



# Conference on Latin American History

FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

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# 2024 CLAH Officers and Committees

## Executive Committee

**President** - Celso Castilho

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

**Past President** - Ben Vinson III

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

## Elected Council Members

Elizabeth Schwall (2023-2024)

Fabrício Prado (2023-2024)

Marissa Nichols (2023-2024)

Mary Hicks (2024-2025)

Diana Montaña (2024-2025)

Daniela Samur (2024-2025)

## Ex-Officio Council Members

*HAHR* Editor: William Summerhill

*The Americas* Editor: John F.  
Schwaller

H-LatAm Editor: Marc Becker

## Standing Committees

### Nominating Committee

Elena Schneider (chair)

Yanna Yannakakis

Oscar Chamosa

### Program Committee

Sarah Sarzynski (2024 chair)

Renata Keller (2025 chair)

Daniel Mendiola

## Regional and Thematic Sections

### Andean Studies

Renzo Aroni, Chair

Marlen Rosas, Secretary

### Atlantic World Studies

Ernesto Mercado-Montero, Chair

### Borderlands/Frontiers

Erick Langer, Chair

María de los Ángeles Picone, Secretary

### Brazilian Studies

Sarah Sarzynski, Chair

Jennifer Eaglin, Secretary

### Caribbean Studies

Jorell Meléndez-Badillo, Chair

Joan Flores-Villalobos, Secretary

### Central American Studies

Sylvia Sellers-García, Chair

Stephanie Huevo-Jefferson, Secretary

### Chile-Río de la Plata Studies

Romina Akemi Green, Chair

Alison Bruey, Secretary

### Colonial Studies

Guadalupe García, Chair

Ángela Pérez-Villa, Secretary

### Gran Colombia Studies

Constanza Castro, Chair

Yesenia Barragán, Secretary

### Mexican Studies

Xóchitl M. Flores-Marcial, Chair

Jorge Ramirez-Lopez, Secretary

### Teaching and Teaching Materials

Pilar Maria Herr, Chair

Rebekah Pite, Secretary

# Message from the President

4 November, 2024

Greetings! This newsletter brings you important updates on the CLAH's plans for the annual conference in New York City, alongside other news about the upcoming elections, and the summer reports from the Scobie award winners. As president-elect, **Alejandra Bronfman**, and I move into gear on forming next year's prize committees, we're again reminded of the amazing efforts put forth by the executive directors at **UTEP** who keep the CLAH going. I'm so grateful for Drs. **Erika Edwards** and **Christina Villarreal**, who at this stage of the year have finalized the conference program and assembled the list of prize winners. Congratulations to the winners, and thank you to the prize committees.



Also, I want to acknowledge the nominating committee—**Elena Schneider (chair)**, **Yanna Yannakakis**, and **Oscar Chamosa**—for bringing forth an exciting new round of leaders; equally, thank you to everyone who is up for a nomination! Please remember to vote!

Erika Edwards and Christina Villarreal are also coordinating the coming changes to the **CLAH Luncheon** and **Evening Reception**. Explained in better detail in Villarreal's column, the executive committee and general council last year took a hard, but necessary decision, to move on from the luncheon, and to instead fold in the presentation of awards into the CLAH's evening reception.

I am happy to share that the CLAH is recognizing **Gil Joseph** with the **Distinguished Service Award**. As scholar, institution builder, editor, and mentor, Professor Joseph has created vibrant communities and set intellectual agendas. The nomination letters referenced the 60+ doctoral theses he has chaired, as illustrative of the broad roles he's had in shaping the field of Latin American history; Joseph's advising has also included directing 20 prize-winning undergraduate theses. He is past president of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), and served as co-editor of the *Hispanic American Historical Review*, among other notable efforts. We look forward to honoring Joseph and his students in New York City, and are thankful to the Distinguished Service Award Committee, **Rob Alegre (chair)**, **Lara Putnam**, and **Erika Pani**, for their efforts.

