

Conference on Latin American History

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2025 CLAH Officers and Committees

Executive Committee

President - Alejandra Bronfman

Vice President & President-Elect -Herman Bennett

Past President - Celso Castilho

Executive Directors - Erika Edwards and Christina Villarreal

Elected Council Members

Mary Hicks (2024-2025)

Diana Montaño (2024-2025)

Daniela Samur (2024-2025)

Adriana Chira (2025-2026)

Ernesto Capello (2025-2026)

Haley Schroer (2025-2026)

Ex-Officio Council Members

HAHR Editor: William Summerhill

The Americas Editor: John F.

Schwaller

H-LatAm Editor: Marc Becker

Standing Committees

Nominating Committee Julia Sarreal (2025 chair) Rob Alegre Jessica Delgado

Program Committee Renata Keller (2025 chair) Jeffrey Erbig (2026 chair) Laura Correa Ochoa

Regional and Thematic Sections

Andean Studies

Marlen Rosas, Chair Silvia Escanilla Huerta, Secretary

Atlantic World Studies

Ernesto Mercado-Montero, Chair Farren Yero, Secretary

Borderlands/Frontiers

María de los Ángeles Picone, Chair Ximena Sevilla, Secretary

Brazilian Studies

Jennifer Eaglin, Chair Courtney J. Campbell, Secretary

Caribbean Studies

Joan Flores-Villalobos, Chair Alexa Rodríguez, Secretary

Central American Studies

Stephanie Huezo-Jefferson, Chair Melanie Y. White, Secretary

Southern Cone Studies

Alison Bruey, Chair Andra B. Chastain, Secretary

Colonial Studies

Ángela Pérez-Villa, Chair Joseph M. H. Clark, Secretary

Gran Colombia Studies

Yesenia Barragán, Chair Santiago Muñoz Arbeláez, Secretary

Mexican Studies

Jorge Ramirez-Lopez, Chair Carolina Ortega, Secretary

Teaching and Teaching Materials

Rebekah Pite, Chair Hannah Greenwald, Secretary



Message from the President

Greetings and saludos to all. I hope everyone is finding ways to navigate semesters, workplaces, and the many national and international changes we have seen since many of us gathered for our first luncheon-turned-cocktail-party in New York City in January.

I was delighted to see so many people in attendance, including old friends and new acquaintances. It was a privilege and a pleasure to witness so many scholars recognized for the hard work and creativity involved in writing their prize-winning books and articles. Notably, we awarded the first ever teaching prize-one of what I hope will be many more to come. Our service to our students has never been more essential, and it's great to see this organization recognize and reward that labor.

CLAH members participated in over 50 panels and roundtables, a large proportion of those dedicated to the topics of slavery, abolition and African diaspora, as well as gender and sexuality. Thank you to all who participated. I'd like also to extend my gratitude to Erika Edwards, Christina Villarreal and Sam Reitenour, the geniuses behind it all. Their tasks range from scheduling, communicating, and ensuring that we have all paid our dues (!) to overseeing our fiscal health and fielding questions and requests throughout the year. They do it all with skill, patience and wisdom. Thanks also to outgoing President Celso Castilho, who among other things organized a successful and lively discussion about the growing numbers of Latinx students and the implications of that demographic shift for our classrooms, administrations and future plans.

It's going to be impossible to sustain a cheery tone to the end of this note, brief as it is. The cascade of attacks on vulnerable groups, institutions of learning, truth, and common decency in just the last few months have been staggering, prompting fear, frustration, anger and exhaustion. In preparing for this note I looked back to previous presidents' newsletter contributions. In Fall of 2018, Lara Putnam wrote the following: "We give public lectures, we write op eds. We show up in class every day with passion to share accurate information about the Americas' complicated and conjoined past. Yet basic facts are being drowned by fearmongering and distortions, not in some hidden corner of the internet but in plain sight on cable news and rally stages and twitter feeds. What now?" Indeed. It's chilling to see that seven years later we are grappling with the same issues.

One thing we can all do is attend to and care for the people closest to us, build mentorship networks, learn from one another, and use our voices. To that end, I would like to use this space and CLAH to find ways to build community and provide support for those who need or want to connect to colleagues beyond their immediate networks. Please look out for a brief survey about a mentoring initiative I'd like to develop.

Hasta pronto; Alejandra

Message from Co-Executive Director Erika Edwards

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from the CLAH office in El Paso!

I am happy to report that the 2025 CLAH conference in New York was a success! Thank you to Sam Reitenour, the graduate assistant who continues to defy expectations. Thank you to the program committee, Sarah Sarzynski, Renata Keller, and Daniel Mendiola for their work.



We had a total of 63 submissions (48 panels and 15 papers) and 205 people attended the reception. This year we decided to eliminate the luncheon and extend the evening reception. Overwhelmingly we received positive feedback! It was a night of celebrating prize winners and fellowship recipients, listening to Dr. Gil Joseph's keynote, and remembering our colleagues who had recently passed away.

This year I also want to acknowledge efforts of section leaders Romina Green and Alison Bruey. Recognizing that the name "Chile-Río de la Plata Studies" no longer accurately defined the field, they surveyed section members who agreed the "Southern Cone Studies" label was a better fit. They presented these findings to the General Council and the Council unanimously voted for the change. Thank you, Romina, and Alison for making what has been an idea for years come to fruition.

I want to thank Celso Castilho, who finished his term as President! He spearheaded Presidential Talks about Hispanic Serving Institutions and the relationship between Latino and Latin American histories. Two topics that will increasingly receive more attention in the coming years. I look forward to working CLAH's new President Alejandra Brofman and Vice President Herman Bennett.

Next year we look forward to celebrating 100 years of CLAH in Chicago! I hope to see many of you there.

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

Erika

Approved Minutes of the 2024 CLAH Council Meeting

Celso Castilho, President Alejandra Bronfman, Vice President and President-elect Erika Edwards and Christina Villarreal, Co-Executive Directors Ben Vinson III, Past President

January 4, 2024 San Francisco, CA 6:00-8:00 p.m. PST

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

Celso Castilho called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. PST.

Council members present: Celso Castilho (President), Alejandra Bronfman (Vice President and President-elect), Erika Edwards (Co-Executive Director), Ben Vinson III (Past President), John F. Schwaller (*The Americas* representative), Fabrício Prado, Elizabeth Schwall, Ulices Peña (H-LatAm representative), Robin Derby (*Hispanic American Historical Review* representative), and Marissa Nichols

Other CLAH members in attendance: Jürgen Buchenau, Robert Franco, April Mayes, and Anne Schwaller

2. Approval of minutes of the 2023 meeting

Erika Edwards called for consideration of the 2023 Council minutes. John Schwaller moved approval, and Fabrício Prado seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of 2023 election results and committee appointments

Erika Edwards called for certification of the 2023 election results and prize committee appointments. Robert Franco moved approval. The motion carried unanimously.

Edwards noted that the elections for section secretaries were especially close in 2023 and that there were roughly three hundred total votes. She then listed the members of the new Program Committee: Sarah Sarzynski (chair 2024), Renata Keller (chair 2025), and Daniel Mendiola.

4. Report of the Program Committee

Robert Franco opened this section by thanking Oscar de la Torre, Sarah Sarzynski, and Viviana Grieco for their service on the Program Committee. He acknowledged the AHA's continued generosity in offering a diverse slate of panels and reported that, out of 86 submissions, the AHA had already accepted 42 by the time CLAH began its work. In addition to 11 section meetings, CLAH sponsored an additional 23 panels, for a total of 65 Latin American panels and 11 section meetings.

Franco described the diverse themes of this year's CLAH panels, which included medicine, gender, race, the body, urban history, geography, and land and space. The vast majority of panels were transnational or transregional, and the few panels that were single-country were on Mexico.

Franco noted that panels with an uneven quality of abstracts, little connection among papers, and lack of diversity in institution and academic level were met with low panel ratings from the AHA, but happily reported that the vast majority of CLAH panels were diverse and of rigorous quality.

Ben Vinson III asked about the smoothness of the process of coordinating panels between the AHA and CLAH. Franco and Edwards both responded that it was quite smooth. Edwards praised the high number of submissions this year, which Franco described as a return to a prepandemic equilibrium. Edwards concluded that people are excited to attend in-person conferences again after the interruption of the pandemic.

Following a statement from Jürgen Buchenau praising CLAH for retaining its position as the largest component of the AHA conference, this section concluded with a question from John Schwaller regarding the number of panels sponsored by CLAH alone versus those cosponsored by the AHA. Franco clarified that 23 panels were sponsored by CLAH and 42 were cosponsored by CLAH and the AHA.

5. Report on the CLAH Office

Erika Edwards provided updates the work being done at UTEP. She thanked Jürgen Buchenau for traveling to El Paso to assist her with the transition. At UTEP, CLAH is currently working on redesigning the biannual newsletter and thank-you letters to be more vibrant, using UTEP's colors in the Fall 2023 newsletter and the organization's new letterhead. Edwards also announced that, with the unfortunate passing of a few CLAH members in recent years, the organization will create a new obituary section for the newsletter. Entries will be written by CLAH members.

Edwards also emphasized that CLAH is seeking to broaden and deepen its work with other institutions. The value of collaborating with one such institution, the *American Historical Review*, was made clear by the robust conversation and strong attendance at Thursday's panel, "The *American Historical Review* and Latin American History," chaired by Edwards and consisting of Alex F. Borucki, Mark Phillip Bradley, Bianca Premo, and Louise E. Walker.

Another institution with which CLAH seeks to build ties is the Modern Endangered Archives Program (MEAP), which is based at UCLA. Alejandra Bronfman, who serves on MEAP's Review Board, described the program, which strives to fund politically and materially endangered archives outside the U.S. and Europe. She lauded its efforts to digitize materials at such archives in Latin America. Edwards noted that MEAP offers a planning grant for archives that want to begin conducting digitization projects but lack the resources to do so. Bronfman praised MEAP for additionally considering audiovisual archives, including media like radio and photography.

After mentioning that the Fulbright Program wants to encourage more CLAH members to apply to its programs in the spring, Edwards concluded this section by emphasizing that CLAH wants its membership to be aware of and connect with projects like MEAP and organizations like the *American Historical Review* and Fulbright. The new CLAH membership is proud to seek these connections, which will enable more CLAH members to represent Latin American history.

6. Review of the Co-Executive Directors' 2023 Annual Report, discussion and vote on proposed FY 2024 budget

Erika Edwards opened this section with a reminder that CLAH's fiscal year begins on November 1 and ends on October 31.

Edwards explained that the luncheon represents a major financial strain on the organization. In San Francisco, the meal cost CLAH \$89 per person and the organization charged only \$50 for tickets. Given that the 2025 annual meeting will take place in New York, the luncheon could potentially cost upwards of \$13,000 next year. Edwards proposed that CLAH eliminate the luncheon and expand the reception, which is more reasonably priced. She raised the issue of needing to base any such action on data from the prior years' conferences despite the pandemic's disruption of these events. She suggested that CLAH experiment with an extended reception in which the prizes and awards were given out at the beginning. This longer reception would still feature a cash bar and food, but would be more business-oriented to start and would drift toward more casual conversation at the end.

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John Schwaller voiced his support for Edwards's proposal to merge the luncheon with the reception, noting that the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies (RMCLAS) holds an event of this nature that works quite well. He echoed Edwards's concerns about the high cost of conferences in large cities like San Francisco. Ben Vinson also saw the financial benefit of eliminating the luncheon, but wondered how the speeches that typically take place during it might adapt to the reception format. John and Anne Schwaller answered by describing how RMCLAS's event works. Anne specified that more tables would be needed for the merged event than for CLAH's current cocktail party, but emphasized that combining the functions of the two events would work, with people coming in to grab food and settling in for the awards. Fabrício Prado stressed that an expanded reception would also be much more inclusive than the luncheon, given the high cost of the latter imposing a barrier to attendance. Edwards concurred and said that the only other option would be to raise the luncheon fee, but that this would be more exclusive. She estimated that the expanded reception would cost \$6,000. Celso Castilho joined his colleagues in emphasizing the need for inclusivity and announced that CLAH will look into subsidizing non-alcoholic drinks at the reception. Edwards promised to attempt this new event style at the 2025 annual meeting in New York.

7. Old Business

a. Teaching Award upate

Erika Edwards happily reported that the last call for the Teaching Award was a success, netting approximately \$1,500 that brought the grand total of funds raised for this prize to just over \$13,000. The prize took \$12,000 to create. This new prize will be announced at the luncheon on Friday, January 5. Edwards acknowledged John Schwaller and Casey Lurtz for their efforts to establish this prize during the pandemic. Celso Castilho additionally commended Edwards's timing for the final fundraising drive on the eve of the conference.

