



Conference on Latin American History

SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

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2024 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

Elizabeth Schwall (2023-2024)

Fabrício Prado (2023-2024)

Marissa Nichols (2023-2024)

Mary Hicks (2024-2025)

Diana Montaña (2024-2025)

Daniela Samur (2024-2025)

Ex-Officio Council Members

HAHR Editor: William Summerhill

The Americas Editor: John F.
Schwaller

H-LatAm Editor: Marc Becker

Standing Committees

Nominating Committee

Elena Schneider (chair)

Yanna Yanakakis

Oscar Chamosa

Program Committee

Sarah Sarzynski (2024 chair)

Renata Keller (2025 chair)

Daniel Mendiola

Regional and Thematic Sections

Andean Studies

Renzo Aroni, Chair

Marlen Rosas, Secretary

Atlantic World Studies

Emanuel Lachaud, Chair

Ernesto Mercado-Montero, Secretary

Borderlands/Frontiers

Erick Langer, Chair

María de los Ángeles Picone, Secretary

Brazilian Studies

Sarah Sarzynski, Chair

Jennifer Eaglin, Secretary

Caribbean Studies

Jorell Meléndez-Badillo, Chair

Joan Flores-Villalobos, Secretary

Central American Studies

Sylvia Sellers-García, Chair

Stephanie Huerdo-Jefferson, Secretary

Chile-Río de la Plata Studies

Romina Akemi Green, Chair

Alison Bruey, Secretary

Colonial Studies

Guadalupe García, Chair

Ángela Pérez-Villa, Secretary

Gran Colombia Studies

Constanza Castro, Chair

Yesenia Barragán, Secretary

Mexican Studies

Xóchitl M. Flores-Marcial, Chair

Jorge Ramirez-Lopez, Secretary

Teaching and Teaching Materials

Pilar Maria Herr, Chair

Rebekah Pite, Secretary

Message from the President



Happy April, colegas! I hope that in receiving this newsletter, a nice memory from the San Francisco conference comes to mind; or just as well, that you find something interesting in the section reports, list of prize-winning scholarship, and the CLAH's new initiatives that gets you looking something up and excited to make new connections. Really, I just hope that everyone's alright, and thinking about their remaining teaching and administrative responsibilities more in terms of weeks than months; and to the graduate students with qualifying exams around the corner, or with dissertations to defend soon, hang in there, and congratulations on your achievements!

The CLAH conference program of 2024 once again featured a formidable array of panels and workshops. We thank the program committee of Dr. Rob Franco (chair), Dr. Sarah Sarzynski, Dr. Oscar de la Torre, and Dr. Vivana Grieco for their work. In total CLAH received 86 submissions (56 panels and 30 papers). 42 panels were cross listed with the AHA, and 23 additional panels were added to the program. When combined with the 11 CLAH-section panels, we're happy to have brought another 34 sessions.

Likewise, in energy and numbers, the CLAH luncheon felt like many of those that I was a part of 5 and 10 years ago. It was heartening to see a substantial amount of first-timers attend. CLAH Executive Director, Dr. Erika Edwards, and Graduate Assistant, Samuel Reitenour, both of UTEP, coordinated a memorable event, and seamlessly helped accommodate the more than two-dozen walk-ups who joined us. [I was a walk-up at my first luncheon, so am totally sympathetic.] It was a great pleasure to recognize prize winners and prize committees alongside Dr. Alejandra Bronfman, vice-president of the CLAH; to have someone celebrating their the 50th year as a CLAH member (Dr. Fritz Schwaller); and to honor Dr. John Coatsworth, recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, through testimonies from former colleagues and advisees.

It was also enormously satisfying to announce the new Teaching Award, and to recognize Dr. Casey Lurtz's tireless efforts in bringing this to fruition. Lurtz will chair the first round of competition, which opens June 1, working with a committee of Drs. Sarah Foss and Takkara Brunson. Much of the impetus for the award came from the vibrant initiatives taking place within the Teaching and Teaching Materials Section over recent years, and the CLAH looks forward to how the award process will amplify discussions about, and the sharing of approaches to, teaching Latin American history in the 2020s and beyond.

On a personal note, it was very rewarding to moderate a presidential panel entitled: "Latinx Diasporas, the Job Market, and the Need to Talk Fields: A Conversation on Research, Teaching, and Training Across Latin American and Latino Histories." The panel featured Dr. Larisa Veloz (UTEP), Dr. Jorell Meléndez-Badillo (Wisconsin), Dr. Sara Kozameh (UCSD), and Dr. Stephanie Huezo-Jefferson (Fordham)—all of whom spoke eloquently on how they see changes afoot in how we articulate the project of Latin American history in the 21st century. This cohort of early-to-mid career Latinx scholars shared thoughts about how working at Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), and publishing in Latino Studies journals, for example, necessarily prompted new questions about the contours of our field. Panelists also commented on a new visibility for Puerto Rican and Central American studies within the field, processes that also relate to further engagement with Latino studies. Overall, it was a stimulating conversation, which elicited passionate comments and questions from the audience. It is clear to many of us that the sheer number of Latinos in the diaspora in general, and in the U.S. in particular, will affect future iterations of our field; these changes will also be reflected in the professoriate. Our underlying hope was to make visible recent hiring trends that have brought Latin American and Latino histories into contact, and to thus urge us to partake on these conversations. In this vein, Dr. Sara Kozameh and I published an essay in *The Perspectives* (Feb., 2024) to highlight that any serious interrogation of our field requires not only a reckoning with the intersections with Latino history and studies, but also with the growing Latino college population nationally.

I close with a personal ¡*mil gracias!* to the 40+ people who recently accepted requests to serve on next year's prize committees. We're very grateful! Happy Copa América to everyone this summer, and till next fall.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Celso Castilho". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Celso Castilho
Vanderbilt University
President, CLAH 2022-24



Message from Co-Executive Director Erika Edwards

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from the CLAH office in El Paso on behalf of our co-executive director, Christina Villareal, and graduate student, Samuel Reitenour. Although it has been said before, I want to thank UNCC and Jurgen Buchenau for a smooth transition. As hosts of CLAH for 15 years, UNCC provided a solid foundation for us to continue to build upon.

I am happy to report the 2024 CLAH conference marks a return to “normal” as we saw record high attendance. Thank you to the program committee Rob Franco (chair), Sarah Sarzynski, and Vivana Grieco for their work. We had a total of 86 submissions (56 panels and 30 papers) and 165 people attended the luncheon! Moreover, this year’s luncheon featured a unique keynote address. On behalf of John Coatsworth (Distinguished Service Award winner), a host of his former students and friends provided thoughtful words and shared their memories. Through their presentations we learned more about John Coatsworth’s illustrious and inspiring career. Thank you, Charles Walker, for organizing this presentation. We also announced the Teaching Award was officially established this year. Thank you John Schwaller and Casey Lurtz for your tireless efforts to establish this prize.

In recent years, there has been a call for more outreach and professional development for our membership. This conference has answered that call. It featured the Presidential Panel “Latinx Diasporas, the Job Market and the Need to Talk Fields- A Conversation on Research, Teaching and Training across Latin American and Latino Histories” and co-sponsored two panels with the American Historical Review and the Modern Endangered Archive Program.

The AHR/CLAH panel, “The American Historical Review and Latin American History,” consisted of Latin Americanists who had published articles in the AHR, Alex Borucki, Bianca Premo, Adriana Chira, and Louise E. Walker and the editor and chief Mark Phillip Bradley. The panelists discussed their publishing experiences with the AHR. 70 people attended this panel on the first day of the conference, which is quite impressive.

Another institution with which CLAH built ties with is the Modern Endangered Archives Program (MEAP), which is based at UCLA. MEAP offers a planning grant in the amount of \$20,000 and a grant of \$70,000 for archives and libraries to digitize their collections. Alejandra Bronfman, who serves on MEAP’s Board, chaired the panel which consisted of Alex Halkin, Charles F. Walker, and Meg Weeks.

Lastly, we implemented changes to the Vanderwood Prize, this year it will accept articles in Spanish, French and Portuguese (a translation in English must be provided). This was to be more inclusive and respond to our growing international membership.

With that I will close with a reminder to submit your articles and books to various prize committees by June 1st, 2024.

Regards

Erika

Approved Minutes of the 2023 CLAH Council Meeting

Ben Vinson III, President
Celso Castilho, Vice President and President-elect
Jürgen Buchenau and Erika Edwards, Co-Executive Directors
Bianca Premo, Past President

January 5, 2023
Held virtually on Zoom
6:00p.m. EST

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

Ben Vinson III called the regular meeting of the CLAH Council to order at 6:07p.m. EST via Zoom.

Council members present: Ben Vinson III, Erika Edwards, Jürgen Buchenau, William Summerhill, Danielle Terrazas Williams, Celso Castilho, Bianca Premo, Tamara Walker, Marc Becker, Maria Barreiros Almeida, Elizabeth B. Schwall, John F. Schwaller, and Orlando Deavila

Other CLAH members in attendance: Alejandra Green, Madison Green, William van Norman, and Marissa Nichols

Council members absent: Brandon Byrd and Luisa Arrieta

2. Approval of minutes of the 2022 meeting

Ben Vinson called for the minutes from the 2021 Council meeting to be approved. Erika Edwards moved for approval, and Celso Castilho seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of 2022 election results and committee appointments

Ben Vinson presented the 2022 election results and committee appointments, which were subject to the pending addition of a Program Committee member and an additional member for the Howard F. Cline Prize committee. William Summerhill moved for approval, and Orlando Deavila seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Report of the Program Committee

After discussing the report submitted by Program Committee chair Sharika Crawford, the Council opened the floor to discussion about the selection process for panels and papers. Among the questions raised was whether CLAH should adjust submission guidelines in order to ensure stronger proposals. Erika Edwards reported that the number of panels this year was low, perhaps because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Report on the CLAH Office

Jürgen Buchenau commented on this two-part report. His first announcement was that this would be the final year that CLAH would benefit from the assistance of a graduate assistant (GA) at UNC Charlotte. He noted that the GA has helped the office grow, but will no longer be supported by the university.

Buchenau reported that there are two bids for the CLAH office: the University of Alabama and the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP).

