services, Marquez argued, thus offer an important thread which, when followed, can support fuller histories of African intellectual production and exchanges that supported Atlantic developments. He offered an example from his own work. Black brotherhoods in Lisbon and in other cities of the Portuguese Atlantic world shared strategies and notions about these associations' legal right to pursue the freedom of enslaved Africans and their descendants. Brotherhoods in Lisbon even developed mechanisms to secure freedom from slavery to those threatened with sale to Brazil or who sailed from Brazil to Lisbon after the Portuguese free-soil legislation of 1761. This exchange of information and legal strategies further highlights cities as places of early modern knowledge production, and Africans and their descendants as central to a Latin American and indeed global legal history of freedom.

Inspired by the three presentations, the audience led a conversation about existing and potential new understandings of the urban as a category of inquiry and framework of analysis. One particular point that arose from the conversation was that demographic density, though often a common trait of cities and towns, should not be a determining one. Colonial, and indeed pre-colonial urban centers were understood as such because their political and social character supported historically relevant exchanges even among transient populations. Another issue brought up by the audience was the role spatial ordering and built environments played in controlling marginal or disempowered populations. However, urban transformations that resulted from the desire for control, if read in reverse, also reveal the impactful way those populations challenged existing urban forms and uses and reshaped them.

GRAN COLOMBIA STUDIES COMMITTEE

Chair: Shawn Van Ausdal
Secretary: Ana María Otero-Cleves

Commentator: Nancy Appelbaum

Participants:

Santiago Muñoz

Ernesto Bassi

Shawn Van Ausdal Ana María Otero

“Microhistories of Gran Colombia”

Summary:

The fiftieth anniversary of the publication of Carlo Ginzberg’s seminal book, *The Cheese and the Worms* (1976), is fast approaching. Yet, with some notable exceptions, the microhistory approach has yet to find firm footing in the countries of Gran Colombia (Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador). By presenting and reflecting on concrete case studies, this roundtable sought to explore the potential and pitfalls of writing microhistories about the region. The participants debated over the benefits of writing microhistories of Gran Colombia and in particular, how should historians go about doing it and what might they gain by writing microhistories of Gran Colombia.

The session started with Santiago Muñoz’s presentation on Tomás López Medel’s career. The López Medel ventured in 1549 to the New World to take part in the expansion of the Spanish monarchy overseas as an imperial administrator. He held posts in New Spain and later on, in New Granada. Muñoz’ explained how López Medel’s ideas about the Indians and the empire evolved from assessing the imperial policies as unjust towards Spanish settlers to one that strongly advocated for the defense of the Indians. By following López Medel’s trajectory Muñoz demonstrated how the administrator’s illusions and frustrations offer an intimate portrait of the nature of power and governance of the Hispanic monarchy in the Indies and, in particular, in the New Kingdom of Granada.

Ernesto Bassi discussed “the life of a ship,” the Spanish frigate *San Antonio*, connecting its final tragic end in Cartagena in 1789, to two global processes of the late eighteenth century: the rise of capitalism and the configuration of what he termed “intermittent globalization”. Bassi proposed that following the venturesome and tragic life of the *San Antonio* makes it possible to write a “history of what was deemed possible but remained unrealized.” (Ann Stoler, *Along the Archival Grain*, 108). The journey of the *San Antonio* and the visions of economic prosperity for New Granada of Antonio Caballero y Góngora and many others reveal that, from New Granada’s shores, the rise of capitalism is a story of unfulfilled projects and shattered dreams.

Ana María Otero-Cleves presented her paper titled “The textiles she bought: Microhistory, Historical Imagination, and the Cultural Biography of Objects in mid-nineteenth century Colombia.” Otero-Cleves centered on the case study of María Flórez, a former slave, who visited José María Botero Arango’s *tienda* in Medellín the 3th of December, 1858. She questioned the possibility of “imagining” what these foreign goods meant for María. Otero-Cleves first intuition was to track María and to determine if others were consumers like her. More importantly, to follow the textiles she purchased

in order to consider their range of meanings. Finding the answers to her questions required exploring the circulation of imported textiles in the Atlantic world and specifically, in mid-nineteenth century Colombia after the abolition of slavery in 1851. Otero-Cleves demonstrated that María's choice in 1858 provides only a glimpse of the intersection between the world of goods and the world of free women of colour. She finished her intervention inviting historians to question if commodities can tell us much about what "freedom" - freedom to choose - meant in Colombia's post-emancipation society.

