



# Conference on Latin American History

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

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# 2023 CLAH Officers and Committees

## Executive Committee

**President** - Celso Castilho

**Vice President & President-Elect** - Alejandra Bronfman

**Past President** - Ben Vinson III

**Executive Directors** - Erika Edwards and Christina Villarreal

## Elected Council Members

Luisa Fernanda Arrieta (2022-2023)

Brandon Byrd (2022-2023)

Orlando Deavila Pertuz (2022-2023)

Elizabeth Schwall (2023-2024)

Fabricio Prado (2023-2024)

Marissa Nichols (2023-2024)

## Ex-Officio Council Members

*HAHR* Editor: William Summerhill

*The Americas* Editor: John F. Schwaller

H-LatAm Editor: Marc Becker

## Standing Committees

### Nominating Committee

Camilo Trumper (chair)  
Elena Schneider  
Javier Puente

### Program Committee

Robert Franco (2023 chair)  
Sarah Sarzynski (2024 chair)  
Viviana Grieco

## Regional and Thematic Sections

### Andean Studies

Javier Puente, Chair  
Renzo Aroni, Secretary

### Atlantic World Studies

Anne Eller, Chair  
Emmanuel Lachaud, Secretary

### Borderlands/Frontiers

Nick Villanueva, Chair  
Erick Langer, Secretary

### Brazilian Studies

Benjamin A. Cowan, Chair  
Sarah Sarzynski, Secretary

### Caribbean Studies

Takkara Brunson, Chair  
Jorell Meléndez-Badillo, Secretary

### Central American Studies

Brianna Leavitt-Alcántara, Chair  
Sylvia Sellers-García, Secretary

### Chile-Río de la Plata Studies

Denisa Jashari, Chair  
Romina Akemi Green, Secretary

### Colonial Studies

Mónica Ricketts, Chair  
Guadalupe García, Secretary

### Gran Colombia Studies

María José Afanador, Chair  
Constanza Castro, Secretary

### Mexican Studies

Mónica Díaz, Chair  
Xóchitl M. Flores-Marcial, Secretary

### Teaching and Teaching Materials

María de los Angeles Picone, Chair  
Pilar Maria Herr, Secretary



## Message from the President

Happy November! I hope that this newsletter helps connect you with colleagues and the CLAH ahead of our meeting in San Francisco. This will be a special occasion for our organization, as it will be the first coordinated by the new leadership from the **University of Texas, El Paso**. It has been a pleasure to work with Drs. **Erika Edwards** and **Christina Villareal** on the program and other logistics, and to also team up with **Alejandra Bronfman** on the executive committee. From representing the CLAH at several AHA-level meetings this past year, I have gained a new appreciation for the scale of programming we undertake every year, from the conference panels and activities to the awarding of over a dozen prizes.

We are easily the most active of the 100+ affiliated societies. Think about our elections. The nominating committee spends weeks every summer contacting dozens of members to fill a slate of candidates who will lead the general committee and executive council. The CLAH thanks **Camilo Trumper** (chair), **Elena Schneider**, and **Javier Puente** for their efforts this year—and, certainly, we are immensely grateful to everyone who accepted this opportunity to get more involved. **Please vote by December 8.**

As always, there is lots to look forward to with the **CLAH Luncheon**. This year, we will be recognizing **John Coatsworth** with the Distinguished Service Award. Alongside his influential scholarship and dedicated mentorship, Dr. Coatsworth was also widely recognized for his leadership. From one of the one nominating letters, Coatsworth “served as Program Committee Chair to CLAH (1982-83) and on two CLAH committees (1983-84; 1994); for the AHA, he served on numerous committees, including Program Committee (1983-84), and as President (1995)...He later also served two terms on the Development Committee of LASA (1994-96 & 2012-13), and then President (2009-10).” It will be an honor to hear from him, and the CLAH thanks the numerous letters of support received, as well as, the efforts of the Distinguished Service Award Committee, **Joaquín Chavez** (chair), **Rob Alegre**, and **Sara Kozameh**.

As part of the great mix of CLAH panels in store for San Francisco, I'd like to call your special attention to a Presidential Panel entitled, **"Latinx Diasporas, the Job Market, and the Need to Talk Fields."** The charge here is to debate the project of Latin American history in terms of some pressing issues of the 21st century. We will specifically consider how the massive presence of a Latin American diaspora bears on our conceptions of Latin American history. It is necessary to recognize that at 75 million people worldwide, and at 64 million+ in the U.S., the Latin American diaspora would collectively represent the third-largest country in Latin America. How should these social processes, which also influence developments in Latin America, influence our mapping of the field? And what of the fact that Latino students now represent nearly 20% of college students in the U.S., how might this lead to new framings for our courses? Meanwhile, panelists will also offer their perspectives on the relationship between the Latin American and Latino histories, a conversation we need to have given that field pairings have already been a part of job ads over the last few years. As such, this panel is at once an invitation and provocation to rethink the project of Latin American history. I am grateful to **Stephanie Huezo-Jefferson** (Fordham), **Michael Innis-Jimenez** (Alabama), **Sara Kozameh** (UCSD), **Jorell Meléndez-Badillo** (Wisconsin), and **Larisa Veloz** (UTEP), for their participation. These Latino/a/x scholars represent a wide range of public and private institutions, spread across the country.

In closing, I want to reiterate the CLAH's gratitude to all the committees who this past summer spent time on book and article prize committees. Your collaborations are essential, and deeply appreciated.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in San Francisco!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Celso Castilho", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Celso Thomas Castilho  
Vanderbilt University  
President, CLAH 2022-24

## Message from Co-Executive Director Christina Villarreal



CLAH Members,

Greetings from UTEP! My name is Christina Marie Villarreal, and I am honored to serve alongside Erika Edwards as a Co-Executive Director for CLAH this year. It is also a pleasure to work with our GA, Samuel Reitenour, who redesigned the newsletter and is making updates to the website. We are all thrilled to host CLAH at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), where our strong cohort of Latin Americanist faculty, position on the US-Mexico border, and rich Borderlands Ph.D. program will provide synergetic opportunities for CLAH & UTEP for years to come.

With our focus on borderlands, I am excited to see several CLAH 2024 panels examining borders and frontiers—from the Caribbean to Rio de la Plata. My own research is on the Spanish Borderlands of the Gulf Coast. I study fugitive experiences in eighteenth-century Texas and Louisiana, focusing on three principal groups: deserting soldiers, runaways from slavery, and mission apostates. I look forward to learning from our CLAH panelists studying nation-building, mobility, and revolution in disparate contact zones.

The entire AHA-CLAH program promises a brilliant conference in San Francisco. In addition to the timely Presidential Panel, the CLAH executive committee is eager to spotlight two panels: The “**Modern Endangered Archive Program (MEAP) and Latin American History**” roundtable will open a critical discussion about archival digitization and historical preservation. Mark Philip Bradley, Editor of the *American Historical Review*, will join the panelists on the “***The American Historical Review* and Latin American History**” roundtable to consider the great demand for more Latin American history in the journal. Please bookmark these sessions!

I want to thank all the CLAH members and conference participants for making this first year as Co-Executive Director welcoming and exciting. I look forward to meeting many of you soon.