Buchenau announced that Erika Edwards left UNC Charlotte for a position at UTEP. He clarified that, in her absence, Oscar de la Torre was appointed to replace her as a Co-Executive Director of CLAH, effective January 9, 2023 through the end of the spring semester. de la Torre, Buchenau explained, would assume responsibility for the 2024 program and session reports, among other tasks. He emphasized that this period of transition would be a challenging one.

Buchenau also reported that, like the number of panel submissions, CLAH's membership numbers had diminished. He reasoned that this decline was a result of the COVID-19 pandemic's negative impact on the annual meeting.

To conclude this section, Buchenau thanked a series of executives for the work that has been done through UNC Charlotte under CLAH for the "seamless" transition between presidents and executives. He remarked that it was an amazing sixteen years.

6. Review of Executive Director's 2022 Annual Report, discussion and vote on Proposed FY 2023 budget

Jürgen Buchenau initiated the Council's review of the proposed budget for the 2023 fiscal year by explaining how its treatment of donations and membership dues differed from the prior year's approved budget.

Buchenau noted that the luncheon at the 2023 annual meeting was less expensive than at the prior conference. He reported that revenue from CLAH's membership dues declined from approximately \$28,000 to \$30,000 to around \$20,000, explaining that a large contingent of members purchased three-year memberships and that renewals were lower in 2022, among other reasons for the decline.

Among Buchenau's other reports and observations were that most donations in 2022 went to the new Teaching Prize, that CLAH had a larger dividend income this year, and CLAH's endowment reduced compared to last year due to the bad performance of stocks in 2022, but that this would have a low impact because of its four-year time frame.

On a brighter note, Buchenau suggested that CLAH members' optimism was on the rise after a successful annual meeting and predicted that memberships would grow 20% in 2023. He noted that membership numbers were already rebounding in December 2022.

Buchenau's concluding remarks included that the cost of the luncheon at the annual meeting will increase next year, that the cost of a new Co-Executive Director was reflected in the 2022 Annual Report, including funds for the transition of the office to its new location either at Alabama or UTEP, and that a CLAH was left with a small deficit at the end of 2022, but that this was no cause for alarm given the surplus of the past few years.

Ben Vinson expressed hope about CLAH's ability to recover from the pandemic and about the imminent transition to a new university.

There were no questions from the members about the budget. Vinson moved approval for the proposed FY 2023 budget. Danielle Terrazas Williams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. New business

a. New membership categories

Given the increasing number of CLAH officers and prize submitters based in Latin America, Jürgen Buchenau proposed a new membership category that would reflect the discrepancy in salaries between professionals in the U.S. and Latin America. He expressed hope that a discounted annual membership rate of \$30 would encourage more Latin American professionals to join CLAH and participate in the annual meeting.

Ben Vinson entertained a motion to approve this new membership category. John F. Schwaller moved approval, and Orlando Deavila seconded. The motion was approved.

b. Updates on the Teaching Prize

Jürgen Buchenau updated the Council on the Teaching Prize proposed by Casey Lurtz at the 2022 CLAH Council meeting. He reported that CLAH had collected pledges and donations in the approximate amount of \$8,000, and that the amount required to establish a new prize is \$12,000. He asked the Council for suggestions on how to move forward with establishing this prize as soon as possible. As one option, he suggested the possibility of approving the prize in the middle of CLAH's annual cycle, once the organization had met the \$12,000 target.

John F. Schwaller expressed his strong support for the Teaching Prize and suggested that the Council offer its conditional approval now, pending the collection of the remaining funds necessary for the prize, so that it could be awarded for the first time in 2023. He speculated that such a commitment from CLAH might push some members who have been considering donating to do so. He proposed that, this year, the Teaching and Teaching Materials section secretaries would staff the Teaching Prize committee on a one-time basis, since they normally award the syllabus prize. Next year, the Teaching Prize committee would be staffed by the President and Vice President, just like the other prize and award committees. Celso Castilho voiced his support for this proposal.

Ben Vinson entertained a motion to proceed with Schwaller's suggestions. Schwaller moved approval, and Buchenau seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Adjustments to the Distinguished Service Prize

Celso Castilho reported that some of the requirements for the Distinguished Service Prize are no longer listed on the CLAH website, but that discussions were underway about requiring five letters of support. To explain why the number of letters should be scaled back to five, Bianca Premo reminded the Council of the uneven numbers of letters that applicants had included in their application materials in the past.

Ben Vinson asked the Council if it approved of the approach outlined by Castilho and Premo. Premo proposed that if applications be valid for two years in order to make it easier for applicants to compile the necessary files. Vinson voiced his support for this idea and was joined by Tamara Walker, Orlando Deavila, and John F. Schwaller.

Maria Barreiros Almeida moved for approval of Premo's plan to keep nominations on file for two years and reduce the number of required letters to five. Premo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

d. Bids for CLAH's new location

Ben Vinson opened this section by explaining that there were two bids for the new location of the CLAH office, the University of Alabama and the University of Texas at El Paso. Vinson reviewed the responsibilities of the host university in the operation and continuity of CLAH. He asked the council to take five minutes to review the documents submitted by those who have bid for office. He announced that Jürgen Buchenau and Erika Edwards would respectively represent the bids for Alabama and UTEP by presenting their proposals. The Council would then discuss these proposals and vote on the matter.

After the members had finished reviewing the documents, Vinson asked the Council if they had any questions for Buchenau or Edwards. Celso Castilho asked if Buchenau's proposal was a five-year commitment and asked Edwards if her proposal was fully supported on a departmental level at UTEP. Edwards responded that she would lead the transition and that she had full departmental support in doing so. She noted that Christina Villarreal and other involved faculty at UTEP were at an appropriate career stage to take on CLAH duties and affirmed that Co-Directors at UTEP would receive institutional support in the form of course releases. Buchenau explained that he would be engaged during the full five-year term, but that he would take on Edwards's duties of dealing with the sections, shaping the program, and working with the Program Committee.

Further discussion unfolded regarding the Council's prior experiences with competing bids. The Council has weighed strong bids like these in the past. The members expressed gratitude for the bids' strength and the experience that both Buchenau and Edwards would bring to the table. Many members remarked that it would be a tough call. Additional questions centered on differences in administrative support between Alabama and UTEP and the merits of each proposal in terms of location, opportunities for expansion, diversity, institutional profile, and the experience and stability of each department's core faculty.

The members proceeded to vote. Votes were counted by Ben Vinson and Bianca Premo. The final vote was seven for UTEP and four for the University of Alabama.

Officers and Committee Members Elected and Appointed

On December 9, 2023, Co-Executive Director Erika Edwards presented the results of balloting by CLAH members for three new members of the Council and new secretaries of the eleven CLAH Sections to President Celso Castilho and Vice President Alejandra Bronfman for their verification as per the CLAH Constitution. The verified members-elect are:

Council Members, Tenure Track (two-year term)

Mary Hicks, University of Chicago
Diana Montaña, Washington University

Council Member, Non-Tenure Track (two-year term)

Danielle Samur, Cornell University

Section Secretaries

Andean Studies - Marlen Rosas, Haverford College
Atlantic Studies - Ernesto Mercado-Montero, Dartmouth College
Borderlands/Frontiers - María de los Ángeles Picone, Boston College
Brazil Studies - Jennifer Eaglin, Ohio State University
Caribbean Studies - Joan Flores-Villalobos, University of Southern California
Central American Studies - Stephanie Huezo-Jefferson, Fordham University
Chile/Río de la Plata Studies - Alison Bruey, University of North Florida
Colonial Studies - Ángela Pérez-Villa, Western Michigan University
Gran Colombia Studies - Yesenia Barragán, Rutgers University
Mexican Studies - Jorge Ramirez-Lopez, University of California, Los Angeles
Teaching and Teaching Materials - Rebekah Pite, Lafayette College

The Council also approved the President's and Vice President's nominations for the following standing committees:

Nominating Committee

Elena Schneider (chair)
Yanna Yannakakis
Oscar Chamosa

Program Committee

Sarah Sarzynski (2024 chair)
Renata Keller (2025 chair)
Daniel Mendiola

**Officers and Committee Members Elected and Appointed:
2024 Prize Committees**

Distinguished Service Award

Rob Alegre (chair)
Lara Putnam
Erika Pani

Paul Vanderwood Prize

Alex Borucki (chair)
Elena Jackson Albarrán
Melissa Teixeira

Bolton-Johnson Prize

Tatiana Seijas (chair)
Tamara Walker
Benjamin Cowan

Socolow-Johnson Prize

Fabrício Prado (chair)
Ben Bryce
Carmen Soliz

James Alexander Robertson Prize

Jürgen Buchenau (chair)
Adriana Chira
Romina Green

Lewis Hanke Post-Doctoral Award

Lance Ingwersen (chair)
Gabriela Aceves
Jorell Meléndez-Badillo

James Scobie Award

Gabi Kuenzli (chair)
Stephanie Huevo
John Marquez

Lydia Cabrera Award

Kathleen López (chair)
Marc McLeod
Michelle Chase

María Elena Martínez Prize

Lisa Sousa (chair)
Melisa Galván
Germán Vergara

Warren Dean Prize

Sueann Caulfield (chair)
Marc Herzman
Keila Grinberg

Antonine Tibesar Prize

Anne Hanley (chair)
Sara Kozameh
David Tamayo

CLAH Section Meeting Reports

Andean Studies

The Andean Studies Section Panel, “New Trends in Andean History—Indigeneity, Settlement, Environment, and Infrastructure” convened on Friday, January 5th, 2024, at 5:30PM, to a sizable audience. The three presenters were: Marlen Rosas, Daniela Samur, and Gonzalo Romero Sommer. Unfortunately, because of travel issues, José Orsag, who had originally been the fourth presenter, was unable to attend. Because the panelists were told that there would be no technology in the room, they were unable to offer Orsag the opportunity to Zoom in to the session. In fact, the panelists found that the room did indeed have technology available to them. Unfortunately they were unable to make use of it, having prepared papers with the idea that they would not have technology available. Additionally, the two chairs, Javier Puente and Renzo Aroni, were also unable to attend. Nevertheless, the panel generated lively discussion. Marlen Rosas, the incoming section secretary, served as the panel chair.