Nancy Applebaum proceeded to give her comments on the presentations and on Shawn Van Ausdal's paper, about the "life geographies" of Anthoine de Gorogza and Louis Lacharme as they moved between France, Cartagena, California, Montería, Madrid, New York, the Darien, Antwerp, and Paris, drawing attention to the unexpected connections — of people, capital, networks, dreams — that made the Sinú Valley frontier a nodal point in the globalizing Atlantic world. Applebaum began by noting how these microhistories-in-motion invite historians to think about "the shape-shifting nature of people and things as they crossed oceans and borders, and the many forces that derailed dreams of capitalist prosperity." Applebaum also noticed the ability of the different case studies to deal through micro-history with "big questions" – such as the rise of capitalism - from an new and unconventional perspective. She also underscored how the case studies vividly illustrate just how haphazard and tenuous imperial ventures could be, and how merchants have to adapt to local preferences. For Applebaum, all the cases highlight the agency of local actors and environmental forces in shaping capitalist schemes, successes, and failures.

MEXICAN STUDIES COMMITTEE

Chair: Mónica Díaz

Presenters:

Edward N. Wright-Rios

Tanalís Padilla

Francie Chassen-Lopez

Gladys McCormick

The panel was organized as a round table with each presenter speaking for 10 minutes about the different ways in which memory informs the writing of history and the ways in which we "remember" the past. Eddie Wright-Rios began by talking about devotional narratives and how people use "remembering patterns" to narrate their memories. People reorder, remember, and re-imagine past experiences. He talked about the importance of thinking about the past in order to connect it with the present. Tanalís Padilla's remarks considered oral histories as well as the ways in which memory recovers archival silences. She also reflected on the relationship between what an individual remembers, and the collective memory. Francie Chassen-López, as a

historian of the nineteenth century, commented on the need to rely on material culture to reconstruct the memory of marginalized subjects such as women. She also asked why women were forgotten and reflected on how memory for the most part has been male. She posed the question: can the gendered politics of memory be changed? The last presenter was Gladys McCormick who also focused on oral histories, in this case, of torture. She also pointed out to what she called, “scripts,” which as she pointed out, were heavily curated by the individuals narrating their memories and reflected the collective memory of a particular event.

There were fifteen people in the audience, and we devoted thirty minutes to discussion and dialogue between the panelists and the public.

TEACHING & TEACHING COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair: Casey Lurtz

Secretary: Carlos Dimas

Casey Lurtz (Johns Hopkins University) convened a panel entitled “Lessons for a Post-Pandemic Future—Not Quite There Yet!” consisting of Brenda Elsey (Hofstra University), Ángela Vergara (California State University Los Angeles), and María de los Ángeles Picone (Boston College) as panel members. The meeting took place January 7, 2022 online. Attendance was 10 people including the panel and section management.

The section began with an overview of the Section’s events online and then moved to news and awards. The syllabus prize was divided between Stephanie Huezo (Fordham) “Modern Central America” and Kevin Coleman (University of Toronto) “Religion and Society in Latin America.” The awards committee consisted of Rocío Gómez, Jordana Dym, and Rob Karl.

The meeting began with Elsey discussing how faculty navigate the current period and their relationship with administration. Elsey’s main argument, which the other panelist echoed, is the importance of remaining flexible in an ever-changing teaching and public health scenario. In particular, Elsey cautioned against faculty over-stretching themselves, since being over flexible may cause increased stress and possible burnout. In particular, as semesters switch back and forth between in-person and online.

Picone was the second speaker. Following the discussion of avoiding burnout, Picone presented on the benefits of structuring classes around multiple opportunities for assessment and varying due dates. Picone noted there are pros and cons. For the pros, it reduced the possibility of students feeling stressed with due dates that may not work with their overall schedule of personal responsibilities and other courses. In addition, the need to establish all of the course infrastructure in the beginning it reduces much of the work throughout the semester. At first it may seem like lots of moving parts, but it will level out in time. For the cons, this format presents less chances for early intervention and can also push students to load all of their work to the end. A couple solutions to

these problems is offering a “no questions asked get out of jail free card” and pushing students to participate in collaborative note taking on platforms, such as Google Drive such as the workshop the section hosted in March of 2021 with Dr. Aiala Levy (University of Scranton).