8. New Business

a. Reinforcing membership requirement for elected officials

Erika Edwards opened this section by stressing the need to reinforce existing membership requirements for CLAH's elected officials, including the Executive Committee, the General Council, section secretaries, and the ex-officio council members representing H-LatAm, the *Hispanic American Historical Review*, and *The Americas*. Although CLAH's constitution specifies that these officials maintain active membership, enforcement of this rule has been lax and there have been General Council members and section secretaries who have failed to pay their dues.

b. Clarification of Vanderwood Prize description

Erika Edwards pointed out that the description of the Vanderwood Prize, for any article not published in the *Hispanic American Historical Review* or *The Americas*, needs to be adjusted in order to clarify whether or not articles in languages other than English are acceptable. The Executive Committee discussed this issue in Summer 2023 and decided that CLAH should accept non-English-language articles for the Vanderwood Prize. Although this might mean a much larger pool of submissions, the Executive Committee believes CLAH should not limit the possibilities of this prize to English-language work. Drawing on the recommendations of the Executive Committee, Edwards suggested that the Vanderwood Prize accept articles written in French, Portuguese, and Spanish, so long as an English translation is provided for the benefit of the prize committee.

Edwards called for a vote on this change to the Vanderwood Prize description. Ben Vinson III motioned. Fabrício Prado seconded the motion and opened the issue to discussion by asking whether articles in each of these three foreign languages needed to provide an English translation, or just French- and Portuguese-language articles. Edwards replied that articles written in any of the three languages needed to provide an English translation. Elizabeth Schwall floated the idea that articles in French or Portuguese might provide a Spanish translation in lieu of an English one. Prado responded that CLAH should treat each of these three languages the same, meaning that all of them should provide English translations.

Robin Derby asked if articles submitted for the Vanderwood Prize could be published in journals outside the United States, to which Edwards responded affirmatively. Prado asked if Spanish, French, and Portuguese were chosen because they are spoken in Latin America and the Caribbean, to which Edwards again responded affirmatively. Prado then raised the issue of including indigenous languages. John Schwaller suggested that starting with Spanish, French, Portuguese is a logical first step and argued that, if working with these three languages was a success, CLAH could consider opening the Vanderwood Prize up to all languages. Jürgen Buchenau pointed out that it might be even easier to do so in the future as software advances and competent translations are simpler to acquire. Celso Castilho asked if it would be too unwieldy for CLAH to handle the translation of the articles, or if the onus for translating them should be on the submitters. Prado argued that the submitters should be responsible for translating their articles into English, lest CLAH make an error in translation that could negatively affect the prize committee's evaluation of the article.

Following this comment, the change to the Vanderwood Prize description stipulating that articles can be written in Spanish, French, or Portuguese with an English translation passed with a unanimous vote.

c. Lifetime membership category for Latin Americanists based in Latin America

Erika Edwards opened this section by noting that the current fee for lifetime CLAH membership is \$700 and proposed reducing this to \$500 for scholars based in Latin America. She explained that this idea emerged partly from difficulties that CLAH has experienced in sending checks to countries like Brazil and Argentina. She also noted that offering a discounted lifetime membership of \$500 or providing a travel grant for Latin America-based scholars to attend CLAH would be a means of acknowledging the disparity in remuneration for scholars in the United States and those in Latin American countries. John Schwaller echoed this point and commended this effort to recognize that scholars in Latin America earn much less than their U.S. colleagues, but argued that a distinction needed to be drawn between offering a discounted lifetime membership rate and other mechanisms for recognizing Latin American scholars in places to which checks cannot easily be sent. He suggested that the General Council should give the Co-Executive Directors leeway to manage how best to compensate manage how best to compensate Latin Americabased scholars, whether through membership discounts or travel and/or hotel vouchers.

Taking Schwaller's recommendations into consideration, Edwards proposed a vote on the change in the cost of lifetime membership for Latin America-based scholars from \$700 to \$500. Schwaller moved, Vinson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

d. Prize winner announcements

Noting how the AHA and other organizations publicize and celebrate their award winners, Celso Castilho asked how CLAH might do something similar with its own prize notifications, which are released in October and November. Sharing these on social media would be an excellent opportunity to celebrate CLAH's members. Erika Edwards echoed Castilho's suggestion and noted that the present lack of announcements on social media has caused uncertainty among prize winners as to whether or not they can share the news with their presses or departments, and Castilho agreed that publicizing the prizes would clear up this confusion. Ben Vinson that an additional unintended benefit of doing so would be to spread awareness of CLAH more broadly, leading more people to register for the conference.

e. Cabrera Award

Erika Edwards expressed concern that 2023 was the second year in a row with no applications for the \$5,000 Cabrera Award, which provides funds to those studying Cuba before 1868. She emphasized the need to reach out to students to encourage them to take advantage of this opportunity and that such a call would be made during Friday's luncheon. Alejandra Bronfman asked whether the Cabrera Award could be used for the joint study of Cuba and another place, such as Puerto Rico, or if it was strictly designated for the study of Cuba. Jürgen Buchenau confirmed that the award is restricted solely to the study of Cuba and additionally pointed out that the award does not support travel to Cuba, only research on Cuba in other countries. Buchenau suggested that the silver lining of this restriction is that the Cabrera Award might be used to draw Europeanists into CLAH. Bronfman concurred, pointing to the wealth of archival materials on Cuba in Spain, and Schwaller and Buchenau noted respectively that Puerto Rican and Mexican archives also contain valuable information on Cuba. Edwards concluded this section by reemphasizing the need to encourage students to take advantage of these funds.

f. Formal vote to establish Teaching Award

Erika Edwards proposed a formal vote to establish the new CLAH Teaching Award, with a June 1 deadline. Elizabeth Schwall moved, Fabrício Prado seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Robin Derby asked whether the Teaching Award will be selfnominated or if recipients will be nominated by students. Edwards reported that Casey Lurtz's intent was to allow for selfnominations, but to require these applicants to supply recommendations from others, syllabi, and other pedagogical materials alongside their self-nomination.

g. 2026 centennial

Erika Edwards initiated a brief discussion of CLAH's upcoming 2026 centennial celebration, which will take place under the leadership of Alejandra Bronfman at the annual meeting in Chicago. She expressed excitement about this event and emphasized that it could serve as a fundraiser. She suggested that CLAH look at a venue beyond the hotel and proposed that organizations could purchase tables for the event. Celso Castilho recalled a substantial report on centennial fundraising completed by Tatiana Seijas prior to the pandemic. Edwards said that this report could serve as a basis for renewed centennial planning, which was interrupted by the pandemic.

The meeting concluded with recognition of John Schwaller's fiftieth year of membership in CLAH before being adjourned by Alejandra Bronfman at 6:58p.m. PST.

Officers and Committee Members Elected and Appointed

On December 5, 2024, 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)

Adriana Chira, Emory University Ernesto Capello, Macalester College

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

Haley Schroer, Texas Lutheran University

Section Secretaries

Andean Studies - Silvia Escanilla Huerta, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Atlantic Studies - Farren Yero, Binghamton University
Borderlands/Frontiers - Ximena Sevilla, University of Rhode Island
Brazil Studies - Courtney J. Campbell, University of Birmingham
Caribbean Studies - Alexa Rodríguez, University of Virginia
Central American Studies - Melanie Y. White, Georgetown University
Southern Cone Studies - Andra B. Chastain, Washington State University
Vancouver

Colonial Studies - Joseph M. H. Clark, University of Kentucky Gran Colombia Studies - Santiago Muñoz Arbeláez, University of Texas at Austin

Mexican Studies - Carolina Ortega, Indiana University Bloomington Teaching and Teaching Materials - Hannah Greenwald, Gettysburg College

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

Nominating Committee

Julia Sarreal (chair) Rob Alegre Jessica Delgado

Program Committee

Renata Keller (2025 chair) Jeffrey Erbig (2026 chair) Laura Correa Ochoa

Officers and Committee Members Elected and Appointed: 2025 Prize Committees

Distinguished Service Award

Jane Landers (chair) Laura Correa Ochoa Kevan Aguilar

Paul Vanderwood Prize

Ileana Rodríguez-Silva (chair) Gabriela Soto Laveaga Daniel Rood

Bolton-Johnson Prize

Ana Araujo (chair) Jonathan Ablard Kaysha Corinealdi

Elinor Melville Prize

Emily Wakild (chair)
Jennifer Eaglin
Mikael Wolfe

James Alexander Robertson Prize

Anne Rubenstein (chair)
Marc Becker
Margaret Power

Lewis Hanke Post-Doctoral Award

David Wheat (chair) Mateo Jarquín Andra B. Chastain

James Scobie Award

Chris Boyer (chair) Theodore Cohen Pilar Maria Herr

Lydia Cabrera Award

Bonnie Lucero (chair) Sara Kozameh Jorge Felipe-Gonzalez

María Elena Martínez Prize

John Tutino (chair) Sonia Robles Alfredo Ávila

Warren Dean Prize

Hal Langfur (chair)
Molly Ball
Seth Garfield

Antonine Tibesar Prize

Corinna Zeltsman (chair) Mark Rice Brooke Larson

Howard F. Cline Prize

Ken Mills (chair) Hannah Abrahamson Matthew Restall

Teaching Award

Sarah Foss (chair) Ulices Peña Ivonne Wallace Fuentes

CLAH Section Meeting Reports

Atlantic World Studies

Panel Title: Rethinking Liberty and Blackness in the Early Modern Atlantic World

Chair: Ernesto Mercado-Montero, Dartmouth College

Panelist: Jesús Ruiz, Vanderbilt University

Panelist: Clifton Sorrell III, University of Texas at Austin Panelist: Katherine Johnston, Montana State University

Panelist: Tianna Mobley, Yale University

Comment: Anne Eller, Yale University

The Atlantic World Studies Section's panel was envisioned as a platform to stimulate a robust discussion. The theme of reimagining freedom in the Black Atlantic was explored from multiple perspectives, inviting the audience to engage in a thought-provoking dialogue. In the spirit of this aim, we invited scholars working on the history of the Black diaspora in different periods and geographies. Our panel broadly considered possibilities of freedom in the Spanish Atlantic, the French Caribbean, Spanish Jamaica, and the English Atlantic World from the seventeenth through the eighteenth centuries.

Our first panelist, Jesús Ruiz, who is a historian of Latin America and the Caribbean, explored new conceptions of liberty in the French colony of Saint-Domingue in the Age of Revolutions. This presentation centers on the relationship between loyalism and revolution. Jesús Ruiz examined how revolutionaries in Saint-Domingue employed the Catholic religion and monarchical loyalism as vectors of political change. For him, loyalism and religion epitomized the Atlantic nature of the Haitian revolution, where revolutionaries engaged in multiple traditions to galvanize their political goals. In doing so, this presentation examined Haitian revolutionary debates away from French-, British-, and U.S.-centered interpretations towards the Spanish Empire, royalist, and declarations of monarchical loyalty. Ultimately, this perspective provides a more complex picture of the Age of Revolution and notions of Black freedom.

Atlantic World Studies (continued)

Our second panelist was Clifton Sorrell III, a Spanish and English Atlantic historian. His presentation centered on the movements and experiences of Black men and women in the Caribbean. This presentation offered insight into an extensive network of corridors and paths that connected the Palenques to Spanish military encampments during the Anglo-Spanish struggle for the island between 1655 and 1660. When the English took Jamaica's central township of Santiago de la Vega in 1655, the Spanish resistance led by Governor Isasi fled to the interior. There, they depended on the cooperation of the Palengues for subsistence and the ability to move men and supplies between intra-Caribbean supply lines and scattered remote strongholds across the montes to sustain their hit-andrun guerilla strategy against the English. Just as important were the internal networks that spanned across the montes and tied the regional network to different Black fugitive and Spanish colonial refuges, hideouts, and strongholds on the ground across the island. By focusing on these networks on the ground, this paper illustrated how the Palenques approached these networks from their vantage point, in what ways it informed their political strategies, and how they used them to negotiate and secure freedom.