Dr. Rosas presented first, with a paper entitled, “Indigenous Communists Narrating Feminist Pedagogy in 20th-Century Ecuador.” She engaged with Andeanist scholars and theorists Marisol de la Cadena and Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui to ask whether Indigenous Andean women’s struggles for rights can be fruitfully theorized as feminist movements. Rosas presented the narrative of Indigenous Ecuadorian activist Tránsito Amaguaña to assert that Amaguaña’s attention to the gendered violence she experienced, as well as the empowerment she felt as a woman in her activist alliances, alert us to a feminine, and feminist, political sensibility that informed her ideals. Rosas then challenged contemporary discourses that completely reject the feminist label for Indigenous women, arguing that Indigenous women’s partial connections with feminism constitute legitimate engagements with the movement. Rosas ended her talk by asking broader questions about how the historical archive of Indigenous narratives can enable historians to accurately grasp political identities and the meanings that they held for activists.

Andean Studies (continued)

Daniela Samur presented her paper, “Andean Geographical Hierarchies,” next. Samur offered stimulating questions and ideas throughout her presentation of “Bogotá’s super-Andean situation.” Why and how, Samur asked, did Bogotá—a city practically isolated in the Andes—become the central hub of Colombia’s economy and political power? By examining the practices of the decision-making bureaucrats, Samur was able to turn such a question on its head, asking rather if it was not that Bogotá (and the people who controlled it) isolated the rest of Colombia? Samur thus deftly highlighted the implications of understanding spatial hierarchies not only through natural geography, but through the ways that human actors create them, sometimes counterintuitively. Samur ended by prompting comparisons between Bogotá and other Andean capitals, such as Quito, Lima, and La Paz, reminding us of the significance of demarginalizing Colombia in discussions of the Andean region.

Last but certainly not least, Gonzalo Romero Sommer presented a rich tour-de-force of Andean infrastructural historiography in his essay, “New Infrastructural Histories,” with thought-provoking original insights. Focusing on Peru, Romero Sommer traced the scholarly debates from their focus on how topography shaped infrastructure (echoing Samur’s discussion of Andean geographical hierarchies), to the integration of local knowledges, and to the incorporation of transnational studies that explore the role of modernity discourses in the evolution of infrastructural projects and the power hierarchies and economies that they enable. This exploration led Romero Sommer to discuss his current intervention into hydroelectricity and infrastructural power in Peru. He argues that hydroelectrification of Peru’s infrastructure was sought by regimes of diverse ideological leanings throughout its modern history, towards different ends. Moreover, he highlights the transnational scientific networks that were crucial to the implementation of such ambitious hydroelectric projects. Romero Sommer concluded by emphasizing the political, cultural, and social nature of infrastructural development, prompting us to consider, as Samur did, the human element in the study of geography.

Audience members were keen to discuss the element of spatiality and its relevance to all three projects presented. Coming with distinct geographical and theoretical perspectives, the audience and panelists were able to offer one another generative questions and ideas to further their research in their own contexts, as well as to think more broadly about the Andean-ness of their subjects, as is the goal of such a section.

Marlen Rosas
Haverford College

Atlantic World Studies

Panel Title: Empires and Emancipation: Freedom, Community, and Mobility in the Atlantic World

Panelist 1: Amanda Faulkner, PhD Candidate, Columbia University

Panelist 2: Manoel Rendeiro Neto, PhD Candidate, University of California, Davis

Panelist 3: Myles Ali, Assistant Professor, University of California, Merced

Discussant: Sabrina Smith, Assistant Professor, University of California, Merced

Chair: Myles Ali, Assistant Professor, University of California, Merced

The 2024 Atlantic World Studies Section panel was entitled “Empires and Emancipation: Freedom, Community, and Mobility in the Atlantic World.” The panel explored and reflected on the multidimensional strategies used by enslaved people to attain legal and extralegal freedom within imperial settings of the Atlantic World. It convened early-career historians who were 2023 Mellon Summer Fellows in Democracy and Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington D.C. Building on the shared research theme of “Black Atlantic Geographies”, which we pursued at Dumbarton Oaks, our panel broadly considered pathways to freedom under and on the fringes of colonial rule in the Amazon, the West African colony of Sierra Leone, and the Dutch North Atlantic. Through case studies of slave and post-emancipation societies, the panelists sought to recast knowledge about the meanings and experiences of freedom for African and African descent people within the Luso-Brazilian, Dutch, and British empires of the 17th, 18th, and 19th century Atlantic World.

Our first panelist, Amanda Faulkner, presented her paper entitled “Intimate Slander: Race, Gender, and Belonging in the Dutch Atlantic World.” This work focused on judiciary records related to an enslaved woman named Claesje, who had been accused of stealing household items in a small farming community in what is today upstate New York. Faulkner’s presentation guided audience members through the stages of this lengthy court case from the 1600s, emphasizing Claesje’s deliberate strategies to defend her honor and place within the colonial hierarchy. Highlighting articulations of credibility and belonging within the early African Diaspora and Dutch imperial contexts, Faulkner argued that Claesje, like many other enslaved and free women of African descent throughout Atlantic World, leveraged space, mobility, legal knowledge, and intimate social networks as a means of survival and resistance under oppressive and patriarchal institutions.

Atlantic World Studies (continued)

The panel's second presenter, Manoel Rendeiro Neto, shared the following paper: "Unrooting Cassava: Imperial Reforms on Food Crops, Freedom, and Slavery in the Amazonian Floodplains (1755-1798)." Neto's presentation focused on the role of environmental knowledge in imperial state-building, ethno-racial stratification, and autonomous territorialization in the Luso-Brazilian colony of Grão-Pará within the environs of the Amazonian rainforest. His piece analyzed missionaries and colonial administrators' characterizations of cassava (also known as yucca or manioc) as a food staple that was tied to the regulation of free Indigenous and enslaved African labor in a region he designated as the Afro-Indigenous Atlantic Amazon. Through the lens of cassava cultivation in the eighteenth century, Neto argued that early modern statehood in Grão-Pará, as well as colonial categories relating to place, race and ethnicity, were fundamentally linked to deeply rooted Afro-Indigenous environmental knowledge about the vast and diverse ecologies of the Amazon basin.

Our last presenter, and the chair of panel, was Myles Ali. His paper focused on freedom and community-making in the late nineteenth century through stories of maritime marronage in the British colony of Sierra Leone in West Africa. While the Atlantic and riverine currents of Sierra Leone often facilitated imperial expansion, mercantile trade, and the trafficking and exploitation of captive human beings, Ali's work reimagined these aquatic spaces as waterscapes of freedom shaped by West Africans' shared conceptions of belonging, community-making, and self-liberation. Drawing on Atlantic-wide integrative frameworks for studying Black fugitivity, he contended that the mobility and impermanence of maritime slave flight produced multiple articulations of freedom and the emergence of free communities of belonging as enslaved runaways in Sierra Leone shared freedom rumors, colluded with fellow captives to seize canoes, reunited with kin, and utilized maritime expertise to navigate Sierra Leone's terrestrial and aquatic environments. Ali's presentation ultimately underscored common strategies of resistance to slavery, such as the use of aquatic skills, the circulation of colonial knowledge, and the utilization of social networks, that were long practiced by African and African Diasporic peoples across the empires of the Atlantic World.

At the conclusion of the paper presentations, our discussant, Sabrina Smith, provided commentary on the common themes, arguments, and broader implications of our research. Drawing from her own research on the experiences of slavery and freedom in colonial Oaxaca, Smith encouraged presenters to consider the mutual and peculiar pathways and processes used by Africans and their descendants to attain or conceive freedoms outside the parameters of colonial rule. Her commentary also prompted a discussion about the methodologies and theoretical frameworks we all use to address the limitations of narrating stories of freedom across the archives of the British, Luso-Brazilian, and Dutch empires of the Atlantic world. Audience members built on Smith's initial discussion, focusing largely on manifestations of placemaking, homebuilding, and the making of freedom for Black populations whose lives were often in motion - on the rivers and creeks of Sierra Leone, through urban and domestic spaces in New Netherland, and within settlements along the Amazonian floodplains of Grão-Pará. Conversations continued later into the evening as the panelists met for drinks and food at a nearby restaurant and discussed plans for future collaborations.

Myles Ali
University of California, Merced

Borderlands/Frontiers Studies

The Frontier/Borderlands Committee meeting took place at the San Francisco Hilton, under the direction of the Chair, Erick Langer. He first congratulated María de los Ángeles Picone for her election of the Secretary of the committee.

The meeting's theme was "New Perspectives on Frontier and Borderland Studies" and featured the work of three scholars, Joaquin Rivaya Martínez (Texas State University), Gary Van Valen (Georgia State University), and Robert Christensen (Independent Scholar), who presented interesting papers on various aspects of the indigenous peoples along the borderlands, broadly defined. Two of the participants were unable to come to San Francisco and so gave their papers via Zoom and one (Dr. Rivaya Martínez) gave it in person. Bridget Chesterton, who was also on the program, was unable to present.

Joaquín Rivaya Martínez's paper was on the Llaneros Apaches, who in the eighteenth century were able to remain independent of both the Comanches and the Spanish. Drawing on documentary, ethnographic, and linguistic sources, as well as personal interviews with contemporary Apaches and Comanches, Dr. Rivaya Martínez analyzed who the Llaneros were and where they lived, showing the complexity of understanding the borderlands of the southern plains of North America.

Gary Van Valen took the participants to the Beni region of what is now Bolivia, to the jungles and grasslands of the upper Amazon basin to explain how and why the Jesuits were able to inculcate among Mojo indigenous groups the Christian idea that the human soul was different from that of animals. Dr. Va Valen concentrated particularly on the European idea that the human soul was immortal and that it was separate from the body. Using missionary documentation, he posited that the Jesuits and the Mojo engaged in a conversation on this and other theological topics that eventually led to the Mojos accepting Christianity and placing it within their own moral beliefs.

The last presentation, by Robert Christensen, was on the numerous non-indigenous population that lived in the indigenous polities of the Pampas and Patagonia in the nineteenth century. Dr. Christensen focused on the Afro-Argentines and the political opponents to Governor Juan Manuel de Rosas, who often lived in the indigenous societies by choice. Taking as an example one of the most famous indigenous Unitarian leaders, Manuel Baigorria, the paper shows how allegiance by these individuals could change back and forth between the indigenous and creole societies.