The section closed with Vergara. She began with stating that to bridge the gap between faculty and students, is for professors to understand students. Better said, to understand their socio-economic, cultural, and social backgrounds, as well as the culture of the institution that students have created rather than impose. This facilitates what Vergara called a “crafting a pedagogy from the ground up,” in relation to assignments and course design. This, for instance, consists of working with technology students already have access to, using Open Access resources, utilizing transparent assignment design, and promoting digital literacy skills. Last, the importance to teach about positive and uplifting moments in the past.

The question and answer portion was short. Participants and the audience continued the conversation on the need to find a balance between teaching, service, and research, and life and work. Overall, the dominant theme was the importance of patience.

VI. CLAH AWARD AND PRIZE RECIPIENTS AND CITATIONS

1. James Alexander Robertson Prize

Committee: Ida Altman, chair; Seth Garfield; Edward Wright-Ríos

Winner: Alfonso Salgado, “La batalla por la opinion pública: Radiodifusión y política comunicacional en la vía chilena al socialismo,” HADR 100:3

Alfonso Salgado provides a well-grounded and sophisticated analysis of the challenges that Popular Unity faced in Chile in cultivating a revolutionary ethos through radio broadcasting, showcasing the difficulty the Left under Allende faced in confronting the cultural hegemony of the conservative media and its messaging. Salgado points to the enormous popularity of the radio at a time when ownership of televisions was still limited to well-to-do households, and traces Popular Unity’s efforts to win hearts and minds through radio station ownership and programming. Yet he also underscores the complex interplay of the political and ideological aspirations of the Left and the preferences of popular audiences for radio content, ranging from popular music to the “sentimentalized” appeal of the *novela* and its gendered overtones. Despite the limited sources available to study radiobroadcasting content, he has done an impressive job of identifying relevant material from official and academic sources, memoirs, as well as print media. This article makes a significant contribution to the history of Cold War Latin America and media studies. In exploring what contemporary historical actors thought a revolution should *sound* like, Salgado does more than enrich our understanding of the cultural politics of the Allende period. He points to the importance of paying greater

historiographical attention to the impact of the radio broadcasting in modern Latin American societies as embodied experience and ideological battleground.

Honorable mention: Nancy E. Van Deusen, "Indigenous Slavery's Archive in Seventeenth-Century Chile," HAHR 101:1

Nancy Van Deusen's article offers an empirically rich and methodologically innovative reflection on the role of documents and archives in regulating historical subjects through the case study of the certification of enslaved Indigenous peoples in colonial Chile. Her intriguing study reveals not only how legal/ bureaucratic processes gave rise to colonial archives, but how such materials, in turn, patterned historical configurations of captivity, coercion, primitive accumulation and official storytelling on the Chilean frontier.

2. Antonine Tibesar Prize

Committee: James Krippner, Tom Rogers, and Karen Racine

Winner: Barbara E Mundy, "The Emergence of Alphabetic Writing: Tlahcuiloh and Escribano in Sixteenth-Century Mexico."

The Antonine Tibesar Prize, recognizing the most distinguished article to be published in the journal *The Americas* during academic year 2020, has been awarded to Professor Barbara E. Mundy of Tulane University, for her article "The Emergence of Alphabetic Writing: Tlahcuiloh and Escribano in Sixteenth-Century Mexico." Committee members selected Mundy's article as the most distinguished among an impressive cohort due to its extraordinary breadth of knowledge concerning Nahuatl and Spanish languages, pictographic traditions, sixteenth-century cartography, the process of writing and the multiple actors influencing the construction of historical archives in colonial central Mexico. The elegance of the writing and the engaging quality of the prose made it a delight to read, and one that will appeal to audiences ranging from beginning undergraduates to advanced specialists. The committee offers our heartiest congratulations to Professor Mundy for her extraordinary scholarship!