The third panelist was Katherine Johnston. She is a historian of slavery and the British Atlantic world. Her presentation focused on enslaved individuals of African descent who faced multiple relocations. This presentation followed a micro-history methodological approach to examine the commodification of Black people and how their skills made them valuable for their enslavers. Yet, Johnston challenged the notion that skills allowed enslaved individuals to navigate colonial slavery. Instead, she demonstrated how skills could play against them. She showed that enslavers' willingness to capitalize on Black individuals' skills and knowledge positioned enslaved people in a more vulnerable position. Lastly, our fourth panelist was Tianna Mobley, a historian of colonial Latin America, who delivered a fascinating paper on the notions of religion, beatification, and Blackness in the Spanish Atlantic. She draws from previous scholars, such as Chloe Ireton, to illuminate how Black individuals employed religion and Catholic institutions in Spanish America to navigate enslavement and racial hierarchies.

Anne Eller, Associate Professor at Yale University, offered insightful comments on these papers, sparking discussion. She articulated her comments around common subjects, arguments, and diverse relationships between liberty and Blackness. Professor Eller allowed presenters to elaborate on the nature of sources and how their respective research projects invite us to rethink notions of black mobility and liberty. The audience then participated by asking the panelists questions, which led to an intellectually rich and engaging discussion.

Borderlands/Frontiers Studies

State of the Field of Latin American Borderlands

The section met on Friday afternoon to discuss new directions in Borderlands History. Panelists included Laura Gutiérrez (University of the Pacific), Fabricio Prado (William & Mary), Yuko Miki (Fordham), and Kyle Harvey (Western Carolina). Erick Langer chaired the session and Ángeles Picone, as secretary, took notes and moderated. The next secretary elected by our membership is Ximena Sevilla (University of Rhode Island). The discussion had two distinct moments. First, panelists responded to pre-circulated questions about the research, sources, and scholarship on borderland history. Then, we opened the conversation for input from the audience. There were about twenty people in attendance, plus panelists, at any given time.

We often come to study frontier spaces through different trajectories, and this panel was not the exception. A scholar of the US-Mexico border, Dr. Gutiérrez shared her interest in Mexicans who returned to their home country (voluntarily or by force) and how these returnees changed their local communities. Dr. Harvey's initial interest in the trans-Andean railroad that would connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans evolved into a larger discussion of state formation in the Andes (available for readers in his new book, In Place of Mobility). Dr. Prado explained how his initial interest in the frontera Brazil and Argentina led him to think about contact zones. Dr. Miki shared her work on a more metaphorical frontier, an internal one that categorizes who is a citizen and who is not.

Researching borderlands rests on creativity and the possibility of combining documents from multiple repositories. Although an incredible number of sources have been digitized, most Latin American archives and, especially, collections pertinent to borderlands historians remain only available on site. While many repositories might not have a published research aid, some panelists shared archivists are more than willing to share information or draft guides. Panelists offered some anecdotes about archival research which helped frame a historian's work less as going-and-taking-pictures and more as engaging with archivists and fellow researchers.

Borderlands/Frontiers Studies (continued)

Borderlands history brings together historians from different traditions. From Chicano Studies and public health to geography and oceanic connections, panelists shared the works they engaged with most. Colleagues <u>can view the library here</u> and email Ángeles Picone (<u>angeles.picone@bc.edu</u>) if they have more suggestions. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list, but rather a few recommendations of critical works to start engaging with borderlands history.

A member of the audience offered the metaphor of jazz to understand archival research: we need to understand the words as well as the silences (i.e.: what's missing). Silences open space. With this, he prompted a conversation about researching smuggling, death, and 'other' borderlands that affect the US-Mexico border. Another member of the audience opened the conversation around teaching. Specifically, she wondered how to even the imbalance of engagement students often have with texts that do not refer to the immediate reality of the US-Mexico border. Panelists suggested a comparative approach (use Los Tres Amigos!), a spatial/geographical approach (where space not always coincide with nation-states), and food history. A third member of the audience wondered if traditional periodization worked for the study of borderlands. The room was filled with suggestions from trying to drop political periodization (and leaving the door open) to recognizing the specific local context of a study. Others played with the idea of porosity not only in terms of border regions (spatial) but also in terms of periodization (chronological).

All in all, this was a thought-provoking, lively conversation that, sadly, had to be cut short.

Brazilian Studies

This year's Brazilian Studies Section Panel was entitled, "Decolonizing Brazilian History?: A Roundtable on Methodologies." Chair Sarah Sarzynski (Claremont McKenna College) invited panelists to consider what it means to do "decolonizing" history and the methodologies by it. Inspired anthropology associated with and environmental and gender studies, decolonizing history focuses on digging through imperial frameworks to expose how colonial structures and discourses have silenced other forms of knowledge and voices. Over the course of the panel discussion, Sarzynski asked panelists to reflect on how they have challenged colonial epistemologies in their individual research, how their work makes Brazilian history more inclusive of marginalized voices, and how they have approached ethical issues that have emerged in their work.

Walter Hawthorne (Professor at Michigan State University) focused on the digital project that emerged with the development of his book, From Africa to Brazil (Cambridge UP 2010). During the research, he created a dataset of all the plantation inventories he collected and wrote mini-biographies of the peoples he uncovered. This transformed into the Mellon Foundation sponsored digital humanities project, www.enslaved.org, which publishes datasets on named enslaved peoples. Through the project he sought to center the lives of named enslaved people by using the very primary sources-slave records, court cases, etc.- used to dehumanize them. He finds the collaborative project decolonial because it seeks to humanize the lives of these people that had been commodified in the slave trade. At the same time, publishing all this material online generates ethical questions about the researcher's obligation to the subjects that are now long dead and, in reference to the work of Jessica Marie Johnson, what it means to study slavery in the digital age (Johnson 2018). He sees the enslaved.com project as one that preserves information that is endangered today and believes this is an important tool of collaboration to advance the study of slavery.

In his work, Vikram Tamboli (Peter Buck Fellow of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History) focuses on the history and current phenomenon of trafficking on the Guyanese, Venezuelan, and Brazilian borderlands in the 20th century. He couples oral histories with archival research to trace memory into the archive. By centering his engagement with communities on the trafficking of knowledge and the history of frontiers in Amazonia, he has sought to incorporate popular knowledge and curate physical space to confront erasures of Amazonian knowledge as a form of decolonial history. Collaborative work with the community he studies drives his methodological and ethical approach to research.

Brazilian Studies (continued)

For example, his project the "Healing and Harming Garden" at UCLA's Botanical Garden grew out of collaborative work in the Guyanese community with NGOs and policy advocacy has allowed his work to actively change lives of the people living there. Yet, he still struggles to balance the varied truths of oral histories and the historical record.

Augusta (Guta) da Silveira de Oliveira (Doctoral Candidate, Brown University) seeks to go beyond assumed invisibility in her work on twentieth century Brazilian lesbian social history. She realized she had to get creative about sources because these women have been silenced in the archive. Instead, she uses medical sources, legal records, documents from the lesbian movement, letters, and oral histories to reconstruct this history. Through collaboration with the community and other researchers interested in the topic, she sees her work as way to make Brazilian history more inclusive of marginalized voices. For example, she created an informal network to share work, which grew out of a Whatsapp group and turned into its own digital archive, O Arquivo Lésbico Brasileiro. The archive has expanded to create exhibitions and offer book clubs along with the online database. She considers her work decolonial because she focuses on lesbians as a category rather than gueer women, breaking down categories given by others to cover not just same sex relationships but also how women dress and relate to each other. In her research, she still struggles with ethical questions about anonymity and privacy, which is critical to sensitive identities.

Seth Garfield (Professor at University of Texas- Austin) reflected on his extensive work on Amazonian history to engage the decolonial approach. He noted how colonial epistemologies dominate history both qualitatively, through narratives that favor perspectives of colonial powers, and quantitatively, through dominance of hegemonic powers. In his own work, he has found it easier to challenge hegemonic narratives than to access subaltern narratives. In his research, he has focused on how elite groups have mutated over time. Using elite/dominant sources like science, advertisements, and more, he not only reads against "along the grain" (Stoler, 2008) but also reads "along the bias grain" (Fuentes, 2016) to uncover marginalized voices. In his own work, he notes that he is not terribly good at oral histories, but he has found other ways to collaborate with the communities he studies. For example, he finds documenting stories that have not been told to be an effective contribution to denouncing government oppression as illustrated by the fact that his work has been referenced by Funai and the Truth Commission. One of the greatest challenges he identifies with studying living communities is disaggregating the researchers' expectations and limitations from the truths that one finds in studying marginalized communities.

Brazilian Studies (continued)

Vanessa Casteñeda (Assistant Professor at Davidson College-participant in absentia with submitted written reflections for discussion) was unable to attend in person, but her written comments were read aloud by Sarzynski and made valuable contributions to the discussion. In her own research on baianas, she uses extensive oral histories to tell these women's stories. She particularly notes how important it is to speak with elders to uncover a deeper history of baianas because they are "living libraries" of baiana history. However, elders are highly protected. In her research, trust between the researcher and the community is critical to accessing these embodied archives. Thus, investment in human relations is central to her research. As such, she is very invested in community engaged work and reciprocity because their willingness to work with her has allowed her to have a profession. In turn, she feels it ethically important to also assist the community in their efforts to find sources to serve them in their material goals through, for example, grant writing for state, local, and international opportunities.

These panelist reflections transformed into a generative discussion about research methodologies with the audience. James Green (Brown University) asked panelists how they manage IRB protocols. transformed into a dynamic conversation with contributors from the panelists and the audience alike, including Judy Bieber (University of New Mexico), José Juan Pérez Meléndez (UC-Davis), Mary Ann Mahony (Central Connecticut State University). Hendrik Kraay (University of Calgary) asked what is new with "decolonial" when scholars have struggled over some of these same questions for a long time. The discussion extended far beyond oral histories to interrogate how to deal with ethical questions of historical research more broadly. Panelists and the audience grappled with how to conduct research and present findings in ways that allow the communities of study to take part in telling their own stories and the recording and preserving of their own histories. As made clear through discussion, these interdisciplinary, decolonizing methodologies complicated but also enrich the study of Brazilian history.

Citations:

Ann Laura Stoler, Along the Archival Grain: Epistemic Anxieties and Colonial Common Sense (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2008). Marisa Fuentes, Dispossessed Lives: Enslaved Women, Violence, and the Archive (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016). Jessica Marie Johnson, "Markup Bodies: Black [Life] Studies and Slavery [Death] Studies at the Digital Crossroads" Social Text (2018) 36 (4 (137)): 57-79.

Caribbean Studies

Chair: Jorell Meléndez-Badillo Secretary: Joan Flores-Villalobos

The Caribbean Studies section convened at the New York Midtown Hilton in New York, NY on Friday, January 3, 2025 at 1:30pm EST, hosting a session titled "New Approaches to the Study of Empire in the Caribbean's Long 20th Century." The panelists explored a broad range of new methodologies, themes, historical actors, and historical questions that characterize recent imperial histories of the Caribbean across Haiti, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and other islands. It was organized and moderated by our Section Chair Jorell Meléndez-Badillo, as our scheduled moderator, Daniel Rodriguez, was unable to attend. The session featured presentations by Shelby Sinclair, Anne Eller, Mónica Alexandra Jiménez, and Alexa Rodríguez. They presented their papers to a standing-room only crowd that was deeply engaged with the panel and served as commentator.

The first panelist, Shelby Sinclair, presented her paper "Vital Workwomen: Haitian Market Women and the Caco Rebellions, 1915-20," based off her book-in-progress. By exploring Haitian market women's material realities—their conditions of labor and survival in the market—Sinclair provides new perspectives on the changes wrought by U.S. rule in Haiti. For Sinclair, focusing on women brings density and detail to the ways everyday life was turned upside down by the Caco Wars and highlights new cartographies of this conflict—the countryside, the road, the market. She also explores how these women deftly navigated new gendered abuses from both U.S. soldiers and Haitian rebels, using their market skills to survive and continue providing life-sustaining care to their communities.

Anne Eller presented from a chapter of her new manuscript-in-progress, titled "I sell the ashes and ruins to the Yankees": The Independent Caribbean responds to 1898. While 1898 has served as a crucial turning point for Caribbean histories of empire, this focus has remained mostly on the islands of Cuba and, to a lesser extent, Puerto Rico. Eller explores the reverberations of the events of 1898, as those in neighboring islands (mainly the Dominican Republic) responded to U.S. commercial domination and outright military occupation. Eller's work, like Sinclair's, expands the cartographies of one of the cornerstones of Caribbean history, away from the centers of military conflict and toward the political discussions and new imaginations that suffused the region during this period.