Best,  
Christina

# Dr. John Coatsworth, 2023 CLAH Distinguished Service Award Winner

**Committee: Sara Kozameh, Robert Alegre, Joaquín M. Chávez (chair)**

The Committee unanimously recommends John Coatsworth for the 2023 CLAH Distinguished Service Award. The Award will acknowledge Professor Coatsworth's extraordinary service to the historical profession in his capacity as researcher, interdisciplinary scholar, professor of Latin American history and International Studies, institution builder, and his multiple contributions to the preservation and advancement of human rights, democracy, peace, and social justice in the Americas.

Professor Coatsworth's pioneering work as economic historian specializing in cliometrics offered major contributions to the history of capitalism in Mexico and Latin America. As a researcher Coatsworth is the author of two books and editor of five collective volumes. Coatsworth has also written more than forty articles in English and Spanish for books or prestigious journals in History, Economics, Politics, and Foreign Affairs.

During his academic career at three institutions, the University of Chicago, Harvard University, and Columbia University, and visiting appointments at the Colegio de México, the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, the Universidad Nacional de Buenos Aires, the Instituto Torcuato de Tella, the Instituto Universitario Ortega y Gasset, and the Universidad de Alcalá de Henares, Coatsworth taught and mentored several cohorts of illustrious Latin Americanists in the United States, Latin America, and Europe.

Coatsworth's record as an institution builder is impressive. He became the founding director of Harvard's David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies and chair of Harvard's Committee on Human Rights Studies, Dean of Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs, President of the AHA (1995), and served in multiple capacities to CLAH, LASA, the Social Science Research Council, the John D. and Catherine T. McArthur Foundation, WOLA, and the Tinker Foundation. The Committee also recognized Coatsworth sustained efforts to promote intellectual dialogue and institutional interactions among Latin Americanists in the United States, Latin America, and Europe.

The Committee recognized Professor Coatsworth's exceptional ethical commitment to human rights, peace, democracy, and social justice in the Americas. During his academic career Coatsworth served as the Vice-President of Chile Solidarity Network, a grass roots organization that helped Chilean refugees to settle in the United States at the time of the Pinochet dictatorship and publicly and effectively opposed the United States government's interventions in the bloody Central American conflicts of the 1980s, particularly in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

In sum, the Committee unanimously and warmly recommends John Coatsworth for the 2023 CLAH Distinguished Service Award as a researcher, professor, mentor, institution builder, and public intellectual with a solid ethical commitment to human rights, peace, democracy, and social justice who has inspired and continues to inspire Latin Americanists in the United States and Latin America.

June 6, 2023

## Fall 2023 CLAH Election

Follow the link below or scan the QR code to access the ballot and cast your vote in this year's CLAH officer election! It has also been sent out to the CLAH listserv. Please vote by **December 8**.

General committee members serve for a term of two years, from January 2024 to January 2026. You may cast your vote for **two** tenure-track general committee members, **one** non-tenure-track general committee member, and **one** secretary for each section.

Bios for each candidate can be found on the pages that follow. They are also included on the ballot itself.

## FALL 2023 BALLOT



## General Committee Members (Tenure Track)

**Mary Hicks** is an assistant professor of History at the University of Chicago. Her research examines the maritime dimensions of the African Diaspora, with a particular focus on eighteenth and early nineteenth century colonial Brazil. Her forthcoming book is titled *Captive Cosmopolitans: Black Mariners and the World of South Atlantic Slavery*. It will be out next year with the Omohundro Institute. Her published work has also appeared in the *Journal of Global Slavery and Slavery & Abolition*. On the general committee of CLAH, I would encourage greater flexibility in annual participation for members—including an emphasis on providing an online option for sessions of the annual meeting. This change would encourage greater participation from scholars based in Latin America, as well as provide an option for U.S. based scholars who face travel challenges for a variety of reasons. It is my hope that this step, as well as others, will help modernize CLAH and encourage the broadest possible participation in a fast-changing academic world.

**Alan Shane Dillingham** is currently Associate Professor of History in Arizona State University's School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies. He is the author of *Oaxaca Resurgent: Indigeneity, Development, and Inequality in Twentieth-Century Mexico*, published with Stanford University Press in 2021. The American Society for Ethnohistory selected *Oaxaca Resurgent* for its Erminie Wheeler-Voegelin Book Award and the Conference on Latin American History selected *Oaxaca Resurgent* for its María Elena Martínez Prize in Mexican History. Dillingham serves on the organizing collective of the Tepoztlán Institute for the Transnational History of the Americas and the editorial committee of the journal *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History*. He has been a member of the CLAH for over a decade. Dillingham's research and teaching has benefitted from close collaboration with the CLAH community and if elected to the CLAH Council he would be eager to contribute to the organization's growth and development.

**Diana Montaña** is Associate Professor in the Department of History at Washington University in St. Louis. I am a cultural historian of modern Mexico with a focus on the twentieth century. Her first monograph, *Electrifying Mexico: Technology and the Transformation of a Modern City* (University of Texas Press, 2021), is a cultural, social, and political history of how residents of Mexico City shaped the electrification of their spaces from the 1880s to the 1960s. Her current project looks at the construction of the Necaxa hydroelectric complex at the turn of the twentieth century. My work on these topics has appeared in *Technology and Culture*, *Hispanic American Historical Review*, *Technology's Stories*, and *History of Technology*. I am also co-editor of the University of Nebraska Press' book series *Confluencias* on Mexican history. CLAH has been my intellectual home since 2016. I am honored to be nominated for election to the Executive Council and look forward to working with colleagues who are pushing the field's boundaries in exciting ways. I am ready to do my part in contributing to intellectual exchanges and collaborative endeavors. I thank you in advance for considering my nomination.

**José Refugio de la Torre Curiel** is a Professor in the Department of History, Universidad de Guadalajara (Guadalajara, Mexico). He received his Ph.D in History at the University of California, Berkeley (2005). His research focuses on the history of interethnic contacts in northwestern New Spain, the Franciscan order in colonial Mexico, and the connections between male religious orders and the history of cartography, on which he has published several articles and book chapters in academic journals and collective volumes. His works include *Vicarios en entredicho. Crisis y desestructuración de la provincia franciscana de Santiago de Xalisco, 1749-1860* (El Colegio de Michoacán, 2001); *Twilight of the Mission Frontier: Shifting Interethnic Alliances and Social Organization in Sonora, 1768-1855* (Stanford University Press, AAFH, 2012); *El gran norte novohispano mexicano en la cartografía de los siglos XVI-XIX* (El Colegio de Jalisco, El Colegio de Sonora, 2020); *Un siglo de historiografía de tema misional en el norte novohispano* (El Colegio de Jalisco, 2020). He is currently working on a collective work on the connections between Law, culture, and inequality in colonial Mexico.

## General Committee Members (Non-Tenure Track)

**Daniela Samur** is from Bogotá, Colombia, and a doctoral candidate in History at Cornell University specializing in modern Latin America. Her dissertation “Binding the State: Bogotá’s World of Prints, 1880s-1930s,” is a social history of print culture, state formation, and the making of urban spaces. Her work focuses on the intersection of social, cultural, and labor history, cities and the urban question, and the geographical hierarchies of state formation. As a graduate student she has been part of steering committees, and chair of the History Department’s Graduate History Association. Before moving to the United States, she worked at Colombia’s main public library (Biblioteca Luis Ángel Arango) in various cultural and outreach projects. She is looking forward to work for a more inclusive CLAH, advocate for grad students and early career scholars in their search for job security, and address the political and ethical stakes of historical scholarship.