The papers showed the diversity of research being done on the borderlands and frontiers, ranging geographically from North America all the way to South America. The diversity of approaches and topics were also notable; the papers provided a good sample of these.

After the presentation of papers, the audience participated in asking questions of the presenters.

Erick D. Langer
Georgetown University

Brazilian Studies

Chair Benjamin Cowan (University of California, San Diego) asked panelists to push beyond the realm of the past to weigh in the current and future state of Brazilian politics in a discussion entitled, “January 8 in Historical Perspective - Past, Present and Bolsonarismo.” Panelists played with images and references to *A Christmas Carol* in their comments explaining the popularity and rise of Bolsonaro and the legacies that his politics continue to have in Brazil. Cowan graciously welcomed presenters and attendees to a session that provoked laughter when considering some of the absurdities that occurred during Bolsonaro’s presidency while also providing a more sobering perspective on how Bolsonaro gained power in Brazil. Presenters discussed the connections between Bolsonaro’s popularity and his ability to tap into hatred, fear, ignorance and violence that stem from legacies of social divisions in Brazil.

Stephanie Reist (Stanford University) started the panel, asking “Whose January 8th? Militias, Black Life and the Ongoing Attack on the Infrastructure of Democracy in Brazil.” Reist examined popular representations of militias in Brazilian media such as in O Globo’s docuseries, “Vale o Escrito.” She argued popular interest in militias has shifted recently due to the connection between Bolsonaro and militias, which are currently portrayed as anti-democratic. Reist examined the differences between representations of *malandros* and *bandidos*, how these terms have been racialized and how they offer different degrees of legitimacy to groups wielding guns and committing acts of violence. The problem with connecting militias to Bolsonaro is that it masks the violently racist, classist, law-and-order logics of militias. As Reist argued, such logics are not limited to Bolsonaro but undergird much of Brazilian politics, even under the center-left governments of PT. She illustrated this with the example of how the militia attacks that set 35 buses on fire in Rio in October 2023 garnered significant media attention and raised public concern, in contrast to violence that goes relatively unreported in the media such as the ongoing and increasing police lethality against black people in Brazil.

Tracy Devine Guzmán (University of Miami) presented on contemporary push in the Brazilian congress to pass the Marco Temporal law, a law referred to as the “genocide of indigenous peoples’ law.” The Marco Temporal law - supported by agrobusiness - posits that indigenous peoples only have territorial rights to lands they occupied on October 5, 1988, the date when the Brazilian Constitution was enacted. All other claims to lands and demarcations would be considered defunct, and indigenous territories created after 1988 would be open to development. The ongoing support for the law in congress - even after Lula (President Inácio Luis Lula da Silva) vetoed it and the Supreme Court found it unconstitutional - can be seen as a legacy of Bolsonarismo. From the first days of his presidency, Bolsonaro attacked indigenous people’s rights to territory, pushing for indigenous acculturation, development of protected territories and limiting legal penalties for invaders. While agrobusiness and large-scale development projects found better support during Bolsonaro’s presidency, Devine Guzmán reminded us that discriminatory laws against indigenous peoples have a long history in Brazil, such as the tutelage laws that excluded indigenous peoples. Some gains have been made in terms of indigenous political representation and the creation of the Ministry of Indigenous People in January 2023, but many question if Lula’s support for indigenous people will remain steadfast when confronted with large-scale development projects that the PT has supported in the past such as the Belo Monte hydroelectric dam.

Brazilian Studies (continued)

Sueann Caulfield (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) provided background on the proliferation of gender violence during Bolsonaro's presidency. Again, while Bolsonaro did not create discriminatory practices and beliefs in Brazil, he augmented them by offering legitimacy to sexist and anti-LGBT movements through publicly espousing such beliefs as president. Caulfield described how "traditional" groups developed campaigns such as "blue for boys, pink for girls" to challenge slogans of "every color for any child." Such campaigns used social media to generate fears about gender education in schools as techniques to sexualize children. One example Caulfield raised was how campaigns spread the idea that schools were handing out penis-shaped bottles to children. Caulfield also showed that such protests and movements occurred before Bolsonaro was elected. In 2017, protesters in São Paulo took to the streets, burning effigies and inciting hatred against U.S. scholar Judith Butler. The protesters used antifeminist and anti-LGBTQ+ slogans, claiming that Butler threatened Brazilian children and families.

James N. Green (Brown University) used the January 8th, 2023 strikes on Brasilia to discuss the threats to democracy posed by Bolsonaro and his supporters. In a spectacle comparable to the January 6, 2021 insurrection on the U.S. Capitol, Bolsonaro supporters stormed Congress, the Supreme Court and the presidential palace in Brasilia, attempting to impede Lula's inauguration as president. Such protests were perhaps unsurprising because Bolsonaro's solutions for Brazilian problems related to structural inequalities were to promote violence and make guns more accessible to the general population. Green described his own leadership role in coordinating the U.S. Network for Democracy in Brazil, a network developed during Bolsonaro's presidency to better inform the U.S. public about contemporary issues in Brazil and to support Brazilian social movements, community organizations, NGOs, scholars and activists. Green offered warnings about threats to Brazilian democracy and ideas about what we may see in the future.

The well-attended session led to a robust discussion following the presentations. One question that led to a broader discussion asked if we are giving Bolsonaro too much credit by calling it Bolsonarismo. Many of the panelists and audience members weighed in on this topic, arguing that Bolsonarismo is a type of politics that is more widespread than Bolsonaro. In Brazil, it builds on entrenched legacies such as the history of slavery, the genocide of indigenous peoples, the military dictatorship and the lack of reparations or accountability for such historical atrocities.

Sarah Sarzynski
Claremont McKenna College

Caribbean Studies

The Caribbean Studies Section Panel titled “Documenting 20th-Century Women’s History” took place on Saturday, January 6, 2024, at 6:00pm. The panel was composed of Bonnie Lucero from Texas Christian University and Natanya Duncan from Queens College. It was organized and moderated by our Section’s chair, Takkara Brunson from Texas A&M University. Emma Amador, from the University of Connecticut, was scheduled to present but could not attend due to reasons beyond her control.

The first panelist was Bonnie Lucero, which presented a paper titled “Women’s Reproduction in Revolutionary Times: Pregnancy, Miscarriage, and Abortion in Cuba, c. 1959.” The presentation drew from her most recent book, *Race and Reproduction in Cuba* (University of Georgia Press, 2022). Dr. Lucero’s paper explored the ways that the state policed women’s bodies and reproduction. Rather than a rupture in 1959, her paper explored the continuation of these policies during the revolutionary period. To highlight this, she used the example of the 1936 Social Defense Code that continued to be enforced a few decades after the revolution.

The second panelist was Natanya Duncan with her paper titled, “An Efficient Womanhood: Women and the Making of the Universal Negro Improvement Association.” In her presentation, Dr. Duncan talked about the often-unrecognized role of Black women in shaping the Pan-African movement. She particularly focused on a few case studies of women like Ethel Dunlap, which created a literary salon and would publish poetry in *The Negro World News*. Ultimately, she presented the ways that women articulated “an efficient womanhood,” a term created by the women within the UNIA.

Dr. Takkara Brunson weaved together both papers in her commentary. She particularly paid attention to the violence women faced in the context of both papers. Dr. Brunson also highlighted how in Dr. Lucero’s paper, we could see women’s subordination in Cuba while Dr. Duncan highlighted their agency and empowerment. Ultimately, both presentations also paid attention to the ways that the record often silences women and were a testament to the thorough archival process that both presenters had to undertake to craft their narratives.

Jorell Meléndez-Badillo
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Central American Studies

Brianna Leavitt-Alcántara, President, introduced the new president, Sylvia Sellers-García, and new secretary, Stephanie Huezo.

Brianna Leavitt-Alcántara then went on to introduce the panelists—Catherine Komisaruk, Daniel Mendiola, Stephanie Huezo—and the commentator, David Carey.

Catherine Komisaruk presented research comes from a book about highland Maya and migration and activism in the colonial period. This region includes highland region and Chiapas. One of her findings is that not only men but also women were migrating to work in Spanish agricultural enterprises, but also mining, largely in Honduras. They were traveling as forced or drafted labor, also as free labor. Women were also being abducted but were also accompanying husbands who were drafted. Dr. Komisaruk finds that requests for labor were made for both Indian men and Indian women. Women were also being abducted to make cloth - to spin or weave. These findings have illuminated why census records for some of these communities shows skewed gender ratios. In towns that showed many more men, these tended to be within a day's travel of larger cities. So it is likely that women were going to these cities to work as domestic servants.

Daniel Mendiola presented research on borders in 19th-century Central America. The purpose of this presentation was to look at how women were excluded and included in immigration rights in this open-borders period. How did Central American governments approach migration? Even though Central American leaders were concerned with sovereignty, they did not see people moving around as a threat to sovereignty. Instead, they saw people moving around as an affirmation of defining qualities of the national territory. This was made clear in the concept of “sacred asylum.” This openness was not just a rhetorical device, but operated in practice. How did women benefit from these rights? Women factored not only into the debates on rights but also into the economic logics behind the determination of these rights. Facilitating women's migration was just as important for economic development as men's migration was. But the patriarchal logic assigned different roles to men and women in this process. What were the stakes for women in this open-borders system, and what were the stakes for women as the system starts to shift? Pretty much every constitution from Latin America had a definition of sovereignty that is grounded in territory. But Central America was the only region that has this concept of *asilo sagrado*.

Central American Studies (continued)

Stephanie Huezo presented research about a group of 50 day laborers who lobbied in Maryland for expanded categories for people who qualified for driving licenses. Her research considers popular education as a tool that migrated from El Salvador to the United States. Huezo's main methodology is oral history, largely because the non-profit in question did not keep extensive written records. And Huezo focuses on two men who were organizers because most of the day laborers were men. One of the main practitioners of popular education, often mentioned by people to Huezo in interviews, is Paolo Freire. Popular education for some was more than just literacy, it was about learning to be self-sustaining. This is the context in which Huezo's two subjects learned about popular education.