3. Paul Vanderwood Prize

Committee: Leslie Offutt (chair), Erin Stone, William Van Norman

Winner: Anne Rubenstein, "A Sentimental and Sexual Education: Men, Sex, and Movie Theaters, 1920-2010," *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos* 36:1-2 (Winter/Summer 2020), 216-42

Luncheon citation:

The Vanderwood Prize for the best English-language article on Latin American history published in a journal other than the *Hispanic American Historical Review* or *The Americas* is awarded this year to **Anne Rubenstein** for “A Sentimental and Sexual Education: Men, Sex, and Movie Theaters, 1920-2010.” Rubenstein’s engaging article shows what a deeply researched and multifaceted approach can reveal about a single site or institution’s history. Considering the movie theater as the site for education defined broadly, Rubenstein examines the unwritten rules, norms, and expectations for men’s behavior in these spaces and how they were sites for both emotional and sexual experiences. She then develops a case study tracing the history of one theater--Mexico City’s Cine Teresa--from its days as a luxurious Art Deco “palace” to its existence in the 1990s as an infamous porn theater.

4. Lydia Cabrera Award

Committee: Matt Childs, Takkara Brunson, Aisha Finch

Winner: Oriol Regué Sendrós, Johns Hopkins University
“At the Fringes of Slavery: Forced Labor, Colonial Experiments, and the Spanish Empire in Nineteenth-Century Cuba.”

The CLAH Lydia Cabrera Award is pleased to fund Oriol Regué Sendrós archival research in Mexico City and Madrid to examine the legal claims to freedom of indentured Yucatecan women in the courts of Havana during the 1850s and 1860s. In particular, the records of the Mexican consuls stationed in Havana--which are held at the Archivo General de la Nación and the foreign affairs Archivo “Genaro Estrada”—will be examined to analyze how state and consular protection was negotiated on the ground when the rules of nationhood and international law were being codified. With materials from the Archivo Histórico Nacional and the Archivo del Consejo de Estado in Madrid, Oriol Regué Sendrós will examine the individual petitions of Mexican nationals both indentured and free reclaiming Spanish protection. Taken as a whole, his study makes a novel and innovative contribution to the long standing historiographical issue of charting the transition from slave to wage labor by paying special attention to the overlapping practices of bondage used by masters and the colonial state to control both slaves and forced laborers. His study reveals the ongoing push and pull that shaped the practices of freedom between enslaved people, indebted immigrant families, and indentured laborers, which highlights the interconnected nature of the Cuban system of labor.

5. Scobie Awards:

Committee: Hal Langfur, Fernanda Bretones, Sarah Foss

Winners: Emily Taylor, Cody A. Williams, Alfredo Escudero Villanueva, Alejandro Guardado, Ursula Rall

6. Lewis Hanke Post-Doctoral Award

Committee: Sylvia Sellers García, Heidi Scott, Javier Puente

Winner: Antony Keane-Dawes, “The Spirit of Opposition: Dominican Politics, Independence, and Loyalties in a Revolutionary Age”

Dr. Antony Keane-Dawes’s project, *The Spirit of Opposition: Dominican Politics, Independence, and Loyalties in a Revolutionary Age*, focuses on the events leading up to the Haitian Unification. Keane-Dawes considers Haiti’s successful defense of its sovereignty, despite opposition and challenges. His study traces the emergence of a narrative associating Blackness with Haiti and, more broadly, the place of race in nation formation. The committee found Keane-Dawes’s project ambitious in scope and carefully conceived. The Lewis Hanke Award will support travel to Santo Domingo, where Keane-Dawes will consult civil and criminal cases pertaining to Dominicans who remained in Santo Domingo after unification.

7. Howard F. Cline Prize in Latin American Ethnohistory

Committee: Kevin Terraciano (chair), Barbara Sommer, and Miguel León.

Winner: Elizabeth Penry, *The People are King: The Making of an Indigenous Andean Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2019)

The Committee received numerous excellent books and articles on the history of Indigenous peoples in Latin America, published in 2019 and 2020, and was unanimous in its selection of *The People are King: The Making of an Indigenous Andean Politics*, by S. Elizabeth Penry. The book makes an original, compelling argument that the great rebellions against Spanish authorities and native hereditary elites of the 1780s were rooted in creative Indigenous responses to programs of forced resettlement and the reorganization of civil society in the early colonial period. Penry uses a variety of archival sources to reveal how communities of highland Bolivia merged collective Andean traditions with the Spanish concept of the *común*, creating a culture of community-based democracy that we might associate with the Age of Atlantic Revolutions. This culture of popular sovereignty, rather than the actions of a few charismatic leaders, catalyzed the most widespread rebellions of Spanish America before Independence. *The People are King* balances an assessment of Indigenous agency and adaptation with a recognition of how colonial institutions and processes profoundly impacted Andean lifeways. Ultimately, Penry’s book demonstrates how communities created political practices that resonate with modern democratic ideals, and sheds light on Indigenous movements in Bolivia today, connecting the past and present in a most eloquent manner.