**Pablo Pryluka** is Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History at Princeton University. As a *latinoamericanista*, I am interested in the intersection of public policy, economic expectations, and the history of commodities. My research looks at the unintended social and political consequences of developmentalism through the lens of consumption in Argentina, Brazil, and Chile. I am currently writing my dissertation, *Developing Consumption: A History of Wants and Needs in Postwar South America*, where I explore how people experienced the transformations enacted by developmental policies by looking at their unequal access to those durable goods. I am originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina, where I did my undergraduate and master studies. I already had the chance to participate in different CLAH activities in the past, a welcoming and open academic community that always made me feel at home. Therefore, I am excited to take an active role at CLAH and help build this space of intellectual collaboration with colleagues.

## Section Secretaries

### Andean Studies

#### **Gonzalo Emilio Julio Romero Sommer**

Assistant Professor of International Relations at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú  
gonzalo.romero@pucp.pe

Assistant Professor of International Relations at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. PhD in History from Stony Brook University. As secretary of the Andean Section of the Conference of Latin America History, I will fulfill all administrative duties in an orderly and timely fashion, as well as strive to organize a section panel that aims to link the historical knowledge more explicitly being produced on the Andes - both colonial and modern with the current political trends in the region.

#### **Marlen Rosas**

Haverford College  
mrosas@haverford.edu

I am an Assistant Professor of Latin American History at Haverford College. At Haverford, I teach courses such as “History of the Andes,” and “Land and the Left in the Americas.” My book project, *Recording Resistance: Indigenous Literacy, Archives, and Narrative Power in 20th-Century Ecuador*, argues that Indigenous labor activists on the haciendas of Cayambe, Ecuador remade literacy to include Indigenous political expertise. Building on organizational efforts to form unions in the 1920s, Indigenous labor leaders--particularly women--created socialist schools in the 1940s to teach their communities to read and write in Spanish to be able to understand and defend their political and social rights. The pursuit of social justice in education that drives my research and teaching also shapes my service commitments. In 2014 I co-founded the Thinking Andean Studies Interdisciplinary Conference, which has become a unique space of intellectual exchange for a diverse, international community of students, scholars, activists, and artists over the past seven years. This conference aims to build connections between US and non-US (especially Latin American) scholarship and establish international solidarity networks among scholars and activists who are committed to uplifting the ideas and activism of traditionally marginalized groups. We have hosted this tri-lingual conference in Philadelphia, Chicago, and Cuzco, with our next destination being Quito for the summer of 2024. As one of only four organizers of this conference, and the leading organizer of the 2023 edition, which I am hosting at my institution, Haverford College, I have learned and executed the skills necessary to account for every aspect of such an event. I have been responsible for soliciting funding, inviting speakers and artists, disseminating calls for papers, scheduling panels, ordering, and managing meal deliveries, among the dozens of other conferences organizing tasks. I am comfortable working with others and confident in taking on leadership roles.

#### **Daniela Samur**

Doctoral candidate in History at Cornell University  
ds2294@cornell.edu

I am from Bogotá, Colombia, and a doctoral candidate in History at Cornell University. I hold two B.A.s; one in Political Science and one in History, from Universidad de los Andes, and an M.A in Literature from Universidad Nacional de Colombia. I focus on modern Latin America, and my dissertation is a social and spatial history of Bogotá's world of books from the 1880s to the 1930s. It examines how books and prints shaped both everyday political practice and state formation, and social relations in Bogotá.

If elected to serve as secretary of CLAH's Andean Studies Section, I will be committed to encourage the study of the Andes as a more diverse geographical space, contributing to bridge national (and nationalistic) divisions that still permeate the historical discipline. I am excited to promote new scholarship, organize various forums for discussions, and work for a more inclusive, and fair discipline. Thus, furthering the participation of early career scholars, and of people who work in non-elite institutions, and from the southern parts of the American continent will be one of my priorities. These past years of *estallidos sociales* in Chile, Colombia, and Peru, and the police and state repressions that have ensued -to name just the most obvious example- demand from us, historians, a much broader conceptual apparatus, and a deeper commitment to study our shared pasts, presents, and potential futures. I will work for an Andean Studies Section that is able to advocate for the relevance of history as a discipline, and of historical thinking more broadly for the challenges of today, and for the making of a better tomorrow.

## Atlantic Studies

### **Bianca Dang**

University of Washington  
bd53@uw.edu

As a historian of the United States and the Caribbean in the nineteenth century, I value the insights brought forth by the field of Atlantic History that prioritize relationality and connectivity. I am especially enthusiastic about social history scholarship in the field that extends our understanding of Atlantic History beyond the interactions of people with colonial powers and nation-states. This kind of work enables us to better assess quotidian engagement with place. Such a focus allows us to think beyond boundaries and borders and more adequately consider how people experienced, influenced, and refused specific delineations of space.

### **Beau Gaitors**

UT-Knoxville  
bgaitors@utk.edu

My vision for Atlantic History sees a collaborative effort from a range of scholars continuing to engage the political and economic elites who attempted to structure the Atlantic world with a meaningful engagement of how ordinary people, who remain under-represented in the literature, shaped the social, cultural, and commercial realms of the Atlantic through racial, class, and various other identities as they participated in and avoided wars, created settlements, and addressed other concerns. Beyond people, my vision also seeks to include scholarship which approaches the flora, fauna, and varied environments along the Atlantic littoral and their impact on interior regions.

### **Ernesto Mercado-Montero**

Dartmouth College  
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I am a historian of the African diaspora in Latin America and the Caribbean and an assistant professor of history at Dartmouth College. My research examines cultural, commercial, and political connections and competition between Europeans and Afro-Indigenes in the early modern Lesser Antilles. I envision the Atlantic World Studies section of CLAH as a space to foster scholarship that illuminates the multiethnic, fluid, and legally entangled nature of the Atlantic World. In the CLAH's Atlantic World Studies section, scholars will find an intellectual community to engage with broader hemispheric and trans-imperial frameworks in history.

## Borderlands/Frontiers

### **María de los Ángeles Picone**

Boston College, Assistant Professor of History  
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Ángeles Picone is Assistant Professor of History at Boston College. She works on the spatial history of the Chilean-Argentine border in Patagonia for the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She is finishing up a book project, titled *Landscaping Patagonia: A Spatial and Environmental History of Nation-Making in the Chilean-Argentine Borderlands*, Dr. Picone is also affiliated with the Graduate Certificate in Digital Humanities and in 2022 was a Visiting Scholar at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University.

### **Javier Cikota**

Bowdoin College  
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Javier is a historian of modern Latin America with an emphasis on borderlands and legal culture. He received his B.A. (History and Latin American Studies) from the University of Texas at Austin, and his Ph.D. in Latin American History from the University of California, Berkeley. His research centers on how states establish legitimacy in frontier spaces, incorporating issues of legal literacy, gender dynamics, and nationalism to social and political history. His current book project, "Frontier Justice," investigates how European settlers and indigenous peoples in Patagonia learned to use the institutions and agents of the Argentine state for their own ends.