Pacheco arrived in the US in 1999. Romero followed his wife, who was an Episcopalian pastor, arriving in 2000. They continued their activist work with CASA de Maryland. Pacheco was a tenant organizer and Romero was a director of education. Romero emphasized literacy as a tool for immigrants. "English in the Lives of Day Laborers" was a text developed by Romero for teaching literacy. Huezo's research demonstrates how fighting for a driver's license was a transformative act. After 9/11 restrictions were put in place for undocumented people. Day laborers were particularly affected, so during a meeting to decide what they were going to do, they decided to focus on lobbying for driving licenses. The campaign was successful in 2003, but the Real ID in 2005 posed new obstacles. It's one example of how revolutionary action from Latin America is brought to the US.

David Carey offered comments:

- These three projects are at different stages and all fit together: combine them into a volume!
- There is a transnational perspective, but Cathy reminds us that there is national migration.
- Race and gender are important in all of these, and gender is foregrounded in Cathy and Daniel's papers and perhaps more in the background in Stephanie's paper.
- There are fascinating continuities across the papers: Cathy's focus on colonial indigenous women, and Daniel continues the focus on women.
- For Stephanie: where were the women? Other research that shows how immigrant women give a much larger percentage of remittances back. Why Salvadorans? Would love to see some problematizing of consciousness-raising. Idea of using the master's tools.
- For Cathy: this piece moves from speculation to more convincing arguments. There is important attention paid to the life cycle: women who were pregnant or nursing couldn't easily migrate. But what would demographers? Would they say that there are some generations (for the census) that have more men than women, for example?
- For Daniel: it's striking to think of Central American leaders seeing migration as a positive good for sovereignty. This would make a great NYT op-ed as a comment on today. What is the effect of the break-up of the federation? What was the role of the church, given the emphasis on *asilo sagrado*. Did indígenas have a right to migrate?

The panelists then took questions from the audience and had a fruitful discussion about both the individual papers and the connections among them.

Chile-Río de la Plata Studies

The Chile-Río de la Plata Studies Section roundtable, “Rethinking the Geography of the Southern Cone,” convened on Saturday, January 6, 2023, in San Francisco. Denisa Jashari (Syracuse University) chaired the roundtable, and Romina A. Green Rioja (Washington and Lee University) was the commentator. This panel brought together five scholars: Javier Cikota (Bowdoin College), Hannah Greenwald (Gettysburg College), Pilar Herr (University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg), Daniella McCahey (Texas Tech University), and Joshua Savala (Rollins College).

Javier Cikota’s comments focused on his research on Argentina's Northern Patagonia from the late 19th century to the 1930s, challenging historical narratives by asserting that the region operated as a colony of Argentina during this time. This meant a lack of political rights for residents, centralized fiscal decisions, and alternating state policies aimed at disciplining the population or developing the economy for the metropole's interests. His first book, *Frontier Justice*, delves into the daily practices of settlers, showcasing how citizenship was exercised in a contested space with restricted political participation. Settlers learned to utilize the state's minimal resources for their interests, influencing various aspects of colonial state operations. The enduring borderland nature of Northern Patagonia, extending into the 20th century, challenges the perception of Argentine state weakness and underscores the incomplete promise of citizenship and national belonging. The temporal intervention in the study challenges traditional timelines, illustrating that major national milestones had little impact on Northern Patagonia. Instead, political changes in Buenos Aires, particularly the conservative coup in 1930 and the "Infamous Decade," significantly transformed the region, leading to the administration of National Parks, infrastructure expansion, and the emergence of an interventionist state. This research invites a reconsideration of political participation, a reimagining of timelines, and a challenge to core assumptions in Argentine history, revealing the hidden dynamics of a changing ruling class and the country's political transformations.

Hannah Greenwald opened by discussing Captain Richard Henry Pratt and the circumstances that led to the formation of Carlisle Indian Industrial School (f. 1879). Pratt's approach, involving military training and uniformed drills of Indigenous captives in St. Augustine, Florida, garnered widespread attention and support, forming a network of contributors fascinated by this “experiment in civilization.” Greenwald sheds light on Argentina's interest in Pratt's work, mainly through the attaché Miguel Malarín, sent by then-Minister of War Julio Roca to the United States to study American Indian Policy. Malarín, inspired by Pratt's strategies, recommended similar approaches for Indigenous policies in Argentina, advocating for displacement, compulsory labor, formal education, and family separation to hasten the process of civilization. Greenwald describes the exchange between the two nations, with Argentina adopting elements of American policies, adapting them to fit specific interethnic dynamics on its frontier. The significance of this historical connection lies in enhancing our understanding of frontier conquest and recognizing the global currents of racial and political ideology shaping these non-military methods. Moreover, it explores Argentina's racial identity, extending beyond its European links to acknowledge intellectual connections with North America. Greenwald seeks to enrich Argentine historiography by adopting a transnational perspective and contributing to broader scholarly discussions “on borderlands, state formation, and settler colonialism.”

Chile-Río de la Plata Studies (continued)

Pilar Herr used the opportunity to discuss her digital humanities project on Mapuche *parlamentos*, which were formal assemblies to negotiate with the Chilean military throughout the nineteenth century: <https://www.parlamentos.pitt.edu/>. Herr's project builds on her book *Contested Nation* (2019), disrupting the Chilean national narrative that excludes the Mapuche as a significant political force that has shaped and challenged the nation's construction. By translating *parlamento* texts and making them readily available for classroom exercises, Herr welcomes students to envision the Mapuche as political subjects of their own political space outside Chile's confines.

Daniella McCahey prompts a reconsideration of Antarctic history as an extension of Southern Cone history, emphasizing its role as a physical, scientific, and geographic space that intersects with the British and U.S. empires. The territorial claims made by Chile and Argentina in Antarctica were rooted not in proximity but in the shared characteristics of weather patterns, volcano chains, fauna, and other aspects of physical geography. This perspective resonates with the author's research on late 19th-century Chile, where geography textbooks were crucial in analyzing race and phenotype concerning geography. McCahey underscored how Antarctica's colonization contributed to Chile's racial imagining, offering the unique opportunity for Chile and Argentina to assume imperial power in the Antarctic region. She highlights the enduring dispute over the Falkland Islands, or Las Islas Malvinas, as a pivotal issue impacting the historical relationship between Argentina and the United Kingdom. Additionally, a significant Anglo-descended population in Argentina, including Welsh-speaking settlements like Y Wladfa in Patagonia, underscores the cultural links between the two nations. The Pampa Azul project in Argentina, linking the country's Southern Territory to polar regions, is a contemporary example of this connection, aiming to support national sovereignty in the South Atlantic Ocean area. McCahey contends that Southern Cone geography extends beyond traditional boundaries, challenging the perception that Antarctica is exempt from historical significance. The relationships between Argentina, Chile, and the United Kingdom in the Southern Cone and ongoing geopolitical developments in Antarctica underscore the need for a broader understanding of the region's geography and historical importance. In essence, Southern Cone geography is portrayed as polar geography, with Antarctica being an integral part of Southern Cone history, shaping the region's self-perception and global connections.

Pushing the perceived boundaries of the Southern Cone, **Joshua Savala** pushes us to the Chilean-Peruvian Pacific and the political network of the international working class. Savala begins with **Carlos Sempat Assadourian's** *El sistema de la economía colonial* (1982), underscoring how our colonial legacies "integrated through a geographical division of mercantile production." Savala's decision to focus on the transnational circuit of maritime workers and revolutionaries becomes an integral way to rethink what constitutes the Southern Cone. As people move, ideas move, as seen through the example of **Eulogio Otazú**, a Peruvian anarchist in Valparaíso during a mass strike, illustrating the intricacies of local and transnational dynamics. Savala underscores the importance of acknowledging movement across borders and delving deeper into the implications. He summarized the third chapter of his book *Beyond Patriotic Phobias* (2022), which explores a cholera outbreak in 1880s Chile and the involvement of Peruvian doctor **David Matto**. Matto's collaboration with Chilean officials during the outbreak exemplifies the creation of a transnational medical community. Savala argues for simultaneous analysis of local and transnational factors to expand the geography of the Southern Cone. He contends that such expansion is not arbitrary but necessary for a comprehensive understanding of historical processes, emphasizing the importance of scales of analysis in historical research.

Romina A. Green Rioja,
Washington and Lee University

Colonial Studies

The Colonial Studies Section of CLAH held its annual roundtable at the 2024 AHA/CLAH meeting in San Francisco, CA on Friday, January 5 from 7:15-8:45PM EST.

The roundtable included four invited speakers: Rafael Alvarado (University of Virginia), Leila Blackbird (University of Chicago), Sherwin K. Bryant (Rice University), María Carrillo Marquina (Tulane University), and Jane Landers (Vanderbilt University). The roundtable was chaired by Guadalupe García (Florida International University). The chair framed the discussion by introducing the participants and this year's discussion topic. The collective body of work by the invited speakers showcased how scholars working with, in, and through digital are (re)writing the familiar histories of "colonial Latin America" outside of imperial geographic divisions and beyond the colonial epistemologies that have hereto governed many of the field's foundational understanding of people's lives and lived experiences. The roundtable further highlighted the ways in which digital tools and the methods make visible some of the key questions in the field surrounding the lives of Africans, African descendants, and indigenous peoples.

The primary goal of the panel was to illustrate how current scholarship has built upon the work of colonial historians' pioneering use of tools and frameworks developed specifically to make colonial subjects visible. The panel thus brought together founding members of the digital humanities and innovative young scholars using digital tools, theories, and methods to narrate the complex histories of the Americas and provoke a conversation around digital practices.

Dr. Jane Landers, who is the director of the *Slave Societies Digital Archive* began the discussion by introducing us to this long-standing digital initiative in the field. The *Slave Societies Digital Archive* is dedicated to identifying, cataloging, and digitally preserving endangered archival materials that document the history of Africans and their descendants in the Atlantic World. Dr. Landers discussed the project and its many afterlives across Latin America, Africa, and the Caribbean. The discussion highlighted the condition of church and other archives across the region and the pressing need for digital interventions.

Colonial Studies (continued)

Next, Dr. Rafael Alvarado, a data scientist and digital humanist with a background in anthropology, shifted our attention to the computational decisions that scholars make when digitally manipulating a text, whether by digitizing, transcribing, translating, or encoding. Dr. Alvarado also discussed his collaborative work in the digital humanities at UVA, where he has taught a collaborative class that focuses on decolonization and the encoding of the Mayan Popul Vuh. The presentation by Dr. Alvarado highlighted theoretical considerations, including the process of “deformance” and the distortions that scholars introduce when we intervene or manipulate texts.