The **CLAH Presidential Panel** this year will build on last year's conversations on the current standing of Latin American history. **What is our project?** How is the social context of the early 21st-century bearing on the questions we ask, the publics we engage, and the cross-field and disciplinary dialogues we are undertaking? This year, the discussion will specifically center on the relationship between our field and important, structural changes happening in higher education—namely, the vast expansion of **Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs)** and the continued growth of Latino undergraduates nationally, which almost reaches 25% overall. HSIs are home to two-thirds of the Latinx student population. We have convened scholar-administrators who are currently, or were recently in different leadership positions—deans, department chairs, and/or center directors—to share their perspectives. I am looking forward to moderating a conversation with esteemed colleagues, **Bianca Premo** (Florida International University), **Alejandra Bronfman** (University of Albany), **Daryle Williams** (UC Riverside), and **Lori Flores** (Stony Brook University). Ultimately, the goals are to, both, think critically about our project vis-à-vis these changes in higher education, and to also consider what role we could have as scholars of Latin American history in invigorating the intellectual project of HSIs.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in New York!

Respectfully,

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

Celso Thomas Castilho  
Vanderbilt University



## Message from Co-Executive Director Christina Villarreal

Hello from El Paso,

This is my second year serving as co-executive director of CLAH and I have enjoyed working with many of you. In the upcoming year, I plan to work closely with the section secretaries to create more field-specific conversations beyond the yearly meeting. I am also excited to begin planning CLAH's Centennial Anniversary, which we will celebrate at the 2026 Chicago meeting.

I look forward to gathering with many of you in January to celebrate and share the important work our members are doing and acknowledge the work ahead. Our excellent slate of panels and roundtables for the NYC meeting will also enrich your conference experience. To get the most out of our time together, we have made some changes to the program.

We are very excited to host our first **extended CLAH Awards Ceremony and Reception** on Saturday, January 4, 2025: 7:00 PM-10:00 PM. As President **Celso Castilho** mentioned, we have planned this extended **Evening Reception** instead of a separate luncheon to maximize participation and cut down on costs. Indeed, attendance is free for all current members (2024 membership), and \$50 for all other guests. Plan to attend and share food, drink, and fellowship. To accommodate this change, sections will meet during the day. These changes are meant to improve your experiences at the annual conference and increase opportunities that support collaboration, research, and recognition.

Lastly, I would like to end with a reminder. To remain a robust organization, we rely on our membership dues. In addition to supporting our annual meeting, dues fund our numerous awards and prizes. We are committed to keeping the cost low! However, we can only maintain this tradition if members remember to pay their dues. To make it easier to track your membership, we have adjusted our annual membership cycle to match the calendar year, or Jan 1-Dec 31. If you are attending the annual conference, we highly encourage that you stop by our CLAH information table, say "hello," and pay your annual dues.

Sincerely,

Christina M. Villarreal



## Gilbert M. Joseph, 2024 CLAH Distinguished Service Award Winner

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

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."

## **Gilbert M. Joseph, 2024 CLAH Distinguished Service Award Winner (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.

## Fall 2024 CLAH Election

Follow the link below or scan the QR code to access the ballot and cast your vote in this year's CLAH officer election! It has also been sent out to the CLAH listserv. Please vote by **December 5**.

The Vice President and general committee members each serve for a term of two years, from January 2025 to January 2027. The Vice President will additionally serve as the President from 2027 to 2029.

You may cast your vote for **one** candidate for Vice President, **two** candidates for tenure-track general committee member, **one** candidate non-tenure-track general committee member, and **one** candidate for each section secretary position.

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

## FALL 2024 BALLOT





## Vice President

### 1) Herman L. Bennett, City University of New York

I am Distinguished Professor of the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY) and the author of three books: *Africans in Colonial Mexico: Absolutism, Christianity, and Afro-Creole Consciousness, 1570-1640* (2003); *Colonial Blackness: A History of Afro-Mexico* (2009); and *African Kings and Black Slaves: Sovereignty and Dispossession in the Atlantic* (2018). I consider myself a student of both Latin America and the early modern African diaspora focused on how dispossessed peoples navigate power to include staking claims to structures of dominance. At its core, my work engages the earliest formations of blackness, experiences that I view as inseparable from the historical configuration of both Latin America and the West. Re-writing the history of the West from its margins plays a considerable role in my relationship to the historical profession. As a perspective, it has meant that I am constantly searching for ways to assist students and colleagues in seeing themselves as stakeholders so as to negotiate the workings of institutions and cultural formations with the ability to effect change in existing structures. Governance matters and I strongly believe that our engagement with the institutional mechanisms shaping our discipline, universities, and profession still warrants our attention. I am a recipient of the Equity Award of the American Historical Association (2012) and the soon-to-be former President of the Renaissance Society of America.