Javier is currently an Assistant Professor of Latin American History at Bowdoin College, a small liberal arts college in coastal Maine.

### **Ben Nobbs-Thiessen**

University of Winnipeg, Assistant Professor of History  
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Ben Nobbs-Thiessen is Assistant Professor of History and Chair of Mennonite Studies at Winnipeg University. Dr. Nobbs-Thiessen has done research in Bolivia, Paraguay, Mexico, Canada and the United States. publishing *Landscape of Migration: Mobility and Environmental Change on Bolivia's Tropical Frontier, 1952 to the Present* (University of North Carolina Press, 2020). It analyzes the internal migration and settlement of the lowlands of eastern Bolivia in the second half of the twentieth century.

## Brazil Studies

### Jennifer Eaglin

Ohio State University  
eaglin.5@osu.edu

Jennifer Eaglin is an associate professor of environmental history/sustainability at Ohio State University. Her research focuses on alternative energy development in Brazil. Her first book, *Sweet Fuel: A Political and Environmental History of Brazilian Ethanol* (Oxford University Press, 2022), explores the history of Brazilian sugar-based ethanol development from the 1930s to the 2000s and the associated environmental and social costs that accompanied the industry's growth. Eaglin's work has appeared in *Environmental History*, the *Latin American Research Review*, and other journals. She is currently advancing research for her next book project on the Brazilian nuclear energy industry.

### Andre Pagliarini

Hampden-Sydney College  
apagliarini@hsc.edu

Andre Pagliarini is Elliot assistant professor of history at Hampden-Sydney College. His scholarship has been featured in *Latin American Research Review*, *Latin American Perspectives*, *The International History Review*, and *The Latin Americanist* (forthcoming). He has written on Latin America for *New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *New Republic* as well *Folha de S. Paulo* and *Piauí*. He is a fellow at the Washington Brazil Office, a monthly columnist at *The Brazilian Report*, and a non-resident expert at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft. He is working on three book manuscripts, one on the politics of nationalism in modern Brazil, supported by a two-year Fulbright grant; another on Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva; and one on mass politics across post-independence Latin America.

### Thomas D. Rogers

Emory University  
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Tom Rogers is the Arthur Blank/NEH Chair of the Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences and Professor of History at Emory University. He is the author of *The Deepest Wounds: A Labor and Environmental History of Sugar in Northeast Brazil* (University of North Carolina Press, 2010) and *Agriculture's Energy: The Trouble with Ethanol in Brazil's Green Revolution* (University of North Carolina Press, 2022). With Jeffrey Manuel, he has completed a book manuscript on the transnational history of ethanol in Brazil and the United States.

## Caribbean Studies

### **Emma Amador**

University of Connecticut, Storrs  
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Emma Amador is an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. Her work focuses on Puerto Rican, Caribbean, and U.S. Latinx History with an emphasis on women, gender, and race. Her first book, *The Politics of Care: Puerto Ricans, Citizenship, and Migration after 1917* is under contract with Duke University Press. The book examines struggles for social rights led by Puerto Rican women on the island and in its diasporas. She has published articles in *Labor*, *Modern American History*, and *International Labor and Working-Class History*.

### **Orlando Deavila Pertuz**

Universidad de Cartagena  
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Orlando Deavila Pertuz is an Assistant Professor at the International Institute of Caribbean Studies in the Universidad de Cartagena (Colombia). Ph.D. in History (University of Connecticut, 2019). My current project deals with the intersection of race and place during the remaking of Cartagena as an international tourist destination during the twentieth century. My research interests include race and ethnicity in modern Colombia, history of tourism in the Caribbean, and urban history. I am currently member of the council of the Conference on Latin American History (CLAH).

### **Joan Flores-Villalobos**

University of Southern California  
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Joan Flores-Villalobos is an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Southern California. Her first book, *The Silver Women: How Black Women's Labor Made the Panama Canal*, was published in 2023 by Penn Press. It places West Indian women at the center of the construction of the Panama Canal, contextualized within the history of the post-emancipation Caribbean and its migratory tradition. She has published articles on West Indian women's history and Caribbean banking in *Small Axe* and *History Workshop Journal*. She teaches courses in Afro-Latin American and Caribbean history with a focus on gender, race, and US empire.

## Central America

### **Stephanie Huezo-Jefferson**

Fordham University  
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I am an Assistant Professor of Latin American and Latinx History at Fordham University. My research focuses on how Salvadoran community organizers in both El Salvador and the U.S. diaspora shaped community and political mobilization by using an anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist method in their grassroots organizing. As a Salvadoran-American scholar, I am invested in researching and teaching about Central American communities and supporting initiatives that center Central American voices. Aside from my academic work, I am also a member of a popular education collective through the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON) where I serve as an advisor for various activities and materials developed for day laborers and immigrant serving organizations.

### **Daniel Mendiola**

Vassar College  
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Daniel is an assistant professor at Vassar College. His forthcoming book *The Mosquito Confederation*, examines the history of Central America's Caribbean borderlands where a powerful indigenous confederation known as the Mosquito Kingdom emerged as a regional power in the eighteenth century. Based primarily on documents in Costa Rican and Guatemalan archives, the research has also resulted in several articles in both US and Central American journals. More recently, Daniel has expanded his research into the national period to explore how ideas about territory, borders, and migration informed Central American nation-making and changed over time.

### **Lean Sweeney**

University of Virginia  
ls3kp@virginia.edu

Lean Sweeney is a professor at the University of Virginia. Her work focuses on the impact of theories of space, frontiers and borderlands on the creation of nations, citizens, and criminality. Her two books, *Supervivencia de los bandidos: los mayas icaichés y la política fronteriza del sureste de la península de Yucatán, 1847-1904* (UNAM, 2006), and *Emigrados: Migration, Expulsion and Transnational Politics in Nineteenth Century Mexico and Guatemala* (under review) focus on the frontiers between Mexico, Belize and Guatemala. She wants to collaborate and organize with others focused on bringing more Central American voices into our classrooms and research.

## Chile/Río de la Plata

### **Pablo Bradbury**

University of Greenwich - London, UK  
p.bradbury@greenwich.ac.uk

I teach at the University of Greenwich and my research focuses on two themes: the Christian left in Argentina and forms of internationalism/transnational solidarity. As Chile-Río de la Plata Section secretary, I will develop dialogue between scholars across geographical areas, as well as with non-academic researchers and activists. In light of anniversaries marking 50 years since the last dictatorships in Chile, Uruguay and (in a few years) Argentina, I hope to develop a roundtable bringing together researchers and practitioners in international solidarity reflecting on the experiences and legacies of exile and the ways in which transnational politics have impacted these countries.

### **Alison Bruey**

University of North Florida  
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My published work centers on human rights and the social history of political transitions in Cold War and early post-Cold War Latin America. My new research addresses the social and political dynamics of disaster and the Popular Front in Chile. As secretary of CLAH I would hope to support the Chair and the growth of the section, by encouraging the membership and active participation of historians based in Latin America, graduate students, early-career, and independent scholars.

### **Jeff Erbig**

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I am an Associate Professor of Latin American and Latino Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz. I am the author of *Where Caciques and Mapmakers Met* (UNC Press, 2020)/*Entre caciques y cartógrafos* (Prometeo, 2022), and I am currently researching the colonial use of deportation as a punishment in the Southern Cone. As secretary, I would aim to promote discussions on how to bring our research to bear on current struggles in the region. This includes building connections between the Chile/Río de la Plata section of CLAH and scholars based in the Southern Cone.