Caribbean Studies (continued)

Mónica Jiménez planned to present on her work regarding the Insular Cases but instead pivoted to share some newer work that blends a consideration of historical memory with colonial history and family biography in Puerto Rico. It was a rich and poetic narrative, written from a first-person perspective. She began telling the audience about her visit to the prison of La Princesa in Puerto Rico, where she learned from a local tour guide that political prisoners who fought for Puerto Rican nationalism were incarcerated and tortured. Walking down the Paseo de La Princesa, Jiménez made the connection to her great-aunt Monserrate Del Valle, who was one of these prisoners. This moment activated for her a historical exploration of the entanglements of women in her own family with the deep violences of U.S. imperialism, as well as how the logics of imperial control and silencing continue to obfuscate the histories of activists like her great-aunt. In echoes of Sinclair's presentation, Jiménez centered the political strategies of survival of a Caribbean woman and this, in turn, helped her locate new methods of tracing the afterlives of empire.

Alexa Rodríguez closed out the panel with her paper, "Local Voices, Imperial Echoes: Schools and the Counternarratives of Dominicanidad (1916-1924)." Like the previous panelists, Rodríguez turned to a new site of inquiry for understanding U.S. empire in the Caribbean, in this case, schools in the Dominican Republic during the first U.S. occupation between 1916 and 1924. Her work explores how the U.S. occupation sought to use schools as spaces for disseminating national narratives and skills thought to be necessary to prepare Dominicans for citizenship, but also how Dominican students, parents, and teachers negotiated and challenged these notions. While highlighting the cultural violence and erasure of U.S. occupation, Rodríguez rather centers how Dominican youth experienced these impositions while imagining their own notions of belonging.

A lively discussion followed with questions for each of the participants. One audience member asked about visions of Caribbean unity and disunity during 1898. Another asked about teaching strategies for incorporating Rodríguez' important contributions to courses on Caribbean history. The last question tied the presentations together by highlighting the recurrent themes of women and gender throughout them. All the presentations spoke to the vitality and innovation that historians of empire in the Caribbean are bringing to the field.

Central American Studies

Chair: Sylvia Sellers-García, Boston College

Secretary: Stephanie M. Huezo, Fordham University

The Central American Studies Section held its annual meeting on Saturday, January 4 at 8:30am, in New York City, as part of the annual meeting of the Conference on Latin American History and the American Historical Association.

Sylvia Sellers-García, President, introduced Melanie Y. White as secretary who will be working with incoming president, Stephanie M. Huezo.

Sellers-García then introduced the panel New Research on the History of Gender in Central America and panelist - Melanie Y. White (Georgetown University), Michael Kirkpatrick (Memorial University of Newfoundland), Diana Sierra Becerra (University of Massachusetts-Amherst), and Suyapa Portillo (Pitzer College).

Melanie Y. White drew from her upcoming manuscript on black indigenous women in the Mosquitia coast during the 19th century to explain how black women's experiences tell us about colonial domination and modernity. She used the story of Judy Hunter, an emancipated young Afro-Mosquitian woman who was at the center of a diplomatic and territorial dispute between the Mosquito Kingdom and Nueva Granada. After she was emancipated, Hunter moved with her family to Bocas del Toro, Panama. Shortly after, Hunter was taken from her home to be reenslaved by her former slave owner, Maria Forbes who was unhappy because she had not received compensation for slaves emancipated by Mosquito and British authorities. Forbes, along with other elite slave owners in the region threatened to pledge allegiance to Nueva Granada if action wasn't taken. While Forbes later dismisses her complaints, aligning with the Mosquito King, Hunter still experienced racialized sexual violence in her guest to become free once again. Once she successfully regained her freedom, she filed a complaint in Bluefield and requested the New Granadian government to compensate her for her suffering. They complied. White argues that while Judy Hunter became collateral damage in this territorial dispute, her story can tell us much more about colonial domination, racial and gendered violence, and Afro-Mosquitians role in intimate sovereignty.

Central American Studies (continued)

Michael Kirkpatrick discussed ambulatory women in Guatemala during the late 19th century. He used the framework of motion and stasis to explain how 19th century Guatemala City and its liberal leaders created binaries of progress and conformity, of Ladino and Maya. Specifically, Kirkpatrick looks at how women fit into this framework of motion and stasis and how liberal statesmen sought control over women's activity. While women seldom walked the streets alone due to colonial code of honor (stasis), ambulatory women, sex workers, and runaway mothers demonstrated the limitation of stasis. Kirkpatrick provided an example of how statesmen sought to limit the mobility of sex workers in the city to control the spread of venereal disease. Using patriarchal legal codes such as patria potestad, sex workers and other ambulatory women could not move around freely in the city, even to attend a celebration (as was the case for sex workers who wanted to celebrate Columbus Day). By the 20th century, restrictions on women's mobility loosened as their role, not only as breadwinners but as consumers, increased.

Diana Sierra Becerra presented her upcoming book, *The Making of Revolutionary Feminism in El Salvador*, and explained how Salvadoran women from the 1960s-1980s confronted sexism in the home to participate in the revolution. From a teacher's union to peasant organizing, women were at the forefront of denouncing sexual exploitation and elevating the class struggle. She provided an example of how combatant women organized to secure sanitary napkins in the guerrilla camps. By doing so, women challenged male centric assumptions of who was a combatant. Ultimately, Sierra Becerra offers an alternative periodization of feminism in El Salvador. While historiography places the rise of Salvadoran feminism in the 1990s, after the end of the civil war, she argues that if we move beyond language and focus on the practice/organizing efforts of feminism then the rise of feminism began in the 1970s.

Suyapa Portillo provided three frames for writing new histories of gender in Central America: 1. people as archive, 2. writing the future from marginal spaces, and 3. making and remaking solidarity. Portillo argues that orality should be more than enough for constructing history. While conducting research for her book, Roots of Resistance: A Story of Gender, Race, and Labor on the North Coast of Honduras, she found that conducting interviews with women who lived in banana plantations was the best way to tell feminist history of male dominated spaces. Portillo also discussed the role of Berta Cáceres and OFRANEH (Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña) in reimagining a patriarchal free society. Finally, Portillo encourages historians to look at south to south solidarity against capitalism, focusing on resistance strategies when writing gendered histories of Central America.

Questions by the audience followed these presentations and led to a fruitful discussion about how their work connects/is impacted by current events in Central America.

Colonial Studies

"New Directions on Colonial Women's and Gender History." The Colonial Studies Section of CLAH held its annual roundtable at the 2025 AHA/CLAH meeting in New York City on Friday, January 3 from 1:30-3:00 PM EST.

This year's roundtable sought to bring together emerging scholars based both in North and South America working on women's and gender history in colonial Latin America. The three invited speakers were: Hannah Abrahamson (College of the Holy Cross), Marcella Hayes (University of Wisconsin-Madison), and Lisette Varón-Carvajal (Universidad de los Andes). In her role as chair, Ángela Pérez-Villa (Western Michigan University) welcomed the speakers and the attendees and framed the discussion by introducing the participants and explaining the roundtable's format. The roundtable's main objective was to facilitate a conversation about the speakers' innovative approaches to colonial women's and gender history and the challenges they face situating their work in interdisciplinary dialogues.

The chair created and circulated a draft of five questions among the speakers several months in advance. She requested speakers to provide feedback on the questions they would be asked to address at the roundtable based on their own experiences. The questions covered a range of issues that included historiographical trends, archives, and teaching. After the speakers' input, we agreed on these five questions: 1) Please tell us how your research interests place women and gender at the center of your work. 2) In what new ways does your current research contribute to the historical scholarship on women and gender in colonial Latin America? 3) What archives have you consulted? What issues have you faced at the archives or libraries where you search for your sources? What methodologies are you using to advance your work on women and gender? 4) How are you establishing dialogues/collaborations with scholars outside of your country who are writing about the history of women and gender in colonial Latin America? How can we strengthen intellectual exchanges with our colleagues writing and publishing across borders? 5) How are you teaching about your research on women and gender at your institutions today? How much support or resistance (from students, faculty, admin, etc.) have you encountered when teaching about this topic?

Colonial Studies (continued)

With the chair as moderator, the speakers answered each question by providing rich details and fun anecdotes from their times at the archives and in the classroom. In discussing her research on women in colonial Yucatan, Dr. Abrahamson shared that cultivating good relationships with archivists and librarians at different archives in Mexico and Spain has been crucial for her to locate sources to advance her work. One of her methods for analyzing sources involves exploring the layers between what women say and what is recorded on official documents. She highlighted how her research has been guided by the idea of "following" instead of "centering" women.Dr. Haves stated that her research on the roles of Black women as elected leaders in confraternities in seventeenth-century Lima has taken her to consult a variety of source collections including the archbishop's archives in Peru. She explained that her focus on freed and enslaved Black women as authority figures has allowed her to expand current approaches to the political history of that place and time. Dr. Varón-Carvajal explained that her research is motivated by questions that center common people, in particular women, as producers of medical knowledge in colonial New Granada. As such, one angle of her work seeks to understand how care was provided by women in the colonial world. She has engaged with scholarship on care, slavery, and gender to develop her own approach.

While all three speakers shared positive experiences consulting their archives and creating new and fruitful connections there, they also highlighted some of the challenges researchers can encounter at those sites. Catalogues with source descriptions that have no references to women, uncategorized boxes with deteriorating documents, and obsolete microfilm readers can slow down the research process and force researchers to come up with creative alternatives to find what they're looking for. On this topic, Dr. Varón-Carvajal specifically highlighted pressing issues at Colombia's national archive that include the growing restrictions to access original documents from the colonial and modern periods. Denying access to documents in their original or physical form raises concerns about the potential for research innovation, especially when archives lack the resources to make these sources available to the public digitally.

Colonial Studies (continued)

As for collaboration with colleagues writing from abroad, all speakers shared exciting collaborative projects they are or have engaged with on the topic of colonial women and gender. All three are part of intellectual networks in places like Germany, Spain, Colombia, the UK, and the US. They have worked or are currently working on book chapters, edited volumes, book translations, podcast episodes, and digital projects on women and gender with their collaborators in English, Spanish and Yucatec. Collaborating with colleagues from other networks and academes enriches and expands our field by adding multiple perspectives on old and new sources. On the question of teaching, all three speakers reported working in history departments where they are expected to teach women's history. In the case of Dr. Hayes, her department's long and robust emphasis on gender history has helped attract students to courses on women and gender in Latin America. Dr. Abrahamson has encountered diverse groups of students who enroll in her classes because they are interested in the subject matter, which makes the teaching all the more fulfilling. Dr. Varón-Carvajal said that students at her institution have demanded courses on gender in Latin America, but they also want to learn about it in the context of global histories.

After this, a lively audience of junior and senior scholars in the field joined the conversation and participated with additional questions about changes in the historiography on colonial women and gender, assigning women authors to course syllabi, funding research on women and gender, and researchers' status or positionality when visiting Latin American archives. The questions all touched on the different areas the speakers and the chair aimed to address in this roundtable, which generated enthusiastic exchange and, hopefully, ideas for future collaboration

Gran Colombia Studies

The 2025 Gran Colombia Studies Section of CLAH panel was on the theme of "Writing Black and Indigenous Histories of Gran Colombia: Archives, Politics, and Challenges." The chair and commentator was Yesenia Barragan (Rutgers University, New Brunswick); unfortunately Section Chair Constanza Castro (Universidad de los Andes) was unable to join us due to extenuating circumstances. Due to scheduling and other issues, only three of the original five panelists were able to join the panel: Bethan Fisk (University of Bristol, UK), Kaysha Corinealdi (Rutgers University, New Brunswick), and Laura Correa Ochoa (Rice University). Among the wonderful audience members were several Colombianists, including Joshua Rosenthal (Western Connecticut State University), Nancy Appelbaum (SUNY Binghamton), Pablo Gómez (University of Wisconsin, Madison), Ángela Pérez-Villa (Western Michigan University), and others.

The topic of the panel developed from a reflection on the past few years in the region, which has witnessed remarkable moments and victories in the Black and Indigenous histories of Colombia and the greater region from the inspiring installation of Colombia's first Afro-Colombian woman Vice President, Francia Elena Márquez, to the social movement power of Indigenous activists in Ecuador. Meanwhile, the panel creators were thinking back about how throughout the past two decades, studies on the autonomous and connected histories of Black and Indigenous people in Gran Colombia have exploded, rightfully locating such actors at the center of crucial historical narratives. This panel therefore sough to bring together emerging and established scholars whose scholarship engages with Black and Indigenous histories in Colombia and Panama from the sixteenth to the twenty-first centuries. The goal was for panelists to share their experiences researching, writing, and sharing their work on Black and Indigenous Gran Colombia, with a focus on the questions of archival practices, challenges, and politics.