Leila Blackbird drew our attention to the labor practices (or interpretive acts) and the processes by which archival documents are transformed into stories. Blackbird shared paleographic documents and the practice of reading, translating, and transcribing, as well as the software and labor, that form part of working with large data sets. Next, Blackbird introduced us to the stakes and importance of digital projects by describing her work in eighteenth century documents that reveal the lives of Black and Indigenous subjects in southeast Louisiana, or “America’s third coast.”

Next, Sherwin K. Bryant discussed the ways in which his career as scholar of slavery and the early African diaspora in the north Andean region has conceptually influenced his current work on the waterways and Black geographies of Brunswick County, North Carolina (“Just Across the River: Black Histories of Brunswick County”). Working in the digital realm and with a rich team of collaborators, Bryant highlighted how digital tools can help make visible the historic spaces inhabited by Africans and their descendants. Besides being a scholarly work, the project is a community-engaged endeavor that acts as a space to talk back to the contemporary practice of community displacement.

María Carrillo Marquina brought the panel to a close by showcasing the ways in which applied digital tools and the methods derived from Black digital humanities become part of the way in which scholars imagine and make visible the objects and subjects of their study. Carrillo Marquina’s project involves digitally mapping sculptural representations of San Benito de Palermo in present-day Mexico. By theorizing the many faces and images of a Black saint, and using Omeka to organize and map the images, Carrillo Marquina illustrated the spatial relationships that emerge when digital methods are employed.

The panel and ensuing conversation highlighted the “how to” of digital humanities, current considerations in the field, and the stakes of working with the digital.

Guadalupe García
Florida International University

Mexican Studies

Presenters: Ricardo Álvarez-Pimentel (Assistant Professor of History, Baylor University), Viridiana Hernandez-Fernandez (Assistant Professor of History, Iowa University), Giselle Perez-León (Ph.D. Candidate, UC Berkeley), Alejandro Rentería (Ph.D. Candidate, UC Davis), Sarah Sears (Ph.D. Candidate, UC Berkeley)

Title: New Voices in Mexican Historical Studies

The “New Voices in Mexican Historical Studies” brought together five early career and emerging historians on topics that included Indigenous studies, borderlands, religion and environmental histories. The opening paper by Ricardo Álvarez Pimentel made a call to acknowledge the important work by Mexican historians and the need for our field to engage with historiography beyond the anglophone. In a parallel point of discussion on method, Viridiana Hernández Fernández discussed the importance of understanding the cultural, political and social context in which research is taking place, in her examples she discussed engagement with Purepecha communities, particularly returning Indigenous migrants in Michoacan and their leadership roles in the avocado industry. There was an opportunity to discuss the fact that all the papers mentioned Indigenous societies, in the North, Center and South of Mexico and a reality of our field which is at a point where we must acknowledge the Native communities we work with and their preference for how they should be referred to in our work. There was a consensus that by using specific names of Indigenous communities (Kumeyaay, Nahuatl, Otomí, Purepecha, Triqui or Zapotec for example) we move the field forward by documenting the diversity of Indigenous societies in Mexico and their many contributions to Mexican History.

In his presentation “Gendered Racial Politics and Mexican Catholic Action,” Álvarez-Pimentel demonstrated how Mexican laywomen’s religious activism between 1917 and 1946 was inherently political, gendered, and racial. He exposed laywomen’s religious discourse as a site where upper-class women developed identities grounded in notions of spiritual “motherhood” and anti-indigenous racism. In the process, he analyzed activists’ racial maternalism and explored how they used moral language to develop collective constructions of whiteness that both powered and constrained their efforts to build a national coalition. At the same time, Álvarez-Pimentel examined how religious language became a platform for racial discourse and uncovered how pedagogical materials couched projects of subjugation within the rhetoric of spiritual uplift, religious unity, and moral regeneration. Ultimately, he called on historians to rethink the history of laywomen’s activism as a series of gendered and racial endeavors concerned with questions of power, hegemony, and resistance.

Mexican Studies (continued)

In her paper, “Negotiating Nature: Colonization, Community, and Environment in Northern Mexico, 1880-1950” Sarah Sears discussed how capitalist extraction, religious fundamentalism, and settler colonial processes underpinned the transformation of northern Mexico’s natural landscapes from the late 1880s to 1950. She explored how multiple visions of empire and resource sovereignty interacted, clashed, and transformed the Chihuahua-Sonora borderlands through three case studies of foreign colonization projects, including the proposed Mormon State of Deseret; William Cornell Greene’s dream of an integrated mining, ranching, timber, and railroad empire; and Mexican and American Indigenous communities’ search for spaces of refuge. By tracking these colonization projects, she revealed how and why the imprints of the U.S. West—its relation to water, its land and colonization schemes, its frontier narratives—are strewn across northern Mexico’s landscape. Finally, she placed the Chihuahua-Sonora borderlands within regional, national, and transnational historical contexts and used a long temporal scope to understand post-revolutionary social and environmental change in the U.S.-Mexico border region.

Alejandro Rentería explored the rise and development of what he calls “Mexican popular religion”—the fragmented coexistence shaped between ancestral devotions and Catholicism in Central Mexico throughout the sixteenth to mid-seventeenth centuries in his paper “Mexican Popular Religion: Reorienting a Historical Phenomenon.” He argued that the persecution of native ancestral devotions unwittingly heightened their perceived efficacy and maintained a widespread following during this period. Mexican popular religion therefore looks less like conventional descriptors of resistance and hybridity and instead reflects a long process fraught with difference, unsuspecting contradictions, and unintended outcomes.

In her paper “Revolution Against the Grain: Green Revolution in Twentieth-Century Mexico” Viridiana Hernández Fernández explored the social and environmental impacts of the Green Revolution (GR) in Mexico beyond the production of cereals. After eighty years of the *Oficina de Estudios Especiales*’ creation in 1943 by the Rockefeller Foundation scientists and the Mexican state, she discusses the unintended consequences that the agricultural packages had in the Mexican agricultural fields beyond the production of wheat and maize. Using the avocado industry as a case study, Hernández discussed the active role that returned migrant workers, medium-size entrepreneurs, and local farmers had in reshaping woodlands in units of production of a fruit, the high-yielding Hass avocado. The main purpose of her intervention to complicate the top-down narrative of the GR as an imperialist enterprise by extending the analysis to scenarios where campesinos, migrants, and local actors contested and negotiated the agricultural revolution.

Giselle Pérez-León’s presentation “Border Civics: Municipal Government in Nogales, Sonora, 1880-1965” focused on how consulting Mexican border city archives changes histories of northern Mexico. She made the case that studying urbanization and civic engagement ‘at the periphery’ opens up comparative methods for ordinary residents’ participation in urban planning and the development of public services. She used formal petitioning to the Municipal President and amparo de justicia suits in the courts of first instance as examples.

Xóchitl M. Flores-Marcial,
California State University, Northridge

Teaching and Teaching Materials

María de los Ángeles Picone, Chair

Pilar Herr, Secretary

Meeting on Friday, January 5, 2024, from 7:15-8:45pm, the Teaching and Teaching Materials Section focused on “From Scratch- Syllabus Development in the Latin American History Classroom.” The section consisted of a Roundtable Discussion that consisted of Kevin P. Coleman (University of Toronto, Mississauga), Joan Victoria Flores-Villalobos (University of Southern California), Lisa M. Edwards (University of Massachusetts, Lowell), Gillian A. McGillivray (York University, Glendon Campus), and Emily L. Wakild (Boise State University). All participants were asked to prepare a short statement on what “syllabus development” meant to them, whether it be an actual syllabus or perhaps an assignment or something else entirely. The session began with Ángeles Picone introducing the speakers.

Kevin Coleman began the Roundtable by remarking on how “cool” he thought it was to even be talking about teaching at a major conference. His presentation centered on an assignment he gives his students that is based on an analysis of primary source documents. He explained that he attempts four things with this particular assignment. 1. Have students put everything in chronological order- and part of this is his explanation of how students should name their actual files. 2. He teaches them how to take empirical and interpretive notes on the documents they’re studying. 3. Suggest that students print out their notes and write based on chronologically organized notes. And finally, 4. He has students write a first draft from their newly chronologically organized notes. Why so much emphasis on chronology? Coleman explained that at its core, history is a systematic attempt to “understand causality in human affairs” and to do this well chronology matters.

Lisa Edwards continued the conversation by describing the process she takes in designing a course and writing a syllabus. She explained that few of her students know anything about Latin America, which she takes into consideration in her deliberations. Her process is as follows: 1. She looks for patterns (ex. Urban slavery, local v. elsewhere) and looks for similarities and differences in the texts she plans to have students read. She finds that chapters of edited volumes or a chapter or two from a monograph are much more relatable to students than articles from professional journals. 2. She supplements as much as possible with sources that “out of the ordinary” such as museum exhibits, art, etc. She gave an example of using textiles to explain race and gender in a course. 3. She focuses on legacies of historical structures such as descendants of Quilombos and miners in Potosí still mining but also fighting for their labor rights. 4. Lastly, she makes a point in meeting students where they are. For example, at the beginning of class she has her students take 5 minutes to write down what they found to be new, interesting, and what they still have questions about from the course readings.

Teaching and Teaching Materials (continued)

The third speaker on the Roundtable was Joan Victoria Flores-Villalobos. She spoke on one specific course she teaches entitled “Afro-Latin American History” and how she built the course from scratch. She provided a handout and then talked about the lessons she learned in the process of creating this course from scratch. They are: 1. You don’t have to start from scratch. There are plenty of resources out there (including from the AHA website) that provide syllabi and other teaching materials that can be consulted and adapted. 2. Very few of her students are multidisciplinary so she attempts to incorporate some different sources into her course. 3. It is “crucial” for her to prioritize giving space to students to do their writing in class. 4. Scaffolding by thinking first about the final assignment for the course and then works her way back from there.