## Colonial Studies

### Joseph Clark

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Joseph Clark (PhD Johns Hopkins University, 2016) is Assistant Professor of History at University of Kentucky. He is a social and cultural historian of African diaspora in the early modern Caribbean and Atlantic world, with interests in religion, contraband, and environmental history. A past recipient of CLAH's Lydia Cabrera and Lewis Hanke Awards, his first book, *Veracruz and the Caribbean in the Seventeenth Century* (Cambridge University Press, 2023), examines the Mexican port city of Veracruz and its material relationships with the Caribbean, emphasizing how Caribbean networks informed practices of ethnicity, religion, and caste in Veracruz's Afro-descended communities. His current project examines the intersection of Caribbean witchcraft cases and smuggling networks in the early seventeenth century.

### John Paul Paniagua

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John Paul Paniagua (Ph.D. Princeton University, 2022) is Assistant Professor of History, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Paniagua studies colonial Latin America and the early modern Atlantic world with particular focus on Indigenous experiences of Caribbean colonization. He is currently working on his first book, which examines how dispersals, diasporas, and differing imperial regimes shaped Native survival patterns across the Greater Antilles. The project pays particular attention to how Caribbean Indians (re)created kinship among communities of continental composition and manipulated colonial regimes to their aims across the *longue durée*. An article based on this research has just been provisionally accepted by the *William and Mary Quarterly*, and portions of this project have been presented in several forums, including the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, most recently. At Cal Poly, he teaches Indigenous and Atlantic histories, methods, and world history. If elected, Professor Paniagua would like to organize round tables centering how and where indios co-created the Iberian Atlantic, or more broadly, the theme of "Indios in Unexpected Places."

### Ángela Pérez-Villa

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Ángela Pérez-Villa, Assistant Professor of History at Western Michigan University. I specialize on the social and legal history of late colonial/early republican Colombia. I earned my PhD at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor; I'm the recipient of the 2022-2023 Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Scholars; and I'm currently an Academic Visitor at the Latin American Centre in the University of Oxford, where I'm working on my first book manuscript on the social history of the law during Colombia's Independence wars. I applaud CLAH's Colonial Studies Section's interest to create bridges between the North and Latin America academes in order to grapple with the methodological challenges that arise from writing to specific audiences. I would like to help the Section advance in this goal as Secretary.

## Gran Colombia

### Yesenia Barragan

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Yesenia Barragan is a historian of race, slavery, and emancipation in Colombia, Afro-Latin America, and the African Diaspora in the Americas. She is an Assistant Professor of Latin American History at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J. Yesenia is the author of *Freedom's Captives: Slavery and Gradual Emancipation on the Colombian Black Pacific* (Cambridge, 2021), which explores the process of the gradual abolition of slavery in Colombia, and *Selling Our Death Masks: Cash-for-Gold in the Age of Austerity* (Zero, 2014), a surrealist ethnography of cash-for-gold shops in the wake of the 2008 economic crisis. *Freedom's Captives* won the 2022 Wesley-Logan Prize for best book on African diaspora history from the American Historical Association and the Association for the Study of African American Life & History, the 2022 Best Book Award for the 19th Century Section of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), the 2023 Early Career Book Prize from the Center for Cultural Analysis at Rutgers University, Honorable Mention for the 2022 Michael Jiménez Prize for the Colombia Section of LASA, and was a Finalist for the Outstanding First Book Prize from the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora. She is the Principal Investigator of "The Free Womb Project," a Spanish, Portuguese, and English-language digital collection of gradual emancipation laws across the eighteenth and nineteenth century Atlantic World. With the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Yesenia is currently embarked on a new book project titled *A Country of Their Own: African Americans and the Promise of Antebellum Latin America*, which examines how Latin America, including Colombia and other countries, was perceived as a beacon of freedom and immigration destination for free and fugitive African Americans during the antebellum period.

### Jimena Perry

Iona University

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Jimena Perry is a Latin American Scholar specialized in Colombia. She earned a BS in Anthropology from the Universidad de Los Andes in Bogota, Colombia, an MPhil in Social Anthropology from the University of Cambridge, UK, and a Ph.D. in History from the University of Texas at Austin. Her research areas are violence, museums, memory, history of anthropology and public history. She is also the Project Manager of Explorers of the International Federation for Public History since 2018. She has also been a curator, a college instructor and currently teaches Latin American History in the History Department at Iona University.

### James Torres

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James Torres, Ph.D. in Latin American History from Georgetown University. Assistant Professor at the Department of History and Geography at Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia). His research examines the history of monetary and trade regimes across Latin America with specific interests in the Northern Andes (Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela). His works have been published in authoritative journals in the field, such as *The Journal of Latin American Economic History* (Cambridge), *Colonial Latin American Review* (Routledge-London), *The Americas* (Cambridge), and *América Latina en la Historia Económica* (Instituto Mora-Mexico).

## Mexican Studies

### **Alan Alexander Malfavon**

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I am a first-generation, migrant, *Jarocho*, and Mexican-American scholar. I received my Ph.D. in Latin American History from the University of California, Riverside in 2021. I am a historian of late-colonial and early independent Mexico, Veracruz, the Greater Caribbean and Latin America. My vision for the role of Secretary in the Mexico section of the CLAH is to push for further visibility of first generation, migrant, Indigenous, and Black scholars that dedicate their work to the study of Mexican History. My aim is to make of this section a transformative space of research, dialogue, and scholarship for junior faculty from disadvantaged backgrounds.

### **Ulices Piña**

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I am an assistant professor of history at California State University, Long Beach. I specialize in the history of Mexico and Modern Latin America. A product of the California public school system, my teaching and research interests include revolutions, social movements, state formation studies, political culture, and social activism. I envision reorienting the Mexican Studies roundtable panel to tackle how instructors teach Mexican history at their respective institutions and the unique challenges they face in the classroom. The panel will pay special attention to the creative ways that historians have used primary sources as pedagogical tools to drive curiosity and engagement and foster critical thinking in students. Discussion will also extend to course design, assignments, pedagogical strategies and practices, and/or digital technologies.

### **Jorge Ramirez-Lopez**

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My name is Jorge Ramirez-Lopez. I am a UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow in the American Indian Studies Center at UCLA. My research examines how Indigenous migrants from Oaxaca drew on their communal forms of governance to enact grassroots cross-border activism and belonging between Mexico and the United States in the 1980s and early 1990s. I am excited at the possibility to serve as Mexico Section Secretary of CLAH. My vision aims to continue fostering an inclusive and transformative intellectual space, as well as promote innovative methods, new directions in transnational approaches to the study of Mexico, and community engagement.

## Teaching and Teaching Materials

### **James Almeida**

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James Almeida (PhD in Latin American History, Harvard, 2022) is Assistant Professor of History at Weber State University (Ogden, Utah). Almeida's research and teaching interests include historical constructions of human difference, especially race, gender, and sexuality; labor and human histories of commodity production; and how ordinary people encountered the state in Latin America. His vision for the Teaching and Teaching Materials section is to promote the available resources and develop techniques for teaching difficult historical themes such as slavery, race, punishment, and colonialism. Almeida is passionate about making the classroom accessible to all types of learners.