Gran Colombia Studies (continued)

Yesenia Barragan decided to structure the panel chronologically, with Bethan Fisk, an early modernist, kicking us off. Fisk is a historian of slavery, cultural geographies, and the production of knowledge by people of African descent in Colombia and the African diaspora. She is the author of the forthcoming book on Cambridge University Press, Black Catholic Worlds: Religious Geographies of Eighteenth-Century Colombia, which offers the first full-length study on religious practice of people of African descent in eighteenth-century New Granada. As Fisk began, her work weaves together early modern Black histories of New Granada across and between the territory-including the Caribbean, Antioquia, and Pacific lowlands—and therefore required multi-sited archival research across these distinct regions. Working with fragments of fragments, Fisk's challenge was to tell cohesive, connective, yet place-based histories of people of African descent's spiritual and cultural lives in the relatively understudied period of the eighteenth century-something she was once told was an impossible task. Fisk's presentation centered especially on her work on the practice of Catholicism and everyday life on the gold mines of the eighteenth-century Pacific lowlands. One of the main challenges of this subject was the source base, which was based especially on estipendios (stipends), otherwise lifeless, bureaucratic economic records. Yet, as Fisk shows us, these records allow us rare insight into the administration of everyday religious life on the gold mines, which included the extraordinary situation of enslaved people themselves administering the sacraments. Fisk also engaged with the question of Black and Indigenous spiritual "entanglements" in the region, a theme that came up in the panelists' other presentations as well.

Gran Colombia Studies (continued)

Fisk was followed by Kaysha Corinealdi, whose work focuses on histories of empire, migration, feminism, and Afro-diasporic activism in twentieth-century Panama and the Americas. She is the author of Panama in Black: Afro-Caribbean World Making in the Twentieth Century (Duke University, 2022), which centers the activism of Afro-Caribbean migrants and their descendants as they navigated practices and policies of anti-Blackness, xenophobia, denationalization, and white supremacy in Panama and the United States. Corinealdi's presentation focused on her research for this book project and her current project, which is a speculative biography of Thelma King, a controversial political figure in twentieth century Panama. As Corinealdi fascinatingly laid out, one of the central issues of her research on Afro-Panamanian people centered on the archives: the national "state" archive in Panama was officially a color-blind archive where race, and therefore Black Panamanians, were not present. In contrast, Corineladi found race was everywhere in the local archives from neighborhood newspapers to the records of community associations, in addition to individual and personal archives. Her work, therefore, required navigating these various realms of racial "knowability." Corinealdi also crucially discussed the importance of "trust" in her work and the implications of working with what she called "living histories." Ethics, Corinealdi stated, is central to working with Afro-Panamanian history.

Corinealdi was followed by Laura Correa Ochoa, who specializes in the histories of race, ethnicity, political violence, and Black and Indigenous social movements and politics in Colombia and Latin America. She is currently completing her first book project, *Black and Indigenous Counterpoints: Race, Nation, and Mobilization in Colombia, 1930-2022*, which reconstructs the entwined and parallel histories of Indigenous and Black mobilization in Colombia and explores the role of race and ethnicity in broader social and political struggles, the making of state policies, and national narratives.

Gran Colombia Studies (continued)

Similar to Corinealdi, Correa Ochoa discussed the challenges of confronting a "deracialized" archive, which she also found in her research on twentieth and early twentieth-century Afro- and Indigenous Colombian radical politics. She discussed her archival experiences and challenges in what she described as "entangled" or "entwined" Afro-and Indigenous Colombian histories that are once connective and, some degree, autonomous. Correa Ochoa's presentation centered especially on the race politics of the Afro-Colombian social movement leader and thinker Manuel Zapata Olivella. Interestingly, as Correa Ochoa noted, some activists like Zapata did not find Blackness at odds with notions of "mestizaje," which is often assumed to be anti-Black. This forces scholars to think through the "messiness," as Correa Ochoa described, of race politics.

Barragan offered brief remarks on all three presentations and asked three questions: 1. How are the scholars engaging with the question of "region" vs. "nation" that is so integral to the field? 2. What are the theories behind this provocative framework of "entanglements" that run in and out of these scholars' work? And 3. How does their positionality—as insiders, outsiders, or somewhere in-between—affect their research process and greater work? The panel then had a lively discussion on these subjects, including a conversation about the "deep racialization" of the eighteenth-century archives, as Bethan phrased it, versus the deracialized of modern national archives, as experienced by Corinealdi and Correa Ochoa. The panel also discussed the need for new political questions as we enter a new political present. The Gran Colombia section looks forward to continuing these conversations at the 2026 AHA.

Mexican Studies

Chairs: Xóchitl Flores-Marcial (California State University Northridge) and Jorge Ramirez-Lopez (University of California, Los Angeles)

Panelists:

Itza Amanda Varela Huerta (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Xochimilco)

Pablo Miguel Sierra Silva (University of Rochester)

Chase Caldwell Smith (University of California, Los Angeles)

Mauro Mendoza Posadas (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)

Luis Sánchez-López (University of California, Irvine)

Julien Machault (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)

Indigenous and Afro-Black Mexico: Multiethnic and Multiracial Mexican Studies

The roundtable brought together historians, linguists, and interdisciplinary scholars from Mexico and the United States in a bilingual conversation about Indigenous and Afro-Black Mexican histories. The panelists explored the different methods, theories, and sources they utilize, spanning the colonial period to the twenty-first century. Moreover, discussions also centered on the ethics and responsibilities of writing about and with Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities; the importance of the local and the nation-state; and the shifts in the historiography. Listening to academics from Mexico and the United States added to the intimate conversations about how this history is written, when it can be written, and what is at stake. Together, the panelists highlighted that there is no Mexican history without attention to the growing scholarship, social movements, and experiences of these communities.

Dr. Itza Varela Huerta began with a powerful explanation about how the negro afromexicano movement since the late twentieth century draws on three different interpretations of their past (when their ancestors escaped enslavement, Africa as their origin, and Spanish colonialism) to create a strategic political claim as a historical people. This process enables them to speak with the Mexican state, civil society, and other pueblos negros on the continent despite their blackness erased by the mestizaje State project.

Mexican Studies (continued)

Dr. Varela Huerta maintains that the *pueblos negros* in the Costa Chica of Oaxaca and Guerrero transform themselves into political subjects in geographies where blackness is always seen as foreign. In doing so, they also expand their political discourse to create a capacious movement outside of the Costa Chica and includes those who don't identify as *negros*, *prietos*, or subscribe to heteropatriarchy.

Dr. Pablo Miguel Sierra Silva was next and discussed his expertise in Black/Native relations in the colonial period of Mexico, specifically the seventeenth century and extending into the eighteenth century. Following the work of Patrick Carrol, who argued for scholars to move beyond the colonial archive that can often overstate episodic violence and justify minority rule, Dr. Sierra Silva provided examples ways to do so, that explore moments of socialization between Black and Indigenous people including baptismal records, libros de matrimonio, and municipal ordinances. In the state of Puebla, municipal ordinances might emphasize restrictive demands intended to prevent Black and Indigenous people from interacting. Yet, these restrictions highlight socialization within these colonial spaces that were so common and mundane. For these reasons, Dr. Sierra Silva continued, we must understand local records that allow us to map social networks that go otherwise undetected. At the same time, not whitewashing colonial violence.

Chase Smith (PhD. Candidate) followed, underscoring how his presentation and project examines the religious knowledge encounters between European missionaries and Nahua peoples during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Smith emphasized that to understand Indigenous religion in the so-called "New World," the use of local context is key. What might we gain from moving away from traditional historiography that examines Spanish friar's point of view and gives attention to Indigenous scribes? As Smith discussed idolatry and the processes in which Europeans attempted to impose Christian terms and concepts globally in Mexico, the Philippines, and elsewhere, he described how Indigenous agency does exists within Indigenous language texts. Through these texts scholars can witness the creative forms of translations as well as the agency to negate, transform, and localize globally imposed ideologies.

Mexican Studies (continued)

Dr. Mauro Mendoza Posadas added to Smith's responses by bringing his expertise as a linguist on what he describes as "so-called 'Classical Nahuatl'" language. Dr. Mendoza Posadas' work adopts a different approach to these texts, examining the linguistic changes within Nahuatl language based on Castilian discursive genres and discursive traditions. Mendoza Posadas showed how Nahua history was transformed in the historical genre, from one that focused on the voices and actions that the narrator writes about to one more focused on the narrator's voice. Such changes in language form were not simply for the sake of doing so, but had theological basis, creating a link between Christian history and Nahua understandings. As he argues, Francisco de San Antón Muñon Chimalpain Cuahtlehuanitzin, the most important figure in colonial Nahua historiography from a Western perspective, introduced Mesoamerican time into "the universal horizon of Christianity."

Dr. Luis Sanchez-Lopez began by sharing his personal connection to his scholarship as a Zapotec scholar from Tlacolula, Oaxaca, Mexico. For Dr. Sanchez-Lopez, examining the everyday life of Zapotec pueblos in the nineteenth century through municipal ordinances and other local records can reveal the ways these Zapotec communities defined Indigenous citizenship. In a distinct period of Mexican statecraft that abolished racial categories and extended state citizenship to all males, Dr. Sanchez-Lopez reveals how Zapotec people negotiated tensions between state-imposed laws and their ancestral costumbres. This includes community members refusing their own authorities who were collecting state taxes, claiming that "since time immemorial" they never had to pay. Moreover, Sanchez-Lopez emphasized that settler colonial theory and a Critical Latinx Indigeneities framework has been crucial for him to understand his scholarship and place Mexico within a global history of settler colonialism. As he advocated, there has been an abundance of work on internal colonialism in Mexico that has not been taken up by scholarship on settler colonialism. His work stitches these threads together.

Mexican Studies (continued)

Finally, **Dr. Julian Machault**'s presentation gave us a different panorama of writing about Indigenous histories and how Maya people themselves understand periodization. The Maya community in which he was conducting archival work did not organize their world chronologically such as having a past era of slavery or the "Guerra de Castas" in their accounts. Rather, the Maya community, he came to learn, understands these Western notions of periodization as having no initial end. Slavery does not exist as a moment in time, but a condition that can happen again. At some point in their history, there was the presence of soldiers, and there may be yet again. Moreover, they understand history dialogically, in which community members offer a historical narrative, they collectively discuss, some may affirm or deny, and someone else begins to narrate. Conversations eventually end through consensus on what happened and what could echo back.

Jorge Ramirez-Lopez UCLA

Southern Cone Studies

Chair: Romina Green Rioja Secretary: Alison Bruey

The Southern Cone Studies Section roundtable, "The Politics of Doing Southern Cone History" convened on Friday, January 3, 2025, in New York City. Romina Green Rioja (Washington and Lee University) and Alison Bruey (University of North Florida) co-chaired the panel. The panel brought together four scholars to discuss their research and the politics of conducting research, producing scholarship, and/or relating to different academic legacies and historiographies. The panelists included Erika Edwards (University of Texas-El Paso), Camilo Trumper (SUNY-Buffalo), Debbie Sharnak (Rowan University), Ángeles Donoso Macaya (Borough of Manhattan Community College and The CUNY Graduate Center), and Heidi Tinsman (University of California-Irvine, unable to attend).

Romina Green Rioja introduced the panel theme, placing it into the context of longer conversations about the politics of doing Latin American history and the volume Reclaiming the Political in Latin American History: Essays from the North (Gilbert Joseph et. al., eds., Duke University Press, 2001). She presented the question of the political and ethical complexities of doing research and scholarship in the Southern Cone, and how doing this research and scholarship interrogates the politics of the past and the present. Alison Bruey introduced the panelists.

Erika Edwards discussed experiences of doing research as a Black woman in Buenos Aires and Córdoba, ways in which this affected everyday experiences in the cities and the archive, and how experience informs project development and processes. She outlined several challenges of engaging different academic legacies and historiographies. For example, silences and exclusions in the historiography shaped assumptions in the field about a lack of archival records regarding the experiences on Black women in colonial Argentina. She found, on the contrary, that this was inaccurate and that the lack of studies was not for lack of archival source material. Her presentation highlighted the nested layers of politics and temporalities that researchers face, from early in their projects to later stages of professional engagement in the research field and home contexts.

Southern Cone Studies (continued)

Camilo Trumper reflected on the question of what it means to be political and to do political history, drawing upon the essays in *Reclaiming the Political in Latin American History* and asking questions about what it means to draw together fragments to build something new. He described his new project about the history of writing in dictatorship: writing in the prison, street, school, home, exile, and archival writing. This study of writing can shed new light on forms of engagement with politics, dissent, and surveillance under dictatorship. He also engaged with the question of studying part of one's own or one's own family's history, and the tensions and challenges inherent to this process.