Gillian A. McGillivray picked up where Joan finished by agreeing with her about not starting from scratch but instead, look online for multiple versions of different peoples’ syllabi. She suggested to consider three overarching ideas and then subdivide the course by threes. She also believes that skill building, and other criteria are as important as content and the trick is to balance one against the other. She suggested Perusall (an online annotation platform which can be found at <https://www.perusall.com/>) to really get students thinking about how to ask good questions and building critical thinking skills and the Stanford History Education Group for helpful suggestions on assignments, etc. Finally, she suggested that just by explaining to your students why they’re doing what they’re doing goes a long way toward achieving many of our classroom goals.

The final panelist on the Roundtable was Emily L. Wakild. Her remarks centered on what she termed the “Three Rules to Help you Teach,” 1. Beg, 2. Borrow, and 3. Steal. She agreed with other panelists in that one shouldn’t start from scratch because then one spends too much time figuring out the synergy between the theme and the topic of the course, along with the source base that best conveys both theme and topic to the students. Instead, she echoed Gillian’s suggestion to articulate your goals that you want your students to have by the end of your course, in other words, the takeaways. Lastly, she suggested that you repeat the same assignment within the course to see how students have improved (or not).

Teaching and Teaching Materials (continued)

At the end of the presentations, Ángeles opened the session to questions from the audience. Several questions came from the audience: how the panel feels about “learning outcomes” which many teaching centers at different universities suggest? All but Joan responded by saying that they were not jazzed by “learning outcomes” and found them to be restricting. Joan, on the other hand, loves learning outcomes because it helps her to figure out the takeaways for her students.

Secondly, how does one reckon with a course that you’re not completely happy with? In other words, when should you “blow up” a syllabus and start from scratch? Lisa suggested to pick two major themes one wants to incorporate into a syllabus in a stronger way and work on those sections rather than starting from zero. Emily suggested picking different assignments and recommended the book *Engaging Ideas*. Kevin made an argument for not innovating. He gave an example whereby he taught a course on biographies and students doing little assignments and they developed community doing so. He instructed them on how to do their research projects through these small assignments.

Another audience member asked if there was any wisdom on how many times one should you use specific assignments or readings? Someone had mentioned that three times was the charm but does anyone on the panel have any other suggestions? Emily suggested providing more context on where history is missing now.

Joan asked a question on how students these days want more lecture and what should we do about it? Ángeles stated that she tells her students that her courses are not for students who want “to memorize and vomit information on exams” and that there are other choices.

A high school teacher in the audience asked what do college instructors wish their incoming freshmen and sophomores knew about Latin America? Fundamental concepts. This elicited an excited response from panelists. Kevin wanted excitement about the region itself. Others suggested that students should understand that Latin American countries have their own centers of gravity and are not necessarily related to the United States.

Another audience member asked about books on pedagogy to get students engaged at the college level. Panelists responded with primers from Duke University Press, *The Missing Course*, *The Distracted Mind*, the AHA website, and *Understanding and Teaching Latin America*, edited by Sharika, et al. coming soon from University of Wisconsin Press.

Overall, given the lateness of the hour, the session was lively with lots of useful ideas exchanged.

Pilar M. Herr
University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

CLAH Award and Prize Recipients

James Alexander Robertson Prize

Committee: Rachel O'Toole (chair), Keila Grinberg, Joshua Savala

Winner: Pedro Jimenez Cantisano, "A Refuge from Science: The Practice and Politics of Rights in Brazil's Vaccine Revolt," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 102, no. 4 (2022): 611-642.

Locating the 1904 Vaccine Revolt between the colonial policing of enslaved and post emancipation households and the modern scientific surveillance of urban management, Pedro Jimenez Cantisano asks why working people in Rio de Janeiro opposed mandatory vaccinations. He explains how public health agents employed new sanitary codes and legal doctrines that also reinforced racist hygiene ideology to disinfect Rio's tenements with invasive, destructive, and deadly techniques against smallpox. Drawing on judicial petitions filed by union leaders and property owners produced after the 1904 Vaccine Revolt, Jimenez Cantisano demonstrates how mostly Black, mixed-race, and immigrant residents drew on a legal defense of "home's inviolability" (612) protected under the 1891 republican constitution and favored by liberal reformers. Acquiring familiarity of the law through exchanges with activist lawyers and union leaders, immigrants and union members crafted their own petitions, charged sanitary inspectors with violent home invasions, and mobilized against the state's encroachment. Their legal activism demonstrated that rights-based opposition against vaccines and public health mandates were not simply conservative discourses, but ongoing struggles against housing insecurity, and articulated their positions as citizens.

James Alexander Robertson Prize (continued)

Honorable Mention: Eduardo Elena, “Spinsters, Gamblers, and Friedrich Engels: The Social Worlds of Money and Expansionism in Argentina, 1860s-1900s,” *Hispanic American Historical Review* 102, no. 1 (2022): 61-94.

Eduardo Elena asks, “deceptively simple questions of who was involved in capital-fueled growth and why” (64) to explain the role of foreign capital in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Argentina. Following webs of investment from late Victorian Britain to the rise of railways, telegraphs, belle époque cities, and multiracial crews of itinerant laborers in Buenos Aires and neighboring provinces, Elena created a database from British shareholder yearly reports and then correlated the results with account records for major British companies. He finds that the average gentleman investor, including Friedrich Engels, held all the board positions, a clear majority of the stock value, and mostly lived in London and southeast England. Yet, a significant number of shareholders were women and a subgroup in Buenos Aires promoted the untapped wealth of steam-age Argentina powered by multi-racial itinerant laborers who spent their wages on gambling sprees like investors who likewise “engaged in their own hazardous speculations” (87) such as the stock market. Using a microhistorical approach, Elena employs the personal papers of a 1907 railway employee combined with newspapers and photographs, to explain how local workers who built capital-intensive projects “had understandings of risk and accumulation that existed alongside, and sometimes in opposition to, those of their employers and distant investors” (64).

Antonine Tibesar Prize

Committee: Erik Ching (chair), Jaime Pensado, Anadelia Romo

Winner: Brianna Leavitt-Alcántara, “Of Madres and Mayordomas: Native Women and Religious Leadership in Colonial Chiapas,” *The Americas* 79, no. 4 (October 2022): 587-617.

Leavitt-Alcántara’s study of female participation in *cofradía* leadership grants new insight into the role of women in Mexican colonial society and makes an original contribution about an important and compelling topic. The author provides deep archival research and situates her evidence expertly within a larger historiographic trajectory. The committee members appreciated the way in which the author reveals how people in a regional area, e.g. Chiapas, could draw upon more diverse traditions and practices that would allow women to find a greater deal of autonomy and authority than in the colonial core of central Mexico. Therein, the author opens up the possibilities for divergent trends and traditions vis-à-vis gender relations. Furthermore, the committee members appreciated the way in which the author integrated the participation of indigenous colonizers in southern Mexico and Central America and the distinct role that gender played within that process.

Honorable Mention: José Manuel Moreno Vega, “Peace Came in the Sign of the Cross: Ritualized Diplomacy Among Natives and Spaniards in the Sonora-Arizona Borderlands, 1694-1836,” *The Americas* 79, no. 3 (July 2022): 399-424.

The author’s creative use of sources and extensive source base were particularly impressive. The author situated their topic well in the literature and considered differing Native traditions and the changing political landscape of interactions between Native and Spanish communities.

Paul Vanderwood Prize

Committee: Marjoleine Kars (chair), Steven Hyland, Mary Hicks

Winner: Kristie Patricia Flannery, “Can the Devil Cross the Deep Blue Sea?: Imagining the Spanish Pacific and Vast Early America from Below,” *The William and Mary Quarterly* 79, no. 1 (2022): 31-60.

Kristie Patricia Flannery uses Inquisition records to tell the story of a Mexican convict soldier who enlisted the devil to extract himself from abusive labor conditions after his forcible migration from Mexico City to Manila. Flannery turns this grain of sand into a pearl of great luster. Deftly drawing on multiple historiographies and scholarship about space and place making, she shows how non-elites imagined empire, and in so doing, helped solidify it. She convincingly recasts “vast early America,” reconnecting Latin America with the Pacific. This readable, multilayered article speaks to a great variety of fields.

Honorable Mention: Natasha Lightfoot, “So Far to Leeward: Eliza Moore’s Fugitive Cosmopolitan Routes to Freedom in the Nineteenth Century Caribbean,” *The William and Mary Quarterly* 79, no. 1 (2022): 61-88.

Natasha Lightfoot’s article follows the circuitous path of enslaved domestic servant Eliza Moore from British Antigua to the Danish Caribbean. The article is an exemplary microhistory. It successfully reconstructs the life of an enslaved subject as she crossed political boundaries in the Caribbean to engage in “fugitive” cosmopolitan mobility. Lightfoot skillfully recreates the complex urban social worlds Moore inhabited and illuminates the fraught politics of freedom during the age of British abolition, offering new insights into the lives of a woman who strategically used the law and British subjecthood to gain access to manumission while simultaneously confronting the threat of illegal enslavement, sexual violence, and inter-imperial conflict.

James R. Scobie Award

Committee: Julia Rodriguez (chair), Rebekah Pite, William Acree

Winners:

Berenice Tepozano, University of California, Irvine

Chase Caldwell Smith, University of California, Los Angeles

Jordan Buchanan, University of California, San Diego

Micaela Wiehe, Penn State University

Meghann Chavez, University of New Mexico

Lewis Hanke Post-Doctoral Award

Committee: Sarah Hines (chair), Lance Ingwersen, Ignacio Martínez

Winner: Hannah Abrahamson

Our committee was very impressed with the proposals submitted for the Lewis Hanke Post-Doctoral Award. All the projects are important and promising; we thank their authors for applying and would encourage them to reapply for the award if it would still be useful to them. There was one proposal that rose to the top. We are awarding the 2023 Lewis Hanke Post-Doctoral Award to Hannah Abrahamson for her dissertation-turned-book-project, “Her Hands Full of Tribute: Domestic Labor and the Encomienda in Early Colonial Yucatan.” Dr. Abrahamson’s research explores the ways that Spanish and Maya women shaped the encomienda system in the Yucatán Peninsula in the sixteenth century, thereby challenging the idea that the encomienda was a male-dominated institution. She argues that women’s labor was crucial to stabilizing the encomienda system and allowing it to persist into the eighteenth century. The Hanke Award will fund research at the Historical Archive of the Archdiocese of Yucatan in the summer of 2024 where she will work with baptismal records that reveal procreation and family formation across ethnic lines. This research will help her to write a new chapter examining the formation of multiethnic colonial households in Yucatan and another additional chapter on encomienda *pueblos* and multiethnic colonial households that show how they facilitated sexual violence. We look forward to reading the resulting book, which will no doubt reshape our understanding of early colonial Yucatan and New Spain. Congratulations.