### **Felipe Fernandes Cruz**

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I hope to enable conversations about deploying digital scholarship and innovative tools—such as database design and augmented reality—to improve how students engage with history while learning pragmatic skills. I look forward to collaborating with colleagues so that diverse teaching styles and skills can converge to create innovative teaching methods. To this end, I hope to continue work on a modular, subject matter agnostic teaching toolkit. This collaborative and open-source project is a library of learning tracks for specific skillsets, with off-the-shelf lesson modules that faculty can adapt to their content, improve on, and contribute to a larger repository.

### **Rebekah Pite**

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I am a Professor of History at Lafayette College, where I teach courses on Latin America, Food History, and Historical Methodology. I am also affiliated with the program in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. As a social and cultural historian, I research histories of everyday life in Argentina and the Southern Cone through a focus on food and domestic work. As a teacher, I am particularly interested in discussing the development of students' historical skills (especially in this new era of AI). I would be honored to facilitate conversations about historical pedagogy in the Teaching Section of CLAH.

# James R. Scobie Award Reports

## Chase Caldwell Smith, UCLA

I would like to express my gratitude to the Conference on Latin American History for this generous award, which contributed to supporting several weeks of research and travel in Mexico this past summer. This grant provided me with the financial resources to visit key archives, gather photographs of primary sources, and consult locally held inventories and catalogues of archival and library materials in preparation for writing my doctoral dissertation prospectus this academic year. The James R. Scobie Award also enabled me to visit historical sites of great interest to me either as case studies for my project or as sources of inspiration for developing my ideas more generally.

The archives, libraries, and historical sites I visited were located in Mexico City, Puebla, Tlaxcala, and their environs. As my thinking about the project has developed to center on the Viceroyalty of New Spain and threads of its global religious connections, I set out to search for documents pertaining to indigenous religious practice. In particular, I was interested in searching for indigenous documents written in Nahuatl, and I was excited to gather photographs of dozens of pages of documents written in this language. In addition to taking photographs of relevant documents, I also sought to learn how to access historical materials at each library or archive, and how to gain access to catalogues, publications, and finding aids for future research. By supporting these goals, the James R. Scobie Award enabled me to prepare for a longer research stay in 2024.

My time in Mexico City brought me to several key archives, with the largest being the Archivo General de la Nación. I also consulted the catalogues of the Archivo Histórico de la Ciudad de México, which holds documents produced by the *cabildo* of the city (including materials pertaining to religious matters), as well as the Archivo Histórico del Arzobispado de México, which holds materials related to indigenous religious practice that were created in the jurisdiction of the Archbishopric of Mexico, including indigenous-language last wills and testaments. Here, I communicated with the archivist about how to request digitized documents held by the archive.

In Mexico City and its surrounding region, I also had the opportunity to visit key historical sites related to my interests in religious conversion and indigenous religious practices. These sites included the Metropolitan Cathedral, the Museo Nacional de Antropología, and beyond the city, the Augustinian Convent of Acolman. This former monastery features early colonial-period murals painted by indigenous artists, with themes including the Crucifixion, the Last Judgement, Saint Catherine of Alexandria, and the Annunciation. I also visited nearby Cuernavaca, where I viewed the former Franciscan monastery's monumental mural depicting the Franciscan martyrs of Japan. I was intrigued by this image, and the potential role it may have had in fostering a sense of global and transpacific religious consciousness among both friars and indigenous Christians in this sacred space.

In Puebla, I visited the Biblioteca Lafragua, which has a large collection of early modern printed works related to religion in the Viceroyalty of New Spain, including Mexico and the Philippines. This library is housed in the former Jesuit College, which hosted missionaries traveling to Asia, and whose library collection's scope matched the global connections and aspirations of the Society of Jesus. Here, I consulted a selection of the library's Nahuatl-language handwritten documents. I also consulted diverse printed works, including a set of 17th-century instructions on administering the sacraments that contained handwritten annotations in Nahuatl, a sermon given in Puebla on the saint Rita de Cassia, an 18th-century instructional manual for administering the sacraments to indigenous Mexicans, Francisco de Florencia's important 17th-century history of the apparition of San Miguel in nearby Tlaxcala, and a 17th-century printed book of sermons preached in Manila, in the Philippines.

## Chase Caldwell Smith (continued)

While in Puebla, I visited the church of the former Jesuit College, as well as the sixteenth-century Franciscan Convent of San Juan Bautista in Cuautinchán, located to the southeast of the city. Here, I was permitted to crawl through a small gap in the oldest *retablo mayor* in the Americas to view a program of beautiful, well-preserved indigenous-painted 16th-century murals behind it. I climbed up several narrow ladders and tiers of scaffolding and was greeted by up-close views of vibrant floral and faunal motifs, among other types of images. Elsewhere in the convent I was also happy to get to see perhaps the most iconic image of the site: the famous cloister mural of the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary by the Archangel Gabriel, flanked by a jaguar and an eagle. Visiting this site (and Acolman in the Valley of Mexico) was important for helping me develop thoughts about the importance of “hybrid” indigenous Christian art as a source for studying religious conversion and cultural encounter in New Spain.

In Tlaxcala, I visited two important archives: the Archivo Histórico del Estado de Tlaxcala and the parish archive of San Miguel del Milagro, located near the city. At the first archive, I purchased the published editions of the archive’s transcribed Nahuatl-language documentation (with Spanish translations) for the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. I also consulted the archive’s on-site catalogue for these centuries to search for documentation relevant to my themes of interest.

Visiting the parish archive of San Miguel del Milagro, which is located at this important apparition site of the Archangel Michael, was in many ways the highlight of my research trip. I was grateful to be warmly welcomed at this active parish office, where I was permitted to consult the archive of documents produced in the parish. I was aware from consulting the ADABI (Apoyo al Desarrollo de Archivos y Bibliotecas de México) inventory for this archive that there was indigenous documentation held there, including Nahuatl-language testaments. However, I was not prepared for the wealth and quantity of this documentation, which I was kindly permitted to photograph. I was grateful to leave the archive with hundreds of photographs of documents in Spanish and Nahuatl that contained information on religious activity at the site, including several colonial-period Nahuatl-language testaments of indigenous parishioners. When I work through these documents, I look forward to asking how these indigenous individuals engaged with the apparition site, and whether any global religious currents are perceptible. Given that the iconography of Saint Michael was a global phenomenon in the seventeenth century, with connections from Manila to Mexico and Spain, as Stephanie Porras has argued, I believe that this is a question worth asking.

In Tlaxcala, I was also able to climb the sacred mountain La Malinche (Matlacueye), the sixth-highest peak in Mexico, visit the Basilica of the Virgin of Ocotlán (a significant Marian apparition site), attend a ceremony of the *dormición de la virgen* in the Cathedral of Tlaxcala, and experience the famous fiesta *La Noche que Nadie Duerme*, on the eve of the Assumption of the Virgin, in Huamantla, Tlaxcala. These various experiences deepened my appreciation for the contours of local devotions in this region, and raised many questions for me about the role of “sacred matter” and sacred space in Mexican Catholicism and the ways in which global Catholicism was localized in the region.