### 2) Paulina L. Alberto, Harvard University

Paulina L. Alberto, Professor of African and African American Studies and of History at Harvard University, is a historian of Afro-Latin American lives, thought, and politics as they unfolded in the aftermath of slavery, particularly in Brazil and Argentina. Her work explores the intersections of ideas of race and nation in Latin America, with a focus on how Afro-Latin Americans have shaped and contested the region's ideologies of racial inclusiveness in their ongoing struggles for recognition and equality. She is the author of *Terms of Inclusion: Black Intellectuals in Twentieth-Century Brazil* and *Black Legend: The Many Lives of Raúl Grigera and the Power of Racial Storytelling in Argentina*. She is co-editor of *Rethinking Race in Modern Argentina* and, most recently, of *Voices of the Race: Black Newspapers in Latin America, 1870-1960*. Alberto loves the classroom as much as the archive; her teaching includes courses on Modern Latin American history, Afro-Latin America, the Black Press of Latin America, racial ideologies in Latin America, and the methods of cultural history and narrative history. She is honored to accept this nomination to serve as Vice-President of CLAH and sees it as an opportunity to give back to a community (her favorite professional organization) that has done so much to support and recognize fellow historians of and from Latin America.

## General Council Members (Tenure Track)

### 1) Ernesto Capello, Macalester College

I am Professor of Latin American History at Macalester College and affiliate scholar at the FLACSO in Quito. I joined CLAH in 2005, am a member of the Gran Colombia and Andean Studies sections, and have served as a presenter, organizer, or chair of over 20 panels. I have also served on LASA section councils (Visual Culture/Ecuadorian Studies), am on the AHA's working group for small liberal arts colleges, and co-edit a series with University of Texas Press. Besides supporting CLAH's already open space for Latin Americanist historians, I would be interested in exploring further international and interdisciplinary connections if elected.

### 2) Adriana Chira, Emory University

I am a historian of Cuba and the Atlantic world at Emory University. CLAH has been an essential community in my trajectory: a vibrant intellectual space where I felt encouraged to exchange ideas as early as graduate studies; a group of highly engaged teachers who respond perceptively to our students' needs and aspirations; and an organization with a political heart and consciousness. As a council member, I would continue to support these facets of CLAH, while also think about new ways for us to respond to ongoing or new threats to our work: most notably, to our freedom of expression inside the classroom and beyond, job security, and the very content of what we teach. My experience consists of chairing the Colonial Section roundtable and serving on an AHA committee.

### 3) Jennifer Lambe, Brown University

Jennifer Lambe is an Associate Professor of Latin American and Caribbean History at Brown University. Lambe's work, which has received support from the American Council of Learned Societies, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Coordinating Council for Women in History, and the Cuban Heritage Collection, explores the intersection between political history, intellectual history, and popular culture. She is the author of *Madhouse: Psychiatry and Politics in Cuban History* (University of North Carolina Press, 2017) and *The Subject of Revolution: Between Political and Popular Culture in Cuba* (University of North Carolina Press, 2024). Together with Michael Bustamante, Lambe is also the co-editor of *The Revolution from Within: Cuba, 1959-1980* (Duke University Press, 2019). She currently serves as the Associate Editor of the journal *Cuban Studies* (University of Pittsburgh Press).

## General Council Members (Tenure Track) (continued)

### 4) Andre Pagliarini, Louisiana State University

Andre Pagliarini is assistant professor of history and international studies at Louisiana State University, a fellow at the Washington Brazil Office, and non-resident expert at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft. In addition to publishing articles in *Latin American Research Review*, *The Latin Americanist*, *The International History Review*, and *Latin American Perspectives*, he has written widely on Latin American politics in *New Republic*, *The Guardian*, *New York Times*, *Foreign Policy*, and *Jacobin*, among other publications. He is currently revising a book manuscript on the politics of nationalism in twentieth-century Brazil for University of California Press and another on the intertwined histories of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and modern Brazil for Polity Press. Having spent much of my early career trying to contribute historical analysis to popular debates over current events in Latin America, I am drawn to the CLAH's mission of "encourag[ing] the diffusion of knowledge about Latin America through fostering the study and improving the teaching of Latin American history." Teaching Latin American history is absolutely central to improving U.S. policy toward Latin America in a macro sense, a goal to which I am committed in my work as an academic. I would be grateful for the opportunity to contribute to that objective as a member of the CLAH council.