Honorable mention: Allison M. Bigelow, *Mining Language: Racial Thinking, Indigenous Knowledge, and Colonial Metallurgy in the Early Modern Iberian World*. This book is honorable for its use of myriad sources to analyze the technical and scientific lexicon of metallurgy and extraction that miners developed in the colonial period, and to reveal hidden Indigenous and African knowledge systems that underpinned the enterprises that fueled Spain's empire in the early modern period. This knowledge remained hidden because it was ignored or appropriated by Europeans in printed books on the topic. Whereas most histories of mining have focused on economy and labor, Bigelow's is the first to focus on language. Ambitious in its Atlantic World scope and interdisciplinary in its methodology, *Mining Language* makes a valuable contribution to Latin American history. It is more apparent than ever that the Iberians could have achieved little in the Americas without Indigenous and African knowledge and labor.

8. Elinor Melville Prize for Latin American Environmental History

Committee: Myrna Santiago, Oscar de la Torre, Jaime Rodríguez

Winner: Rocio Gomez, *Silver Veins, Dusty Lungs: Mining, Water, and Public Health in Zacatecas, 1835-1946* (University of Nebraska Press)

Gómez work reflects a sophisticated understanding of the multiple dimensions that must be taken into consideration in the case of silver mining in Zacatecas, Mexico. Hers is a story that weaves together ecology, labor, water, pollution, and public health, threaded by a century of political decisions that ultimately did not seem to change much despite the upheaval of the Mexican Revolution. The committee agreed that Gómez took this complex series of topics and produced a narrative that keeps the reader intrigued until the bitter end. And bitter it is, as is much of the history of extraction in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. As such, this book could not be more timely, its lessons essential for comprehending the implications of mining not only in Mexico or Latin America, but across the globe.

9. María Elena Martínez Prize in Mexican History

Committee: Alexander Aviña (chair), Susana Sosenski, Diana J. Montañó

Winner: Eric Zolov, *The Last Good Neighbor: Mexico in the Global Sixties* (Duke University Press, 2020)

A long awaited book, it is a joy to read *The Last Good Neighbor* as the result of Eric Zolov's long, deep, and transnational research into Mexico's global place during the first decades of the "Global Cold War." Wonderfully written, this important study situates Mexico and Mexican internationalism as key players in a global context marked by rapidly shifting geopolitical, ideological and cultural boundaries from the late 1950s to

the early 1970s. Zolov impressively integrates Mexico's fractious domestic politics, bilateral relations with its northern neighbor, and its actions in the international arena into a compelling narrative that reveals the internationalist aspirations that fueled the country's "global pivot." That such aspirations largely failed to materialize does not erase their radical potentialities, imagination or internal contradictions. Rather, they invite us to rethink and reconsider past actions of the "Last Good Neighbor" for today in light of our current state of emergency; our era of caged migrants, ecological destruction and a transnationally ascendant revanchist Right. We have Eric Zolov to thank for this urgent invitation and his magnificent study.

Honorable mention: Gema Kloppe-Santamaría, *Vortex of Violence: Lynching, Extralegal Justice, and the State in Post-Revolutionary Mexico* (University of California Press 2020)

El libro de Gema Kloppe Santamaria es un maravilloso ejemplo de cómo puede proponerse una explicación sociohistórica a un fenómeno de larga duración en México como el linchamiento. Enfocada en el análisis de un periodo caracterizado por la construcción del nacionalismo posrevolucionario, esta rigurosa investigación tiene el enorme valor de permitir a los lectores asomarse a las ventanas del pasado para entender también el presente. La autora muestra con lucidez cómo la gente entendía el crimen y la justicia, cómo se vinculaban estas ideas con la religión y los mitos, y cómo los medios contribuían a delinear la aceptación e incremento de los linchamientos en un momento en el que la autonomía cultural se vio amenazada por la potencia de la irrupción de nuevos actores sociales como maestros, vacunadores, protestantes y funcionarios. Este es un libro imprescindible para quienes quieran acercarse a la historia del México posrevolucionario, la historia de la justicia, el crimen y la violencia.