Ángeles Donoso Macaya discussed ways and modes of approaching archives, evidence, and the weight of evidence from multiple and interdisciplinary perspectives. For example, regarding the Lonquén massacre in Chile, the court evidence was unavailable until 2018 when the case was closed—this archival evidence consisted not only of written documents but objects and materials. The question of what evidence is available, when, and what weight it is given is a recurring one in the context of the dictatorship. Donoso's new project, a visual history of the agrarian reform in Chile unearths similarities between discourse in the 1960s and the 2021 debates over constitutional amendments, challenges posed by one's own family history in the context of doing research, and the place of the countryside in national politics and imaginaries.

Debbie Sharnak discussed the challenges of engaging different legacies of historiography and the logistics of research. She highlighted Steve Stern's call for historians to study political antagonists as subjects worthy of analysis and whose voices are authentic. This opens doors to greater complexity and dynamics that might otherwise pass unseen. For example, she has found that human rights discourse and advocacy generated both benefits and silences (Of Light and Struggle). Sharnak's discussion of her new research on Jewish internationalisms and Southern Cone dictatorships highlighted the politics and ethics of working with not-before-seen archival sources.

The audience posed insightful questions about the politics and ethics of doing history about, and in, certain times and places. The panel and audience engaged in a productive discussion about the continuing politics of doing Southern Cone history on various levels, bringing together conversations about personal experience conducting research, the challenges of working with multiple historiographies, and the process producing research that speaks to past and present.

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Teaching and Teaching Materials

CLAH Teaching and Teaching Materials Panel American Historical Association January 5, 2025 Report

While I was unable to attend this year's meeting, I am very grateful to the Teaching and Teaching Materials Section chair, Rebekah Pite for taking extensive notes at the panel which has allowed me to write this report.

8-10 people attended the 8:30am panel on Sunday, and according to Rebekah's notes, the discussion after the panel was lively and most agreed that the topic was timely and provocative.

There are three main themes that emerged from this panel on AI and its uses and pitfalls for today's students and academics. First, because the technology is changing so quickly, we as teachers need to emphasize that AI is a tool and one that potentially can obstruct our students' learning. At the same time, if students learn to use it correctly and creatively with our guidance, it can be beneficial to their educational journey. As Ivonne Wallace Fuentes stressed in her presentation, we need to provide meaningful ways for students to understand that learning takes practice, just like athletes and musicians practice their craft to learn new skills. She emphasized that students innately understand this analogy and stressed processoriented assignments in her presentation, emphasizing that "finding a humane balance with generative AI means not focusing on efficiency above all, but on how to use it productively and in a way that protects us and our students as novice learners."

Teaching and Teaching Materials (continued)

Second, students need to learn how to differentiate between the convenience of AI and the information that AI generates. In his presentation Fabricio Prado discussed how AI is here and not going away and we need to learn best practices to impart to our students. For example, he had his students in his History lab use ChatGPT to generate Excel charts to "that allowed them to think about relationship between goods and enslaved people (same people who were trading silk were also trading people)." Cassie Osei presented on how to teach students not to assume that AI is correct, especially when it comes to issues of race and gender. In her classrooms, she provides assignments that push students to explore the limits of AI by working with them to generate images of historical records and critique the stereotypical visions it tends to produce. They also read and consider alternative images, such as those produced by Mayara Ferrao who has created images to demonstrate black queer affect and joy using AI tools.

Third, and lastly, the use of AI depends on the institution and its students. Jesse Hoffnung-Garksof discussed how he works at a more conservative institution and that many of his colleagues approach AI with the idea of "covering their ears and not think about it." Because of the diversity of the student body at any given institution it is important to meet them where they are. For a legal project he is working on with students volunteers with Haitian migrants, he asks "can we use AI to help decide most helpful materials?" So far, the answer has been mostly no.

The panel presentation was followed by a robust discussion that emphasized how AI is here to stay but that we shouldn't necessarily panic. There was some discussion on giving ourselves grace in terms of coming to grips with AI, not just for us but also for the students. The key is to set up assignments that involve process rather than a finished product, and to consider using AI as a tool during that process rather than a shortcut to the product.

CLAH Award and Prize Recipients

James Alexander Robertson Prize

Committee: Jürgen Buchenau (chair), Adriana Chira, Romina Green

Winner: Alex Hidalgo, "The Echo of Voices after the Fall of the Aztec Empire," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 103, no. 2 (2023): 217-249.

Do we listen enough to our sources? This question guides Alex Hidalgo's compelling article "The Echo of Voices after the Fall of the Aztec Empire," which demonstrates that the sounds of coloniality, resistance, and empire were always present in early colonial sources. From church bells to the pulpits, the noise of the bustling market, and the cries of Indigenous Tenochca women at the sight and site of their executed male loved ones; he shows that colonial power relations in Mexico City emerged alongside an "acoustic ecology." Building on the scholarship on the history of sound dominated by European historians, Hidalgo considers the power of sound and silence in conversation with his previous work on space to escort the reader through the city soundscape to feel and imagine the joy, fear, and temporal reverberations of colonial life. "The Echo of Voices" is a welcomed contribution to the scholarship of Latin American history, reminding us that our documents carry with them the sounds of the past.

James Alexander Robertson Prize (continued)

Honorable Mentions:

Marc A. Hertzman, "The 'Indians' of Palmares: Conquest, Insurrection, and Land in Northeast Brazil," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 103, no. 3 (2023): 423-460.

Marc A. Hertzman's article tells the untold story of the Indigenous communities that lived on the land formerly known as Palmares, home to one of the largest fugitive slave communities, which also included Indigenous people. The article focuses on the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries after the defeat of Palmares and the death of its leader, Zumbi. Some of the local Indigenous population became what colonizers called the "Indians of Palmares," who, as they believed, wreaked havoc on Brazilian society just as the "Blacks of Palmares" had once done. Other Indigenous people pointed to the role of Indigenous fighters in Palmares' defeat as grounds for land claims as "loyal vassals" of the King. Deeply researched and beautifully written, this article provides a fascinating analysis on the place and the people that Zumbi's death left behind.

Alfredo Luis Escudero, "The New Age of Andeans: Chronological Age, Indigenous Labor, and the Making of Spanish Colonial Rule," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 103, no. 1 (2023): 1-30.

Alfredo Escudero crafts a compelling analytic angle on early Spanish colonialism in the Andes, chronological age, which pushes us to reconsider Euro-centric foundations of the modern state. The article scrutinizes colonial administrators' efforts to impose chronological age as a criterion for tributary status among Andeans during the sixteenth century. These efforts preceded those of administrative states to use age as a category for social engineering within Europe. With analytic acumen, Escudero documents a change over time in how administrators collected age data. At first, they relied on self-reporting and vague age brackets; by the end of the century, it was the administrators themselves who assigned age in increasingly precise and expanding records. "The New Age of Andeans" reveals the colonial angst underlying demographic data and conjures up an entire world from an unexpected source base—census age tabulations-that we could easily ignore as a mere grain of sand.

Antonine Tibesar Prize

Committee: Anne Hanley (chair), Sara Kozameh, and David Tamayo

Winner: Nancy E. van Deusen, "Why Indigenous Slavery Continued in Spanish America after the New Laws of 1542," *The Americas* 80, no. 3 (July 2023): 395-432.

We members of the Tibesar Prize Committee had the privilege of reading the articles published in The Americas in 2023 to select the article which best combines distinguished scholarship, original research and/or thought, and grace of writing style. The scholarly excellence and broad range of geographical and thematic topics made our job incredibly difficult, which was also a joy because we learned so much in reading them and even more in discussing them. The general reluctance to make a decision felt by all three members is an indication of the high quality of this Volume. In the end, though, we converged on two articles, one which wins the Tibesar Prize and the other which receives Honorable Mention.

The Tibesar Prize for the best article published in The Americas in 2023 goes to Nancy E. van Deusen for "Why Indigenous Slavery Continued in Spanish America after the New Laws of 1542" Vol 80, No 3.

This article is a study of something hidden in plain sight. When you read it, it makes you rethink everything you thought you knew about colonial Latin America. Van Deusen takes one of the most iconic milestones in early colonial Latin American history, the passage of the New Laws of 1542, obliterates the established interpretation of it, and rebuilds our understanding in a way that demands us to reexamine all it set in motion.

This article challenges the long-accepted and widely taught notion that the New Laws of 1542 ended indigenous slavery in the Spanish Indies and brought the excesses of the conquerors to heel. Thereafter, so the interpretation goes, indigenous slavery was sporadic, isolated, and in contravention of the crown's wishes. Van Deusen, marshalling abundant evidence to the contrary, asks, why do we continue to believe this story?

Antonine Tibesar Prize (continued)

Her examination of *gracia* and *gobierno* petitions shows that the crown was actively engaged in sanctioning legal Indigenous enslavement throughout the Americas. This was not the case of local bad actors understanding but choosing not to follow crown orders. Crown actions formally legitimated the enslavement of "at least 15 Indigenous groups in at least ten locations throughout the Spanish-occupied Western Hemisphere" for the better part of a century. (395)

The article takes the reader through the legal actions and interactions between individuals, courts, and the Crown to craft temporary and permanent legal enslavement orders affecting "the lives of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of Indigenous people." (401) The result is a legal maze, a sort of smorgasbord of methods, strategies, and options available to petitioners to ask the Crown for the legal right to enslave the Indigenous population for personal gain. This was no legal loophole exploited by locals to get around the law; this was law itself, the product of "a mutually beneficial system of governance" that served crown and conqueror alike. (426) This outstanding article overturns the established interpretation about one of the most important moments in colonial Latin American history. It is the very definition of excellence.

Honorable Mention: Rachael de la Cruz, "Revolutionary Refugee Policy: Salvadorans and Statecraft in Sandinista Nicaragua," *The Americas* 80, no. 1 (January 2023): 101-128.

This article is a major contribution to the fields of Central American Studies and Critical Refugee Studies. It examines the influx of refugees from the Salvadoran civil war into Nicaragua after the Sandinista Revolution, analyzing the ways the refugees were absorbed into Nicaraguan society and economy as a study in statecraft. De la Cruz's well-researched and persuasive analysis argues that the welcoming policies of the Sandinistas were not mere examples altruism by the revolutionary regime; these policies represented was savvy policies that accomplished several important goals.

Antonine Tibesar Prize (continued)

First, they settled the refuges on agricultural cooperatives, allowing the state to address labor shortages introduced by the regional unrest that, in the absence of a solution, would have wreaked economic havoc on the regime. Incorporating Salvadoran refugees into agricultural cooperatives helped maintain Nicaragua's levels of food and agroexport production. Second, these refugees gained access to health and literacy benefits as if they were full citizens of the nation. By offering the refugees social welfare services, the Nicaraguan state was able to present itself "as a humanitarian nation that provided social services to all, while simultaneously critiquing US and Salvadoran authorities" (115) whom they blamed for the refugee crisis. Importantly, the state managed the incorporation of the refugees into Nicaraguan economy and society in a way that did not harm the Nicaraguan peoples' job opportunities (something the US electorate is currently concerned about). This is a story about Walking the Walk; extending into 1990 as it does, the article offers a pointed and poignant reminder that elections matter. The Chamorro election in 1990 ended the Sandinista experiment and ushered in policy changes that vilified the refugees, causing many if not most to return to El Salvador.

De la Cruz offers an exciting approach to Central American history that we hope will serve as a model for scholars of this field. Most of the literature we have at our disposal to understand modern Central America is about how individual countries' histories, in one way or another, were shaped by their relationship to the United States. American hegemony in the region underscored virtually every era and every political, social, and economic development (read, "tragedy") experienced in the region. De la Cruz's research is different. The U.S. presence is present, but as a minor character in a history that brings the Central American actors front and center with a transnational approach to intraregional migrations and politics. This is an excellent work of historical research that offers us something new.

Paul Vanderwood Prize

Committee: Alex Borucki (chair), Elena Jackson Albarrán, Melissa Teixeira

Winner: Viridiana Hernández Fernández, "The March of Empire: The Californian Quest for Avocados in Early Twentieth-Century Mexico," *Global Food History* 10, no. 1 (2023): 109-133.