This past summer was a thought-provoking and productive experience, and I now have much primary source material to work through and ideas to think about in preparing my dissertation prospectus this academic year. I would like to once again thank the Conference on Latin American History for its generosity in supporting my travel and research this summer through this award.

## Jordan Buchanan, UC San Diego

### *Inhabiting: Social Housing Environments during Mexico's Neoliberal Transition, 1982-1994*

The James Scobie Award enabled me to carry out four weeks of preliminary research in Mexico during June 2024. For my dissertation project, I focus on the history of social housing in Mexico during the 1980s and the contemporary neoliberal reforms. Infonavit is my case study for this project as it was the largest state-led housing program that built over 40% of the state homes between its inauguration in 1972 and its downsizing in 1992 (the second largest produced few than half the number of homes of Infonavit - Fovisste). Infonavit as a case study allows me to look at urban history in the latter stages of the twentieth century while also incorporating a historical study in the context of the political and economic transitional period in Mexico during the 1980s. I look at this history at the national scale as well as employ a city-specific focus on Puebla de los Ángeles.

During my time in Mexico using the Scobie Award, I split my time between Mexico City and Puebla. In the capital, I visited the *Biblioteca de Infonavit* located at Barranca de Muerto, the *Hemeroteca Nacional* located at UNAM and the *Biblioteca de Miguel Lerdo de Tejada* in the historic centre. The *Biblioteca de Infonavit* contains an extensive collection of material related to housing and urban planning in Mexico from the 1960s to the present. I used most of my time at this archive to build a broader understanding of Infonavit's history from 1972-1992. The library staff were attentive and supportive of my research throughout my time there. They also have a newly opened museum (Munavi) to mark fifty years of Infonavit (2022), of which the staff gave me a tour. The *Biblioteca de Miguel Lerdo de Tejada* staff were busy digitizing their archival collection related to economic and political history, which meant I used the time to browse the physical catalogues and prepare for when they reopen to the public. The planned completion of the digitization was to be the end of 2023. Finally, the *Hemeroteca Nacional* allowed me to plan for reading the national periodicals for my dissertation research as I will use this archive as a key source for my analysis of the national events and discourse related to urban development, housing and neoliberalism.

In Puebla I visited archives that would serve my city-focused approach that would add more depth to the centralised Infonavit sources at their library. I trialled a few archives that turned out to not be useful for my very modern focus, which in the end was helpful to reduce my source base. The important archives in the city are the *Hemeroteca Juan Nepomuceno Troncoso* in Puebla and the *Archivo General Municipal de Puebla*. The former has print media sources that are specifically focused on and produced in the City of Puebla and that provide detailed insight into the goings-on in the city as well as specific discussion of Infonavit communities. The municipal archive proved to be extremely fruitful for my research project as it contains government reports on the city in general, and it has individual collections for every neighbourhood in the city - including the distinct Infonavit neighbourhoods. This latter source will facilitate my case-study approach of the individual housing complexes of Infonavit. La Margarita was the largest housing complex in the city, for which the archive has a wide source range. The staff at these archives were very helpful and worked closely with me to look into Infonavit's history - one of the archivists took keen interest in Infonavit Amalucan because of living nearby it and because her kids attend the primary school that serves the community.

A new interest for my research emerged these conversations outside Infonavit: why and how did the stigma related to Infonavit grow. Infonavit started as a utopian-style housing project, and it ended as stigmatised social housing. Does this case-study demonstrate the issues of social housing projects within a capitalist system? Were the housing plans flawed and inadvertently produced the conditions for stigmatised housing? Is it evidence of state failure and corruption? Or did the project decay as a result of neoliberal reforms? There are many layers of analysis to Infonavit's history. Thanks to the Scobie Award, I was able to identify and visit the key sources that will enable me to conduct my future research in Mexico for this project.

## Meghann F. Chávez, University of New Mexico

### *Beauty and the Market: Beauty Salons, Neoliberalism, and Female Political Activism*

With the James R. Scobie Award, I was able to spend one month in Santiago de Chile to collect a range of sources for my dissertation. My research interest is in the realities of economic policy initiatives associated with political parties/Cold War ideologies and the ways in which local businesses and business organizations experienced these changes, using gender as a focus of analysis. Specifically, I am interested in the beauty salon - as a small-scale local business, a gendered space distinct from the barber shop, a business model built on personal relationships, and as a highly social space that allowed women the opportunity to discuss contemporary issues and create social networks for political action.

My research trip to Santiago this summer focused on various aspects of economic regulation, political organization, public protest, and the Gremio de dueños de salones de Belleza. I started with the periodicals section of the National Library, but had scheduled time at both national archives for my first full week there. I also made my first visit the Gremio. The following week I visited a couple of municipalities in the Santiago Metro area in order ask about their records and archives, and made an appointment for the following week. The national archives close around 2 pm, and most municipalities are only open to the public until early afternoon, so I rounded out the days by returning to the National Library to continue working in periodicals, pulling different collections and/or dates and focusing on different sections of the papers as my ideas about the project evolved.

The most productive days of this trip were meetings with the historian for the municipality of Providencia and a follow-up visit to the Gremio. Providencia was the only municipality I visited that connected me to a person, rather than referring me to their website to file a request under the national transparency law. I met with the historian for the city, who was able to help me locate some documents related to municipal regulations, working with me to follow different search terms and potential avenues of investigation. Though this meeting did not produce as much documentation as I would have liked, it was a great opportunity to work with someone and learn about the ways some of the cities and their records are organized, as well as the local terminology used for the types of documents I am interested in.

At the Gremio, after an initial brief meeting, the administrators arranged for me to be able to meet with a few of the oldest members of their organization. I have a recording of a preliminary interview with three members of the gremio who all begin working around the beginning of my research period (1950) and were able to tell me some things about the changes that have taken place throughout their careers. This interview was during a scheduled professionalization workshop, and there were people coming in and out of the room. However, the administrators were extremely helpful, and I have followed up with them to arrange additional interviews with other members of their organization.

I spent the last week of my trip in Valparaiso, to explore the possibility of relocating my research focus out of Santiago. Unfortunately, most civic organizations are in Santiago, and the Biblioteca del Congreso remains closed to the public. However, I did visit the municipal offices and was able to talk with the chief of the office in charge of business licenses, who explained the records request process, and is working on the request for information I filed on their website.

I am extremely grateful to the Conference on Latin American History for this award. This research trip was much better than expected and has given me a lot of material to work with to finish my prospectus, plot out my dissertation, and determine which areas will require further research. Most importantly, this research trip allowed me to make the personal connections I had not been able to establish during the pandemic.

## Micaela Wiehe, Pennsylvania State University

With the James R. Scobie Award, I conducted preliminary dissertation research at the Archivo General de la Nacion in Mexico City, Mexico. Through this research trip, I was able to prove the feasibility of my dissertation. I can now confidently say my dissertation will examine nearly three centuries of Indigenous movements to emphasize vast mobility as a framework for ethnohistorical research. In particular, this summer I located specific documents to support four distinct types of migration around which I now plan to structure my project. These four types of movement will include that of military service, religious pilgrimage, family making, and trade or business. In addition, with the help of the James R. Scobie Award, I was able to identify archival leads that have helped me narrow the geographic scope of my project. Based on this preliminary research, I know that I will be able to consider the movement of Indigenous people to and through regions of the Yucatán Peninsula (Merida), Eastern New Spain (Veracruz), Western New Spain (Guadalajara/ Nueva Galicia), and the far Northern region of Nuevo Mexico in my dissertation. With future research, I hope to also include the movement of Indigenous people to and from the Spanish Caribbean (such as Havana) and the Philippines (Manila). The nine weeks I spent at the AGN not only opened my eyes to many new possibilities for my dissertation research but also expanded my passion for archival research.