10. Warren Dean Prize in Brazilian History

Committee: Gabe Paquette (chair), Mary Hicks, Alexandre Fortes

Winner: John French, *Lula and His Politics of Cunning: From Metalworker to President of Brazil* (UNC Press, 2020).

In this methodologically innovative biography, underpinned by extensive research and theoretical rigor, John French analyzes two entwined aspects of Lula's trajectory. On the one hand, Professor French studies the long, complex ascent of a migrant from Brazil's Northeast who became the most important labor leader in Brazilian history. On the other hand, he explores the process by which Lula became a major force in the polarization of Brazilian politics in recent decades. This biography is required reading for anyone wishing to understand the history of Latin America's largest nation since the middle of the twentieth century, and it is a work of great interest for all those committed to the defense of democracy and to the fight against social inequality.

HM: Erika Helgen, *Religious Conflict in Brazil: Protestants, Catholics and the Rise of Religious Pluralism in the Early Twentieth Century* (Yale UP)

In this original, meticulously-researched, and forcefully-argued history of religious conflict in the Northeast of Brazil in the first half of the twentieth century, Erika Helgen draws on a vast array of local sources to tell the story of Catholicism and Protestantism, and the lived experiences of Catholics and Protestants, in a key region. She places this story in broader national context to reveal the competing political, social, and theological visions that often produced sectarian conflict. At times, notwithstanding the existence of multiple ecumenical projects, this persistent animosity, particularly Catholic anti-Protestantism, turned violent, which elicited varied responses by the state. While firmly grounded in the Nordeste, Professor Helgen offers a compelling account of Brazil's struggle with religious pluralism. Her book is destined to become a touchstone of the historiography of twentieth-century Brazil.

HM: Jeffrey Needell, *The Sacred Cause: The Abolitionist Movement, Afro-Brazilian Mobilization, and Imperial Politics in Rio de Janeiro* (Stanford UP)

The Sacred Cause is a richly researched and elegantly written panorama of nineteenth century Brazilian politics. By placing the increasingly volatile battles over the abolition of slavery at its center, the narrative reveals the heretofore hidden connections between Afro-Brazilian activists, lawyers, journalists and even the enslaved to the Liberal party's political elite. Needell convincingly argues that it was mass movement pressure by Afro-Brazilians in 1870s and 1880s Rio de Janeiro and elsewhere which ultimately convinced a cadre of courageous members of the parliament, particularly Joaquim Nabuco and Manuel Dantas, to advocate for increasingly abolitionist measures to Pedro II, the modernizing Emperor of Brazil. Utilizing an extensive evidentiary collection of official correspondence and contemporaneous reporting, Needell demonstrates how the intricate political maneuvering of reformist politicians led to a decisive political crisis that not only resulted in the dissolution of slavery but the monarchy as well. Outside of the realm of electoral politics, *The Sacred Cause* also engagingly details the rising hopes and ultimately dashed dreams of leading Afro-Brazilian abolitionists such as André Rebouças and José Patrocínio, who envisioned not only an end to slavery but the transformation of Brazil into a more egalitarian nation.

11) Bolton-Johnson Prize

Committee: David Sartorius

The prize committee is excited to award the 2021 Bolton-Johnson Prize to Sylvia Sellers-García for her book, *The Woman on the Windowsill: A Tale of Mystery in Several Parts*. *The Woman on the Windowsill* brings to the surface the challenging detective work of archival research as it unearths the meanings behind the murder of a Guatemala City woman in 1800. As Sellers-García explains the logic of the criminal investigation and its documentary record, she weaves a tale of horrors and solidarities that exposes the texture of life in a colonial city. Attentive to the gender violence

prevalent in Guatemala today, she engages directly with readers to contrast historical and contemporary ideas about crime, gender, honor, medical practices, and urban space. The committee recognizes the exhaustive research that went into building this context in such depth, and it also acknowledges the book's imaginative approach to writing history. Mirroring the legal cases that many of us read in archives, *The Woman on the Windowsill* is a page-turner, one that should make our field proud.