Viridiana Hernández Fernández coins the term "U.S. Agricultural Imperialism" to examine how the combined actions of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the University of California, and local farmers created the avocado industry in California in the early twentieth century. While benefiting from centuries of plant breeding and crop exchanges by people in Mesoamerica, this process disconnected avocados from its origins to market it as Californian to U.S. white consumers. This is an excellent agrarian study on a single commodity that intertwines the political economies of Mexico and the United States. It argues that US explorers, farmers, and scientists created a thriving avocado industry in California by extracting avocado genetic material from Mexico and then banning the importation of Mexican avocados to protect this nascent US industry from foreign competition. The article also examines the social and cultural history of those growing and consuming avocados leading to the 1980s avocado consumer's boom in the United States, concluding with a seemingly opposite process with the introduction of the Hass avocado from California to Mexico and the rise of Michoacán as leading producer.

Paul Vanderwood Prize (continued)

Honorable Mention: Ángela Pérez-Villa, "Enslaved Litigants, Emotions, and a Shifting Legal Landscape in Cauca, Colombia (1825-1831)," Journal of Social History 57, no. 1 (2023): 49-77.

Pérez-Villa approaches an understudied region of Latin America, the newly-formed Republic of Colombia, during a transitional historical period, to make a significant historiographical and methodological contribution. She draws from court records taken by enslaved new independence-era juridical in the system to demonstrate the dramatic cultural transformations taking place as judges tried to enforce the principles of secular liberalism in a society still accustomed to the religious or personal enforcement of moral codes. By focusing on this crucial period defined by the rise of new liberal legal codes and gradual emancipation laws, she convincingly shows how emotions like fear and pain influenced how high-ranking authorities imposed selective interpretations of the law that ultimately upheld a rigid and hierarchical social order defined by slavery. Her incorporation of methods drawn from the history of emotions opens a new pathway for interpretations. Her attention to the legal, social, and moral domains paints a vivid portrayal of a society in transition and the uneven process of dismantling the crumbling institutions of the colonial court system and slavery.

Lydia Cabrera Award

Committee: Kathleen Lopez (chair), Marc McLeod, Michelle Chase

Co-Winners:

- 1) Bonnie Lucero, "Powering the Laboring Body: Beef as a Product of Primary Necessity during Colonial Cuba's Plantation Slavery Boom, 1760s-1820s"
- 2) Dalia Griñan, "Tracing Intimate Knowledge': African Women in Nineteenth Century Urban Cuba"

Bonnie Lucero's book project analyzes how planters, intellectuals, colonial authorities and laboring populations confronted and experienced a crisis in beef provisioning during the critical years between the English occupation of Havana and the first Anglo-Spanish anti-slaving treaty. She contends that the designation of beef as a "product of primary necessity"—a dietary staple essential for maintaining order in colonial society—had far-reaching implications for local diets, provisioning strategies, commercial relations, and colonial governance. The project is notable for its chronological breadth, a transnational frame incorporating trade relations with the Southern Cone, and new lens through which to understand Cuba's enduring loyalism. Lucero will use the Cabrera award toward research in the Archivo Histórico Nactional in Madrid, the Archivo General de Indias in Sevilla, and the Leví Marrero Collection at Florida International University to examine records on ranching, food provisioning, and plantation slavery in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Cuba.

Dalia Griñan's dissertation project centers the everyday struggles and experiences of Black women in Havana (and to a lesser extent Santiago de Cuba) from the early nineteenth century through final abolition. She emphasizes the creation and circulation of knowledge through Black women's discursive spaces, such as domestic work, street vending, leisure activities, ritual healing practices, and kinship, and how such knowledge was mobilized to forge identities as citizens and women. Griñan will use the Cabrera award toward research in the Archivo Histórico Nacional in Madrid and the Archivo General de Indias in Sevilla to examine colonial records that provide insight into enslaved and free Black women's movements and across Havana and the archipelago.

James R. Scobie Award

Committee: E. Gabrielle Kuenzli (chair), Stephanie Huezo, John Marquez

Winners:

Marina Dadico Amâncio de Souza, University of California, Santa Cruz Francisca Espinosa Muñoz, University of California, Davis Thomas Miller, University of Florida Camila Sanhueza, University of California, Irvine

Lewis Hanke Post-Doctoral Award

Committee: Lance Ingwersen (chair), Gabriela Aceves Sepúlveda, Jorell Meléndez-Badillo

Winner: Haley Schroer

The committee wants to thank the applicants for this year's Lewis Hanke Post-Doctoral Award. All of the proposals the committee received were strong; the projects they described are deeply researched, inter- or cross-disciplinary, and innovative. Committee members feel certain that all have the potential to make important contributions to their respective fields.

One proposal, however, stood out for its scale, scope, and potential scholarly impact. The 2024 Lewis Hanke Post-Doctoral Award goes to Haley Schroer for the book project, "Sartorial Subversions: Appearance, Identity, and Sumptuary Legislation in the Spanish Empire." Dr. Schroer's research, which draws on legal complaints, Inquisitorial records, laws, and published treatises, shows how indigenous and African peoples, castas, crypto-Jews, and convicted heretics creatively negotiated socio-racial identities and standing in society by exploiting tensions between colonial authorities over enforcement of laws that sought to regulate the garments and adornments people could wear. The committee was especially impressed by the scope of Dr. Schroer's book project. It spans the years 1570 to 1700 and stretches geographically from Castille to Mexico City and Lima. Support from the Hanke Award will enable Dr. Schroer to conduct research in the National Archive and the Historic Municipal Archive in Lima, Peru, helping transform the scope and significance of the dissertation-turned-book project. The committee would like to note that Dr. Schroer's SSRC-funded research was cut short by the pandemic shutdown in 2020. The committee congratulates Dr. Schroer and looks forward to reading Sartorial Subversions.

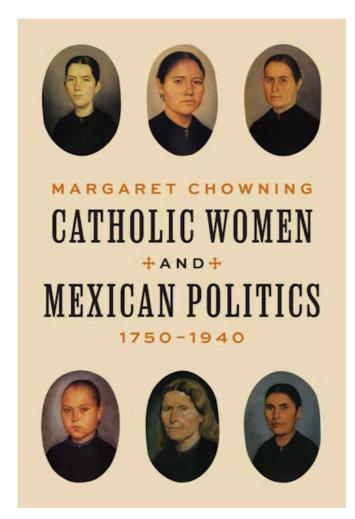
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María Elena Martínez Prize in Mexican History

Committee: Lisa Sousa (Chair), Melisa Galván, Germán Vergara

There are two winners of the María Elena Martínez Prize in Mexican History:

1) Margaret Chowning. Catholic Women and Mexican Politics, 1750-1940. (Princeton University Press).



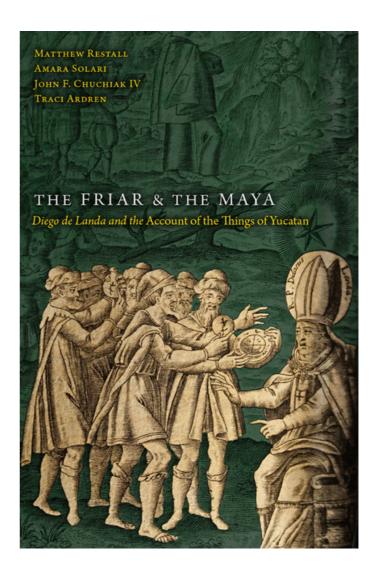
Chowning's Margaret Catholic Women and Mexican 1750-1940 Politics, monumental study that sheds light on women's defense of the Catholic church from the late colonial period through the early twentieth century. Chowning details women became increasingly involved in local lay religious organizations, known cofradías, which allowed them to gain leadership experience and the confidence of parish priests. Catholic women were deeply engaged in the "culture wars" of the era revolved around moral and ecclesiastical authority rapidly modernizing Mexico.

Despite their formal exclusion from political participation, women in cofradías emerged as forceful political advocates for the church by conducting petition campaigns and other activities to safeguard its interests. By integrating social and political history, Chowning demonstrates how women's activism in local parish associations was crucial in ensuring the Church's resilience amid the anticlerical currents of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

María Elena Martínez Prize in Mexican History (continued)

2) Matthew Restall, Amara Solari, John F. Chuchiak IV, and Traci Arden. The Friar and the Maya: Diego de Landa and the Account of the Things of Yucatan. (University Press of Colorado).

The Friar and the Maya: Diego de Landa and the Account of the Things of Yucatan makes a major contribution to the field Maya studies and Mexican ethnohistory. The book provides a scholarly translation of a manuscript that has long been attributed to fray Diego de Landa, along with seven critical essays by leading scholars of Maya studies. The translators and editors that demonstrate the manuscript is, in fact, a compilation of writings, some authored by Landa other and some by colonial observers, later assembled by Landa.

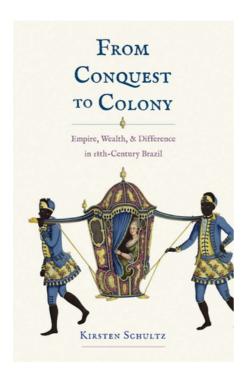


This new translation, complete with extensive notes, will become the definitive reference for scholars. The accompanying essays, which explore Landa's life and intellectual influences and examine the irregularities of the written texts and the visual components of the Account, further enhance the importance of this work.

Warren Dean Memorial Prize in Brazilian History

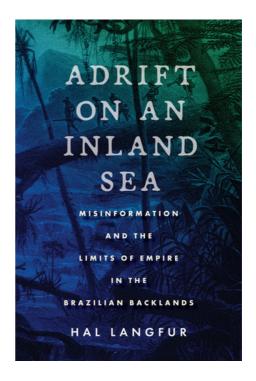
Committee: Sueann Caulfield (Chair), Marc Hertzman, Keila Grinberg

There are two winners of the Warren Dean Prize:



Kirsten Schultz, From Conquest to Colony: Empire, Wealth, and Difference in Eighteenth-Century Brazil (Yale University Press, 2023)

Kirsten Schultz's From Conquest to Colony: Empire, Wealth, and Difference in Eighteenth-Century Brazil delves deeply into the political administration and social developments of eighteenthcentury Brazil, an understudied but crucial era when Portuguese America transitioned from an object of colonial conquest to the colony that would later become modern Brazil. Schultz engages classic historiographies in a novel way, recovering their enduring insights while reinterpreting central tenets in light of a remarkably diverse array of archival sources. In lucid and economical prose, she brings eighteenth-century Brazilian society vividly to life, elucidating the distinctive story of the Portuguese colony while placing it in conversation with literatures from across the Americas.



Hal Langfur, Adrift on an Inland Sea: Misinformation and the Limits of Empire in the Brazilian Backlands (Stanford University Press, 2023)

Hal Langfur's Adrift on an Inland Sea: Misinformation and the Limits of Empire in the Brazilian Backlands is a gripping story that boldly reinterprets the foundations of Brazilian history. Recounting several largely forgotten Portuguese expeditions into obscure backlands sites, Langfur shows that the colonizers attempted to claim inland territories earlier and more vigorously than previously thought. Deep research in a variety of archives allows Langfur to paint rich portraits of fascinating historical subjects whose journeys and life histories reveal how the image of a wilderness that was "at once terrifying and alluring" shaped not only Portuguese territorial expansion in the Americas but the formation of Brazil's unique culture and society.

Susan M. Socolow and Lyman L. Johnson Prize

Committee: Fabrício Prado (Chair), Benjamin Bryce, Carmen Soliz

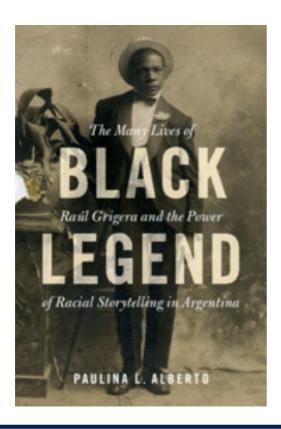
There are two winners of the Socolow-Johnson Prize:

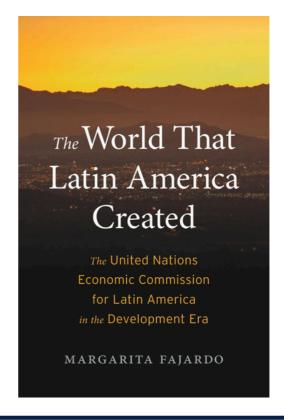
Paulina Alberto, Black Legend: The Many of Raúl Grigera and the Power of Racial Storytelling in Argentina (Cambridge University Press)

The committee was fascinated with the rigorous and creative archival research that pieced together the history of Raúl Grigera and the racial storytelling that emerged about him in Argentine society over the twentieth century. Rich in detail, deeply engaging, and powerfully written, the book smoothly moves from micro to macro analysis, offering an insightful perspective on the destructive power of racial storytelling in shaping national identity in twentieth-century Argentina. Black Legend brings to the forefront contemporary debates in Argentina about race, erasure, and myths.