### 5) José Juan Pérez Meléndez, University of California, Davis

I am a historian of Latin America and the Caribbean who specializes on nineteenth-century Brazil in broad Atlantic and world history contexts. Having previously served on CLAH's Centennial and Robertson Prize Committees and having long benefitted from CLAH's work for the AHA's annual meetings, I look forward to returning some service to our top professional association and more actively collaborating with colleagues involved in it. My hope is that we can continue to sustain CLAH's robust work and to increasingly draw in and center emergent scholars in the field.

### 6) Jaclyn Sumner, Presbyterian College

I am Associate Professor and Chair of History at Presbyterian College. My book, *Indigenous Autocracy: Power, Race, and Resources in Porfirian Tlaxcala, Mexico*, just came out with Stanford University Press in 2024, and I would love the chance to bring my perspective—as a successful scholar teaching a heavy teaching load at a rural, southern SLAC—to CLAH, which is often dominated by faculty who work primarily at R1 institutions. My research has been funded by the Fulbright foundation, ACLS, and others. I have previously served on the Executive Board, including as president, of the Southeastern Council on Latin American Studies, and I am currently chair of my department.

## General Council Members (Non-Tenure Track)

### 1) Breanna David, University of Alabama

Breanna David is a PhD student in modern Latin American history at the University of Alabama (M.A., UNC Charlotte '23). There, she is the Latin Americanist TA and the Assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer for the Southeastern Council on Latin American Studies (SECOLAS). Her research interests include modern Mexico, the Spanish Civil War, and twentieth-century immigration, political, and diplomatic history. Her current research explores twentieth-century Mexican foreign relations during the Cold War. She published her first article, "Ins and Outs: Immigration Policies in Early 20th Century Mexico and the Arrival of Spanish Immigrants and Exiles," in *The Latin Americanist* in March 2024. Breanna has a strong commitment to CLAH, as she will be presenting at the Annual Conference for the third time this coming January and has done service for the organization by scanning the archive of newsletters.

### 2) Haley Schroer, Texas Lutheran University

Haley Schroer is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Texas Lutheran University, specializing in colonial Latin America. Her book project, "Sartorial Subversions: Appearance, Identity, and Sumptuary Legislation in the Spanish Empire," explores the tensions between sumptuary laws - statutes that barred select groups from wearing certain garments or using socially charged items - and the ways in which marginalized populations crafted their own socio-racial identities. As an advocate for graduate students and early-career scholars, Schroer looks forward to promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, creating new professional development opportunities, and contributing to the organization's growth as a premier site for intellectual exchange in Latin American history.

### 3) Luah Batina Tomas, York University

I am an international PhD student in Canada, originally from Brazil, with a research focus on South American women's and gender history of the 20th century. I have experience participating in councils such as this as I was a member of the International Studies Association, Feminist Theory and Gender Studies section, in 2022-2023, and I was elected as the graduate representative in the Graduate Commission of the University of São Paulo's International Relations Institute during my Masters program. I can liaise between North and South scholars, having been a graduate student in both, while being aware of international students' struggles in the US and Canada.

## Section Secretaries

### Andean Studies

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

Professor of International Relations and Director of the International Relations Program, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú

Ph.D. in History from Stony Brook University. Professor of International Relations and Director of the International Relations Program at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. Former fellow of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) and the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). Co-author of the books "La política en el Perú del siglo XX", with Henry Pease (PUCP, 2013) and "Alineamiento y desafío. La política exterior peruana en los gobiernos de Odría y Velasco", with Javier Alcalde (PUCP, 2014). My future book project, tentatively titled High Voltage: Hydroelectric Development and Political Power in Peru, is set to be published by the University of Nebraska Press in 2025.