At the Archivo General de la Nacion, I was met by a helpful and supportive staff of archivists that confirmed that I had already identified promising sections of this archive to locate the examples of migration for which I was hoping. I would like to extend a special thanks to the archivist Martín who directed me to particular sections of the microfilmed Inquisition records that have proven extremely helpful in my framing of mobility and movement related to family building. I also found many ecclesiastical court cases related to crimes against marriage committed by Indigenous people in the Indiferente Virreinal section of the AGN. As a result of these leads, I spent many hours poring over the microfilmed and physical versions of Inquisition case records and other ecclesiastical court records that are providing me with detailed stories of Indigenous individuals who traveled extensively to marry the people they wished to marry and to leave the ones they did not. I have begun creating a very large database of these documents in order to also trace the *casta* and racial implications of this movement on marriage demographics. These documents prompted me to consider whether or not the distance that an individual traveled impacted the types of families they chose to build. This could potentially be very important information for my dissertation that I am excited to continue exploring.

## Micaela Wiehe (continued)

Outside of the Inquisition and Indiferente Virreinal sections of the AGN, I also spent a lot of time in the Bienes Nacionales and Indios sections. In both of these sections, I located documentation related to Indigenous communities and individuals making movements for religious and economic reasons. I uncovered numerous petitions of Indigenous communities in the latter half of the sixteenth century that had been relocated in the previous decades but needed to return to their original land in order to effectively worship, do business, and produce tribute. These petitions, which to this point in my search have not been previously published, will certainly help me to frame the ways that the mobility of Mesoamericans was both dictated by Spanish colonial efforts but also the ways that they were active participants in the creation of the colonial world. Similarly, in the Mercedes section of the AGN, I found several examples of the long-term effects of forced migration for military service in Mexico's western region. Following the leads of Ida Altman and John Chuchiak specifically, I plan to continue exploring the families of Indigenous military forces that relocated permanently as a result of Spanish colonialism.

The James R. Scobie Award provided me with a very productive summer research experience that not only confirmed the feasibility of my dissertation but also provided new and interesting directions for my research. Outside of research, this summer in Mexico City also provided me with very positive networking opportunities with fellow graduate students and scholars. I was able to connect with graduate Fulbright researchers who were so supportive and helped me navigate my first time at the AGN. I'd like to give a special thanks to Ursula Rall for all of her guidance and the fun Saturday trip to Xochimilco! The kindness of the academic community and archive staff that I experienced in Mexico City only makes me more excited to return this fall to continue my research. The supportive and charitable research environment I was in this summer facilitated an extremely productive and inspiring trip. I have returned home with more than 300 photographed documents that I have already begun working through, organizing, and transcribing. I am certain that many of the documents I collected this summer will make it into my dissertation in some form!

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Conference on Latin American History and the James R. Scobie Award committee for providing me with the funding necessary to embark on this important step toward the production of my dissertation. I think back to applying for this award in the midst of preparing for my comprehensive exams, completing my final semester of coursework, and performing research assistant duties. I was so looking forward to returning to the archives this summer, and thanks to the support of CLAH, this summer was exactly what I had hoped it would be and more! I am looking forward to returning to Mexico City soon and to hopefully meeting more CLAH affiliates in San Francisco this coming January.

## Berenice Tepozano, UC Irvine

Thanks to the generous support of the Conference on Latin American History's James R. Scobie Award, I was able to travel to Mexico City and conduct a four-week research trip during the summer of 2023 to determine the feasibility of my project on domestic colonial "whiteness" in eighteenth-century Mexico. I worked in two archives—the Archivo General de la Nación de México (AGN) and the Archivo Histórico del Arzobispado de México (AHAM)—with extensive collections of eighteenth-century criminal, civil, and ecclesiastical sources.

To find documentation regarding the birth of children and discourses of their racial upbringing, I collected thirty-one cases from the following *Bandos* housed in the AGN: *Criminal*, *Inquisición*, *Indiferente Virreinal*, *Matrimonios*, and the *Protomedicato*. At the AGN, employees in the *sala de consulta* and the *sala de microfilm*, were generous with their time and assisted me on my quest to look for records that documented children in the Mexican national archive. The AGN's employees also informed me of and assisted me with the AGN's new source request system, which had recently been updated while I was there in July. By the end of my trip, I realized that to find contestations surrounding the birth of children, I needed to find sources detailing the childrearing practices of mothers and caretakers. While I still intend to explore domestic colonial whiteness, with my research in the collections at the AGN I am now turning to the experiences of mothers of color and motherhood in eighteenth-century Mexico.

The second archive I visited was the Archivo Histórico del Arzobispado de México (AHAM) where I continue looking for sources that documented children and their families. When I first arrived in Mexico City, I was concerned that the AHAM would not be open since their website was unavailable and did not provide any current contact information. In the second week of my trip, I visited the AHAM to query about their archive and to my surprise the AHAM was open and more than happy to facilitate my research. After introducing myself, my project, and providing the front desk with a letter from the University of California, Irvine, the coordinator of the archive, Marco Pérez Iturbe, received me with open arms and provided me with a tour of their archive. The coordinator even encouraged me to browse the AHAM's collection of marriage petitions and parish register/census known as *padrones*, stating that their sources would be useful to my project. Like the AGN, the marriage petitions at the AHAM encouraged me to think about how mothers of color defined honor, justice, and freedom in the face of ecclesiastical patriarchs.

## Berenice Tepozano (continued)

In addition to the two archives, I also visited the Museo Nacional de Historia (National History Museum) to find visual depictions of whiteness in eighteenth-century Mexico. I also emailed and met with Mexican scholars who provided feedback on my research topic. At the *Castillo de Chapultepec*, I took photos of art pieces and material culture from the eighteenth century on display in the Museo Nacional de Historia. I took photos of seventeen casta paintings, visual depictions of the Virgin of Guadalupe and other saints, and elite household items made of precious material, to get a sense of how whiteness was depicted visually. I also received the generous support and assistance of Pilar Gonzalbo Aizpuru, Gabriela Iturralde Nieto, and María Elisa Velázquez Gutiérrez who provided useful comments regarding my conceptualizations of race, *calidad*, and gender.

My summer spent in Mexico City has considerably reshaped how I am framing my project. The sources I collected this summer guided me towards a different path, moving the center of my research from children to mothers and caretakers. Nonetheless, I will continue focusing on discourses of domestic colonial whiteness. My project on race, gender, and family formation will continue to evolve, but I hope to meet those shifts with confidence nurtured by my archival experience in Mexico City and with the feedback from Mexican scholars generously provided to me. The support of CLAH and the Scobie Award allowed me to familiarize myself with the archives and to help in the overall development of my dissertation project. Currently, I am systematizing and transcribing the sources I have collected. This research forms the basis of my second-year paper in the Ph.D. Program at the University of California, Irvine focusing on mothers of color who act as patriarchs in eighteenth-century Mexico City.

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