Margarita Fajardo, The World that Latin America Created: The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America in the Development Era (Harvard University Press)

The committee was struck with the breadth of research and the scope of the argument. This book adds nuance and detail to foundational economic issues for contemporary Latin America and its history, notably dependency theory, monetarism, inflation, and development. Fajardo skillfully shows how Latin American intellectuals from Argentina, Chile, and Brazil engaged with UN organizations in the early postwar years to remake the international system of trade, finance, and debt. Fajardo's work challenges scholars to rethink South-North relations and the role of Latin American intellectuals in other parts of the world.





CLAH Teaching Award

Committee: Casey Marina Lurtz (chair), Takkara Brunson, Sarah Foss

Winner: Elena Jackson Albarrán

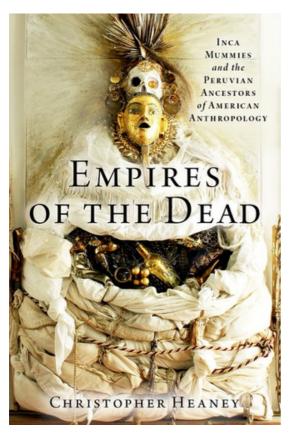
The inaugural CLAH Teaching Award committee is pleased to recognize Dr. Elena Jackson Albarrán of Miami University of Ohio for her contributions to the teaching of Latin American History. Over the course of her career and particularly as Latin American Studies has come under attack at her institution in the last few years, Dr. Albarrán has worked tirelessly to demonstrate the vitality and importance of providing opportunities for students to engage with the region's history, culture, and people. Through her work advocating for the Latin American Studies program at Miami University and the teaching she has done between there and the history department, Dr. Albarrán has integrated innovative pedagogy with community-centered service and mentorship. In the face of adversity, she built new classes to celebrate what Latin American history can be.

Honorable Mention: Jaclyn Sumner

We are also pleased to recognize Dr. Jaclyn Sumner of Presbyterian College for the diversity of ways in which she has promoted Latin American history as an integral part of undergraduate education. Through teaching of broad world history surveys alongside specialized seminars, mentorship and advising, study abroad, and administrative undertakings, Dr. Sumner has advanced the study of Latin American history across her school.

Bolton-Johnson Prize

Committee: Tatiana Seijas (chair), Tamara Walker, Benjamin Cowan



Winner: Christopher Heaney, Empires of the Dead: Inca Mummies and the Peruvian Ancestors of American Anthropology (Oxford University Press, 2023)

Empires of the Dead takes us on a historical journey with a remarkable geographical scope and ambitious periodization, from Cuzco to Madrid to Washington DC and through five hundred years. With graceful prose, imaginative argumentation, and an astonishing archival foundation, Heaney brings to life actors ranging from Inca Peruvian healers to doctors anthropologists to articulate a history that examines Native knowledge production, the legacies of colonialism, and the invention of academic disciplines.

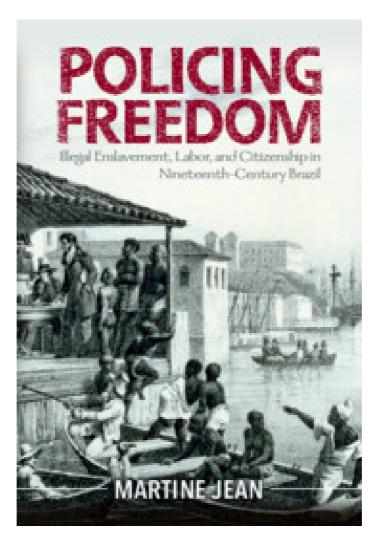
We now understand that Andeans produced knowledge about human bodies that subsequent generations repurposed for their own ends, specifically trepanation (cranial surgery), once a practice that extended the life of Andean people, and mummification, which, Heaney shows, extended "their social and sacred being." In turn, US anthropologists in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries repurposed Andean people's remains to advance their understandings of so-called human evolution and race, while Peruvian anthropologists sought to make anti-imperialist claims. Today, Andean peoples' ancestors are on display in museums, wrenched from their homelands and communities of the dead. As we hover between the five-hundredth anniversary of the arrival of Europeans in America, and the quarter-century mark after the passing of NAGPRA in the US, Empires of the Dead is a timely reminder of the importance of our own discipline of history. Heaney offers us an example of how to combine the methodologies of subfields, including ethnohistory, the history of science and technology, and social history to write a lively, engaging, and path-breaking monograph.

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Bolton-Johnson Prize (continued)

Honorable Mention: Martine Jean, *Policing Freedom: Illegal Enslavement*, *Labor*, *and Citizenship in Nineteenth-Century Brazil* (Cambridge University Press, 2023)

Policing Freedom offers new ways for understanding the history of slavery and the development of Brazil's carceral system. A novel contribution to a rich field, the book forces us to reconsider how we think about labor history and what constituted its signal moments. Looking beyond and through the gradual process of abolition and laws of emancipation, Jean calls attention to the realities of policing freedom in Brazil in ways that apply far beyond the country's borders.



Distinguished Service Award

Committee: Robert Alegre (chair), Erika Pani, Lara Putnam

Winner: Gilbert Joseph

The Committee unanimously selects Gilbert M. Joseph for the 2024 CLAH Distinguished Service Award. The award acknowledges Professor Joseph's exemplary service to the advancement of Latin American history. As scholar, institution builder, editor, and mentor, Professor Joseph has collaborated to create vibrant communities while setting intellectual agendas.

Professor Joseph's scholarly contributions, especially his introductions to edited volumes, reconceptualized a number of subfields, such as state formation, US-Latin America cultural relations, and Latin America's Cold War, to name a few. He has written four monographs, edited 13 volumes, and authored numerous influential articles. From his first monograph, Revolution from Without: Yucatán, Mexico, and the United States, 1880-1924, published in 1982, Joseph laid down a form of historical writing that combined close empirical local history set within the broader international political economy. His work on the Yucatán displayed a collaborative approach for which he became known, culminating in his 1996 monograph with Allen Wells, Summer of Discontent, Seasons of Upheaval: Elite Politics and Rural Insurgency in Yucatán, 1876-1915.

Joseph's edited volumes, Everyday Forms of State Formation: Revolution and the Negotiation of Rule in Modern Mexico, Close Encounters of Empire: Writing the Cultural History of U.S.-Latin American Relations, Fragments of A Golden Age: The Politics of Culture in Mexico Since 1940 and others, brought into conversation cutting-edge research from young and more established scholars. For these volumes, Professor Joseph authored erudite, wide-ranging introductions that synthesized scholarship, presented fresh conceptualizations, and suggested new avenues for inquiry. These essays, as former advisees note, helped make Latin American history "a place generative of theory."

Distinguished Service Award (continued)

During his over 50-year career, starting at the University of North Carolina--Chapel Hill in the late 1970s before moving to Yale University in the early 1990s, along with visiting appointments Duke University, Florida International University, and the University of Connecticut, Joseph has mentored an extraordinary number of students. He chaired over 60 doctoral theses and sat on the committees of over a hundred others at and beyond Yale. Notably, he brought undergraduates to the field of Latin American History, with twenty theses that he shepherded winning prizes. Professor Joseph's advising was recognized in 2002 with the Geoffrey Marshall Faculty Mentoring Award from the Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools.

Joseph seems to relish nurturing and developing institutions. At Chapel Hill in the 1980s, he led interfaith delegations to Nicaragua, helping to found UNC's Sister City Program with San Jorge. One of these delegations led to the formation of Witness for Peace. During his tenure at Yale, Joseph served an eleven-year term as director of the Council of Latin American and Iberian Studies, was past President of the Latin American Studies Association as well as past editor (with Stuart Schwartz) of the *Hispanic American Historical Review*. Professor Joseph has been remarkably successful in obtaining major grants that have supported the work of students and scholars. He continues to foster communities for history and justice through his service on the boards of the Lamar Center for the Study of Frontiers and Borders, the Gilder-Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery and Abolition, among others.

In sum, the Committee unanimously selects Gilbert M. Joseph for the 2024 CLAH Distinguished Service Award in his role as scholar, professor, institution builder, and mentor.

In Memoriam

In Memory of Richard J. Walter

Professor Richard J. Walter ("Rick") was born in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, and raised in Falls Church, Virginia. He earned his B.A. at Duke University in 1961, and his M.A. and PH.D in history from Stanford University in 1962 and 1966, respectively. Starting in 1965, Rick taught at Washington University for many years and chaired the History Department several times.

A prolific author, Rick began his career as an Argentine history specialist, publishing important works such as Student Politics in Argentina: The University Reform and Its Effects, 1918-1964 (Basic Books, 1968); The Socialist Party of Argentina, 1890-1930 (University of Texas, Institute of Latin American Studies, 1977); The Province of Buenos Aires and Argentine Politics, 1912-1943 (Cambridge University Press, 1985); and Politics and Urban Growth in Buenos Aires, 1910-1942 (Cambridge University Press, 1993). Switching over to other countries, Rick published *Politics and Urban* Growth in Santiago, Chile, 1891-1941 (Stanford University Press, 2005), and Peru and the United States, 1960-1975 (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2010). After he retired, he shifted gears and wrote spy novels. Twisted Tango (2012), Evita's Revenge (2016), and The Fernández Case (2020) were set in Argentina; Redemption in Cajamarca (2021) in Peru. Reflecting his deep knowledge of that country's history, Rick's fictional works avoid the stereotypical errors found in best-selling English-language thrillers about Argentina.

Rick was one of my mentors, although I never attended Washington University. Our research trips to Buenos Aires frequently overlapped, especially during my early career. He made me, a lowly assistant professor, feel comfortable among senior distinguished scholars like himself. Later on we also met at history and Latin American Studies conventions in the United States. Rick gave me good advice and took the time to read my writings thoroughly and provide excellent comments. I will always remember his gracious collegiality, good humor, and fair mindedness.

Richard Lyle Garner (1935-2024)

Richard Garner passed away on September 8, 2024 after a brief illness. Dr. Garner spent the bulk of his career as a Professor of History at Penn State University after earning his PhD from the University of Michigan where he studied under Charles Gibson. His research focused primarily on colonial Latin American history including long-term trends, price indices, mining output, growth rates, treasury operations. He published a major work, "Economic Growth and Change in Bourbon Mexico" (University of Florida Press) in 1993. Dr. Garner continued researching and writing after retiring from Penn State. His study of mining trends in the United States led to the publication of "The Comstock: An Economic History of a Mining Bonanza, 1860-1885" (available free online). His final work, "To Rule Oneself" examined the new and profoundly different form of governance born of the American Revolution (full text available here).

Dr. Garner's books, articles, and other publications can be accessed at <u>History Data Desk</u> where he also kept an extensive catalog of data and articles (his own and others') related to his research.

AB Drew University, History & Economics, 1957
MA University of Pittsburgh, History, 1960
PhD University of Michigan, 1970
(PhD Dissertation, "Zacatecas, 1750-1821: A Study of a Late Colonial Mexican City", directed by Dr. Charles Gibson. Committee included Sam Bass Warner, Harold Wethey, Eric Wolf)

Richard was born in Mercer, a county seat in northwest Pennsylvania on the Ohio border, to Ruth and Lyle Garner. His folks did a lot of things, including running a clothing store on the courthouse square, and his father Lyle mined coal in the western PA hills. In college on the East Coast, he spent his time listening to music in NYC jazz clubs, seeing shows on Broadway, and even sitting in the stands for Don Larsen's perfect World Series game, back when you could just walk up and buy a game-day ticket.

He ultimately found his way to a career in academia, first at the University of Iowa and then in Ann Arbor for his PhD before settling down as a history professor at Penn State. The trip from Ann Arbor to Pennsylvania involved a one-year detour to Toulouse, France, for his wife Diane's Fulbright where he formed a lifelong love of French living, especially the food, wine and language.

In retirement, he moved to Lake Tahoe and took up skiing, and then he sold what he had and moved to a tiny apartment in Paris's 4th Arondissement. He didn't really speak French, but "make it work" could probably be considered his life's motto. Once the grandkids reared their lovely little heads, in the early 2000s, he moved back to the US and took up residence in Ann Arbor where he enjoyed everything the University of Michigan and the city had to offer. He will be sadly missed.

From his family: Pete, Kris, and Carol

In Appreciation: CLAH Endowment and Fund Contributors

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