If elected to serve as secretary of CLAH's Andean Studies Section, first and foremost, I will fulfill all administrative duties in an orderly and timely fashion. More critically, as a scholar living and working in Peruvian academia, I will strive to include more members from Andean countries so that they will have greater presence in conferences such as the AHA annual meeting, aiming to make CLAH a truly hemispheric organization in both participation and governance, as well as creating greater linkages between academics north and south of the continent.

#### **Silvia Escanilla Huerta**

Postdoctoral Fellow for Faculty Diversity, University of Maryland Baltimore County

Silvia Escanilla Huerta is the Fellow for Faculty Diversity in the History Department at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). Escanilla Huerta is well acquainted with the logistical skills necessary to organize conferences, having joined two steering committees for conferences organized at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the Newberry Library in 2015 and 2019, respectively. As a historian of the independence period, Escanilla Huerta envisions panels that bridge the divide between the colonial and the modern era and foster a much-needed dialogue between colonialists and modernists.



## Andean Studies (continued)

### George Ygarza

Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Pennsylvania

George Ygarza is a first-generation scholar with a Ph.D. in Global Studies. He has taught and worked across a number of academic institutions, most recently as a Mellon postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania as part of the research team for the Disposessions in the Americas (DiA) project. George made two contributions for the DiA, a historical analysis of extractivism and an examination on contemporary Quechua revitalization. George's plan for the Andean section is to deepen critical and interdisciplinary work. George envisions a year where the section expands its network and influence across higher education through transformative collaborations.

## Atlantic Studies

### Mary Hicks, University of Chicago

I, Mary Hicks, am an associate professor of History at the University of Chicago. My work analyzes the complex economic and cultural dynamics which tied together Latin America and Africa during the era of the transatlantic slave trade, with an evolving focus on gender. My forthcoming book is titled *Captive Cosmopolitans: Black Mariners and the World of South Atlantic Slavery, 1721-1835*. On the Atlantic Studies Section committee of CLAH, I would build on a strong tradition of trans-regional collaboration and continue to encourage greater global inclusion for attendees of the annual meeting, including participation from scholars based in Latin America, Europe and Africa. Because of the multinational and interdisciplinary nature of Atlantic studies scholarship, thinking proactively about accessibility is the key to maintaining a rich dialogue between historians working across geographic areas and academies.

## Atlantic Studies (continued)

**Farren Yero, Lehigh University**

I am a historian of colonial Latin America and the Atlantic World, working at the intersection of the health humanities, digital scholarship, and critical studies of gender and race. I received my PhD in History and Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies from Duke University (2020) and have recently been a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh and at the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture at the College of William and Mary. Currently, I teach at SUNY-Binghamton University and will be joining the Department of History at Lehigh University as an assistant professor next fall. I am finishing a book titled *Atlantic Antidote: Race, Gender, and the Birth of the First Vaccine*, a labor history of family and smallpox prevention in the Spanish Empire, and have begun working on a second project—on slavery and mythologies surrounding the first smallpox epidemic in the Caribbean. Born and raised in Florida to descendants of eighteenth-century Minorcan settlers, my work in Atlantic history grew out of an abiding and personal interest in the place of borderlands and the lives of people who were shaped by the currents of trans-imperial circulation, competition, and cooperation. My vision for the Atlantic Studies section of CLAH is to foreground the scholarship of graduate students and junior scholars who are working with and developing their own interdisciplinary methods that can help move the field toward more creative and capacious approaches to the intimate experiences of Atlantic life.

**Casey Schmitt, Cornell University**

My name is Casey Schmitt and I am an Assistant Professor of History at Cornell University where I teach classes on Atlantic, early American, and Caribbean history. My first book, *The Predatory Sea*, is in production with the University of Pennsylvania Press and examines human trafficking and colonization in the Caribbean between 1570 and 1670. I would be honored to serve as an officer for the Atlantic section of CLAH because I see it as an invaluable venue for encouraging dialogue between scholars working in disparate fields and vast chronologies and geographies. If elected, I'd like to see the Atlantic history section of CLAH contribute to wider debates about historiographical framings such as Vast Early America or Global History. Atlanticists are invaluable to these debates, especially through drawing on the framings/methodologies of Atlantic history to reframe and recenter geographies and events that are at risk of being overshadowed by the vastness of early America or the even vaster Global History turn.