Howard F. Cline Memorial Prize in Latin American Ethnohistory

Committee: Bradley Benton (chair), Amara Solari, Carmen Soliz

Winner: Heather Roller, *Contact Strategies: Histories of Native Autonomy in Brazil* (Stanford University Press, 2021)

The Howard F. Cline Memorial Prize is awarded biennially to the book or article in English, German, or a Romance language judged to make the most significant contribution to the history of Native peoples in Latin America, referring to any time before the immediate present. Items published in 2021 and 2022 were considered for the 2023 award.

The 2023 Cline Prize committee consisted of Amara Solari at Penn State University, Carmen Solíz, at the Univ. of North Carolina Charlotte, and myself. We received many, many very excellent works, and it was very difficult for us to whittle that list of excellent works down to just one. But we did. And we have awarded this year's Cline Prize to Heather F. Roller's *Contact Strategies: Histories of Native Autonomy in Brazil*, published with Stanford University Press in 2021.

Contact Strategies explores the history of Native peoples in the interior of South America from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries—autonomous peoples not under the control of European empires or nation states—and highlights the strategies that these peoples employed in their interactions with outsiders. What the committee really loved about this work is the way that it transcends its chosen chronological and geographical constraints to help a range of fields—Latin American history, ethnohistory, art history, anthropology—to reframe and refine our understanding of contact between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Roller is on the cutting edge of a paradigm shift in the history of Native peoples in Latin America that the field is still grappling with, a paradigm shift that privileges Native perspectives and Native interests in historical narratives and recognizes the ways that they themselves shaped and limited attempts at colonization. Roller's intervention in this historiography is elegant, beautifully researched, and compelling.

Congratulations.

Elinor Melville Prize for Latin American Environmental History

Committee: Barbara Mundy (chair), Eric Carter, Rocío Gómez

Winner: Germán Vergara, *Fueling Mexico: Energy and Environment, 1850-1950* (Cambridge University Press, 2021)

In this deeply researched book, energy emerges as the main actor, in its ebbs and flows across a century, as Mexico's economy shifted from a solar energy regime--based in forests, water, and animal power-- into one dependent upon fossil fuels. Vergara makes an innovative historiographical contribution by setting expropriation -- the conventional focal point in Mexico's oil history -- into the background, and repositioning Mexico's commitment to petroleum within a longer history of energy development and environmental change. Vergara's concise prose, deft use of statistical data, and vivid use of analogy allows the reader to visualize environmental change as it unfolded. The author draws on a diverse array of archives, including local, state and extranational, with case studies that shine a light on Mexico City as well as Chihuahua, Hidalgo, and Nuevo León. While the book ends in 1950, Vergara makes clear the ramifications of the history of Mexico's energy commitments, as that country sets out on "a path forward [that] is neither obvious nor inevitable" (226).

Honorable Mention: Seth Garfield, *Guaraná: How Brazil Embraced the World's Most Caffeine-Rich Plant* (University of North Carolina Press, 2022)

Garfield tells the story of Guaraná, a plant that is often tucked into the bottom of the cornucopia of Brazil's agricultural products, and here uses the history of this commodity to tell a story of the Brazilian nation. Serving as a throughline are the Sateré-Mawé, whose cultivation of guaraná first brought it to the attention of Jesuits in the 17th century, and whose 21st century producers' consortium delivers guaraná to a global market perennially in search of stimulation. Garfield's grasp of botany and ethnobotany complements the author's command of a wide body of archival sources, and he is careful to document the Indigenous contributions to the shaping of the "natural" history of the plant, as well as the nonhuman entities that, in his words, make "the divide between nature and culture illusory" (203).

María Elena Martínez Prize in Mexican History

Committee: John Tutino (chair), Peter Guardino, Elizabeth O'Brien

Winner: Tanalís Padilla, *Unintended Lessons of Revolution: Student Teachers and Political Radicalism in Twentieth-Century Mexico* (Duke University Press, 2022)

Tanalís Padilla's *Unintended Consequences of Revolution* (Duke 2022) is a deeply researched and engagingly written book that makes an enormous contribution to Mexican history. It tells a gripping story that pulls together many threads of 20th century political and rural history, illuminating how "the very schools meant to shape a loyal citizenry became hotbeds of political radicalism." The author's attentiveness to gender, ethnicity, class, and power is exemplary, and the book is also thorough, sophisticated, powerfully theorized, and a pleasure to read. The book uses the voices of its protagonists exceptionally well, and it also does a wonderful job of recreating the physical and emotional experiences that led these young aspiring teachers to radical politics.

Honorable Mention: Christina Ramos, *Bedlam in the New World: A Mexican Madhouse in the Age of Enlightenment* (University of North Carolina Press, 2022)

Christina Ramos's *Bedlam in the New World* (North Carolina 2022) is a beautifully theorized book that places Mexico front-and-center in the history of psychology, which is all too often studied through Anglocentric paradigms. While historians of medicine have long turned to the Foucault to understand madhouses, Ramos's analysis will now compel the field to recognize that Iberian imperial Catholic innovations were key components of Enlightenment-era medicalization. The book's focus on a single institution brought vivid characters to life while also shedding light on historical efforts to address mental health and protect vulnerable people.

Warren Dean Memorial Prize in Brazilian History

Committee: Heather Roller (chair), Colin Snider, Rodrigo Camargo de Godoi

Winner: Seth Garfield, *Guaraná: How Brazil Embraced the World's Most Caffeine-Rich Plant* (University of North Carolina Press, 2022)

This book is an epic “social biography” of the stimulant guaraná. Bringing together the fields of environmental history, food and drug studies, Indigenous studies, and global commodity history, it offers a new lens through which to understand several centuries of Brazilian history. Seth Garfield has tracked guaraná through a vast array of sources, revealing the plant’s roots in Indigenous cosmologies, knowledge systems, trade networks, and foodways. He then follows its percolation through Brazilian society and culture—as regional beverage, pharmaceutical product, and national soft drink. We found this story captivating in both style and substance.

Honorable Mention: B. J. Barickman and eds. Hendrik Kraay and Bryan McCann, *From Sea-Bathing to Beach-Going: A Social History of the Beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil* (University of New Mexico Press, 2022)

This highly imaginative work explores one of the most visible but understudied elements of *carioca* identity—the beach—to explore the ways in which everyday practices and cultural meanings shifted over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Race, class, and gender are appropriately at the forefront of the analysis, and the book is vividly written, with stories and places all coming alive for the reader. The compilation of materials and the editing of the drafted chapters constituted a labor of love on the part of Hendrik Kraay and Brian McCann, whose respect and admiration for their colleague is evident throughout the book.

Bolton-Johnson Prize

Committee: Gabe Paquette (chair), Mark Healey, Yuko Miki

Co-Winner: Seth Garfield, *Guaraná: How Brazil Embraced the World's Most Caffeine-Rich Plant* (University of North Carolina Press, 2022)

A sweeping history of Brazil from pre-Columbian times to the present told through the Amazonian plant with eyeball-like berries, *Guaraná* offers much more than a “Taste of Brazil,” as Garfield subtly states. The book takes the reader from cosmologies of the Indigenous Sateré-Mawé to the multinational race to control the Amazon frontier; from guaraná’s brief life in the pharmaceutical spotlight to its becoming a vector of modernity in Brazil’s industrialization; from the development of consumer culture to guaraná’s centrality in the development of postwar nationalism. Yet even as he traces guaraná’s re-signification over time as it has come to helm a multi-billion-dollar soft drink industry, Garfield never loses sight of the Sateré-Mawé, who continue to assert their people’s relationship to guarana and thereby their place in an “Indigenous people’s past and future.”

Guaraná thus addresses central themes in Latin American history across seemingly disparate fields, from indigenous ethnography to nation-building, medicine, industrialization, consumer culture, and food—and Garfield does this all with remarkable conciseness. The book unites intellectual breadth and meticulous interdisciplinary research with writerly discipline, the prose and analysis as sharp and refreshing as an ice cold beverage on a hot Amazonian afternoon. For all these achievements, we celebrate *Guaraná* for its contribution to Latin American history.

Bolton-Johnson Prize (continued)

Co-Winner: Paulina Alberto, *Black Legend: The Many Lives of Raúl Grigera and the Power of Racial Storytelling in Argentina* (Cambridge University Press, 2022)

In the textures of a single life, and the many ways others retold and reimagined it, Paulina Alberto develops a powerful new interpretive key for understanding race in Argentina. This biography of Raúl Grigera, a Black musician, bon vivant, and Buenos Aires celebrity, imaginatively and persuasively combines the social history of key porteño institutions - the Afro-Argentine community, the tango scene, the popular press, hospitals, and insane asylums - with a cultural history of racial narratives. Alberto deftly and empathetically presents what she has been able to discern about Grigera's difficult life, careful to highlight the few echoes we hear of his own voice, judicious in marking off the limits. Alongside this, she offers an extraordinary reconstruction of the racial narratives told about "el negro Raúl", showing how tango lyricists, nightlife chroniclers, novelists, poets, and essayists obsessively returned to his figure to discuss and dismiss the place of Blackness in modern Argentina. The range of leading voices interpreting Grigera's life and connecting it in sometimes surprising ways with their interpretations of race and nation underscore the relevance of this history that has been hiding in plain sight. Alberto has written both a deeply moving narrative and a useful reflection on why these narratives stir our emotions, and to what uses they have been deployed. In depth of research, power of imagination, and creativity of methodology, Alberto's book represents a new departure for the study of race, culture, and nation in Argentina and across Latin America.

Distinguished Service Award

Committee: Joaquín Chávez (chair), Sara Kozameh, Rob Alegre

Winner: John Coatsworth

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.

Distinguished Service Award (continued)

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.

**In Appreciation: CLAH Endowment
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