VII. IN APPRECIATION: CLAH ENDOWMENT AND FUND CONTRIBUTORS

Bolton-Johnson Prize

Eric Van Young

CLAH Prizes and Awards:

John Schwaller

Ann Twinam

Mary Ann Mahony

Gilbert M. Joseph

Alida Metcalf

Karen Racine

Walter Davila

Bianca Premo

Bridget Chesterton

Casey Lurtz

Jeffrey Lesser

Lara Putnam

Eric Zolov

Allison Bigelow

Marshall Eakin

Aiala Levy

William Taylor

Nicole Pacino

Sandra Aguilar-Rodriguez

Norah Gharala

Barbara Weinstein

Kristen Block

Heidi Tinsman

Elinor Melville Prize

Robert Wilcox

James R. Scobie Awards

Kristie Flannery

Bridget Chesterton

Deborah L. Truhan

Norah Andrews

James Sanders

Paul Vanderwood Prize

Leslie White

Warren Dean Prize in Brazilian History:

Robert Wilcox

Deborah L. Truhan

VIII. LIFETIME MEMBERS (NEW MEMBERS IN BOLD)

Alden, Dauril	Dávila, Jerry
Aleman, Gladys	De La Pedraja, René
Anderson, Rodney	De La Teja, Jesús F.
Andrews, Reid	De La Torre Curiel, Jose
Appelbaum, Nancy	Delson, Roberta
Arrom, Silvia	Duenas, Alcira
Barragan, Yesenia	Eakin, Marshall
Bassi, Ernesto	Edwards, Erika
Beezley, William	Eller, Anne
Bell, Stephen	Flemion, Phillip
Bennett, Herman L.	Friedman, Max Paul
Bigelow, Allison	Ganster, Paul
Borges, Dain	Gao, Jian
Borucki, Alex	Garrett, David
Boyer, Christopher	Gonzales, Michael
Buchenau, Jurgen	Gram, Bill
Bunker, Steven B.	Graubart, Karen
Burkholder, Mark	Greever, Janet
Burns, Kathryn	Grieco, Viviana
Cagle, Hugh	Horna, Hernan
Carey, Elaine	Jaffary, Norah
Castilho, Celso	Jaksic, Ivan
Castro, Donald	Johnson, Harold
Cline, Sarah	Kiddle, Amelia
Coatsworth, John	Knight, Franklin
Coerver, Don	Komisaruk, Catherine
Cohen, Theodore	Lane, Kris
Connell, William F.	Langer, Erick
Conniff, Michael	Lavrin, Asunción
Cook, Karoline	Lee, Monica Kittiya
Cooney, Jerry	Lesser, Jeff
Couturier, Edith	Lewin, Linda
Covert, Lisa	Logan, Alison
Cowan, Benjamin	Lombardi, John
Craib, Raymond	Lopez, Rick
Cummins, Victoria	Love, Joseph
Davies Jr., Thomas	Lutz Christopher

MacLachlan, Colin
Mallon, Florencia
Matthew, Laura
McEnroe, Sean
Milton, Cynthia
Moulton, Aaron
Myers, Alfred
Navarro, José Manuel
Nobles, Rex
O'Hara, Matthew D.
O'Toole, Rachel Sarah
Olcott, Jocelyn
Owens, Sarah
Pieper Mooney, Jadwiga
Poole, Stafford
Porter, Susie
Premo, Bianca
Proctor III, Frank (Trey)
Pruitt, Jennifer
Putnam, Lara
Radding, Cynthia
Ramos, Frances
Rankin, Monica
Rausch, Jane
Resendez, Andrés
Rice, Mark
Rich, Paul
Roch, Gabriel
Roseblatt, Karin
Safford, Frank

Sanders, Nichole
Schlotterbeck, Marian
Schwaller, John
Scobie, Ingrid
Scott, Rebecca
Silva Campo, Ana Maria
Soto Laveaga, Gabriela
Stern, Steve
Stevens, Donald
Stewart, James
Stowe, Noel
Sullivan-Gonzalez, Douglass
Summerhill, William
Sweet, David
Tenenbaum, Barbara
Terraciano, Kevin
Tinsman, Heidi
Tulchin, Joseph
Vazquez, Josefina Z.
Vinson III, Ben
Wakild, Emily
Walker, Andrew
Walker, Louise
Warren, Richard
Weber, Rebecca
Wright- Rios, Edward
Yannakakis, Yanna Panayota
Young, Julia
Zybliekiewics, Lubomir