## Borderlands

### Michael Aguirre

University of Nevada, Reno

Aguirre is Assistant Professor of Latina/o/x and Borderlands History at the University of Nevada, Reno. His work centers working-class lives on the U.S.-Mexico borderlands in the later twentieth century. Aguirre is completing his first book, *Transborder Possibilities: Work, Healthcare, and Activism Across the Imperial-Mexicali Valleys* (under contract with the University of North Carolina Press). His next project focuses on the relationship between borders and disability. Aguirre maintains affiliations with Gender, Race, and Identity (University of Nevada, Reno) and the Borderlands Institute (San Diego State University). From 2019-2021, Aguirre was a postdoctoral fellow with the Inequality in America Initiative at Harvard University.

### Ximena Sevilla

University of Rhode Island

I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of History at the University of Rhode Island. I earned my Ph.D. in History and an M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Kansas. As an environmental historian of Latin America from Lima-Peru, I'm interested in combining my fieldwork and archival work to produce the history of frontier zones, Indigenous peoples, and oral history of the Andean-Amazon Interface.

### Joaquín Rivaya-Martínez

Texas State University

I am a professor of History at Texas State University. I hold a PhD in Anthropology from UCLA and am a fellow of SMU's Clements Center for Southwest Studies. I specialize in the early history of the Indigenous peoples of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. If elected, I would strive to bring to the Borderlands Section of the CLAH the sort of international and cross-disciplinary collaboration that characterizes my scholarship, exemplified most recently in my edited book *Indigenous Borderlands: Native Agency, Resilience, and Power in the Americas* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2023).

## **Brazilian Studies**

**Jacob Blanc**  
McGill University

Hello everyone, my name is Jake Blanc, and I would look forward to bringing to the CLAH Brazil section my insight as a scholar of human rights and memory as well as my experience working in universities in three countries: I am originally from the USA (undergrad at the University of California-San Diego and PhD from the University of Wisconsin, Madison), I taught for six years University of Edinburgh, and I am now at McGill University, in Canada. And with my long-standing collaborations at universities across Brazil, I would seek to strengthen and expand the section's international networks.

**Courtney J. Campbell**  
University of Birmingham

Learning all that I can about Brazil has been my passion since moving to Recife, where I lived, worked, studied, and researched for several years. I am now an Associate Professor of Latin American History and Joint Director of the Brazil Institute at the University of Birmingham. As Secretary/President of the Brazil Section, I look forward to organizing a dynamic panel for our 2026 AHA/CLAH meeting in Chicago, pulling together new, bold, exciting voices in the field at a time when we so desperately need perspectives that break open our views of Brazilian history, culture, and politics.

**Thomas D. Rogers**  
Emory University

I am Professor of History at Emory University and the author of two books on the labor and environmental history of sugarcane agriculture in Brazil. A transnational history of ethanol in Brazil and the United States, co-authored with Jeffrey Manuel, should appear in 2025. I am currently working on a project that views the political, economic, and cultural transition of the 1970s, 80s, and 90s through the fates of a handful of companies and the experiences of people who worked for them. I would be interested in a discussion of commodity frontiers, liberalization and neoliberalization, or any other theme that sparks people's interest.

## Caribbean Studies

### **Anasa Hicks**

Florida State University

Anasa Hicks is Timothy Gannon Associate Professor of Caribbean History at Florida State University. She writes and teaches about gender, race, labor and sexuality in the Hispanic Caribbean. Her book, *Hierarchies at Home: Domestic Service in Cuba from Abolition to Revolution*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2022. Her second book project, *Carlota's Heirs: Masculinity and Military Service in Revolutionary Cuba*, will explore the experiences of veterans of Cuba's wars on the African continent. Anasa's research has been supported by the Ford Foundation, the Institute for Scholars and Citizens, the Florida Education Fund, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

### **Tessa Murphy**

Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs

Tessa Murphy's research and teaching interests lie in the history of the colonial Americas, broadly defined to include the Caribbean, Central and South America, and what are now Canada and the United States. Her research has been supported by a number of institutions, including the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, France's Institut National d'Études Démographiques, the John Carter Brown Library, the David Library of the American Revolution, and the Clements Library.

### **Alexa Rodríguez**

University of Virginia

Alexa Rodríguez is an Assistant Professor at the University of Virginia and a 2024 postdoctoral fellow for the National Academy of Education and Spencer Foundation. Her research examines schools, migration, and the formation of racial and national identities in the Dominican Republic. She is currently working on a book manuscript, *Crafting Dominicanidad* (forthcoming with University of North Carolina Press), an intellectual history that examines how Dominicans used public schools to articulate and circulate competing notions of racial, class, and national identity during the early twentieth century. Her work has been published in scholarly journals such as *History of Education Quarterly* and *Latino Studies*, as well as public-facing venues such as *City & State New York*, *Clio and the Contemporary*, and the blog of the History of Education Society in the UK.



## Central America

**Bonar Hernández**

Iowa State University

I am an associate professor in the Department of History at Iowa State University. My primary research and teaching interests include modern Latin America, the Cold War, and religion and politics. I am the author of *Guatemala's Catholic Revolution: A History of Religious and Social Change, 1920-1968* (University of Notre Dame Press); "Reforming Catholicism: Papal Power in Guatemala during the 1920s and 1930s" (*The Americas*); and "Religion, Politics, and the State" (*The Oxford Handbook of Central American History*). As a native Guatemalan, I am interested in fostering scholarly dialogue across national borders on topics and areas that advance knowledge of Central American history during the Cold War. I hope to develop a roundtable that explores the ways that religious and political activism has impacted the region.

**Daniel Mendiola**

Vassar College

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

**Melanie Y. White**

Georgetown University

Melanie White is an interdisciplinary scholar and cultural historian of the Mosquitia and Caribbean Central America and an Assistant Professor of Afro-Caribbean Studies at Georgetown University. Her book manuscript in-progress traces Black and Afro-Indigenous women's anti-colonial performance, visual culture, and political organizing on the Miskitu Coast from the 17th century to the present. She aims to serve as the secretary of the Central American Section of CLAH given her long-held commitment to not only advancing the study of Caribbean Central America, but also shining a spotlight on the oft-overlooked region of the Mosquito Coast within Central American and Latin American history.

## Chile/Río de la Plata

**Andra B. Chastain**

Washington State University Vancouver

I am assistant professor of history at Washington State University Vancouver. My research examines the intersection of broad historical processes - including the Cold War, neoliberalism, and development - and local experiences of urban social change, labor, and culture. I am interested in how political ideologies shape cities and the built environment, technologies and infrastructures, and the lives of individuals and communities with a focus on twentieth-century Chile. As section chair, I would be excited to showcase new approaches to research and teaching on the Southern Cone, build connections with junior scholars, and highlight research by historians based in Latin America.

**Jeff Erbig**

University of California, Santa Cruz

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

**Jadwiga E. Pieper Mooney**

University of Arizona

I am Professor of Latin American History in the History Department of the University of Arizona and have worked closely with Latin American Studies (LAS) and Gender and Women's Studies (GWS). In past research projects, I have addressed questions of reproductive rights and have explored different aspects of the uses of the category of motherhood for policymaking in Chile. I continue to work on subjects of gender, feminisms, and rights in the Latin American Southern Cone and the Americas. In my current book project "Following a Doctor's Journey," I explore histories of medical elites' patriarchal and professional privilege in Chile. In my work for the Chile-Río de la Plata Section, I would prioritize the need to increase the visibility of new research on the region, with special emphasis on "non-traditional" channels of publication and distribution. I would also enjoy expanding cross-sectional collaborations and value interdisciplinary work at the AHA/CLAH annual meetings.

## Colonial Studies

**Juan Neves-Sarriegui**  
University of Oxford

I'm a historian of the Río de la Plata and the age of Atlantic revolutions, currently a Fulford Junior Research Fellow at Somerville College, Oxford. I earned my Doctorate in History at the University of Oxford with a dissertation on print and political culture between the colonial and early republican periods. I've been the recipient of an AHRC scholarship at Wolfson College (Oxford), and a Norman Fiering Fellowship at the John Carter Brown Library in Providence, RI. I share CLAH's Colonial Studies Section's interest in fostering an international conversation on the emancipation of Latin America, in light of recent contributions to global history. I would like to help advance this interest in the role of Section Secretary.

**Joseph M.H. Clark**  
University of Kentucky

Joe Clark is Associate Professor of History at University of Kentucky. A social and cultural historian of Mexico and the Caribbean, his work examines the intersections of African diaspora, formal and informal trade, and religion. His first book, *Veracruz and the Caribbean in the Seventeenth Century*, appeared with Cambridge University Press in 2023. He is currently a fellow at the National Humanities Center, where he is working on his second book, *Witchcraft and Contraband in the Early Modern Caribbean*.

**Sabrina Smith**  
University of California, Merced

Sabrina Smith is an Assistant Professor of History and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies at UC Merced. She specializes in the history of the African Diaspora to Mexico and Central America. She is a Co-PI on the UC "Routes of Enslavement in the Americas" project, and she is currently working on her first book manuscript on African-descended women and men in colonial Oaxaca. Smith is the author of "African-Descended Women: Power and Status in Colonial Oaxaca, 1660-1680" (2023), as well as several book chapters on slave trafficking (2020) and African-descended women in New Spain (2020).

## Gran Colombia

**Laura Correa Ochoa**  
Rice University

I am an assistant professor of history at Rice University. I received my PhD in Latin American and Caribbean history from Harvard University in 2021 and BA (Hons) in History and Political Science from the University of Toronto in 2013. My research centers on questions of race, violence and Black and Indigenous mobilization in Colombia in the 20th and 21st century.

I envision the Gran Colombia Section as a platform to:

- facilitate opportunities for collaboration and mentorship across countries
- promote opportunities for junior scholars
- and advance the work of early-career and non-tenure track historians

**Valeria Mantilla**  
Stony Brook University

I am a historian of race, food, and the environment, particularly focused on Afro-Colombian histories from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. I earned my PhD from the University of Toronto, with research support from Canada's Social Science and Humanities Research Council. Currently, I serve as Assistant Professor at Stony Brook University. As Secretary to the Gran Colombia regional section committee, I plan on working with the Chair to draw scholarship engaged with the relationship between people, food, and their environment in Gran Colombian histories, envisioning perhaps a section panel around the themes of water worlds in the region.

**Santiago Muñoz Arbeláez**  
University of Texas, Austin

Soy historiador enfocado en las interacciones entre los indígenas y la administración imperial española en el Nuevo Reino de Granada en los siglos XVI y XVII. Me formé como historiador en la Universidad de los Andes (pregrado y maestría) y la Universidad de Yale (doctorado). He enseñado en Colombia y Estados Unidos, y actualmente soy profesor asistente de historia colonial latinoamericana de la Universidad de Texas en Austin. Como secretario de la sección Gran Colombia quisiera seguir abriendo espacios de diálogo que trasciendan fronteras geográficas e historiográficas entre Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador y Panamá.

## Mexican Studies

**James Mestaz**

Sonoma State University

I am an Assistant Professor of Latin American History at Sonoma State University. My teaching and scholarship focus on histories of marginalized populations and struggles for social and environmental justice. My first book *Strength from the Waters: A History of Indigenous Mobilization in Northwest Mexico* demonstrates how indigenous people used irrigation laws and land reform to maintain a connection to river systems, a hallmark of their identity. My vision as Secretary aligns with my teaching and scholarship, which is to amplify the voices of underrepresented groups. In this vein, I plan to create a panel that exemplifies inclusion while highlighting the historical importance of natural landscapes and other non-human factors.

**Carolina Ortega**

Indiana University

My name is Carolina Ortega and I am an Assistant Professor of History and Latino Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington. My research traces the migration of *guanajuatenses* to the U.S. across the twentieth century. Through a detailed examination of a century's worth of Mexican migration from the state of Guanajuato, my work re-envisioning the deep, fluid, and often ignored forces that tie U.S. and Mexican history. I argue that to understand Mexican migrants' placemaking in the United States, we must also look to the migrants' communities of origin. I am excited about the prospect of serving as Mexico Section Secretary of CLAH. I envision contributing to this vibrant intellectual space and continuing to emphasize the interconnectedness of Mexican history and Latina/o/x/e history.

**Aaron Alejandro Olivas**

SUNY Maritime College

I am an Assistant Professor of History at SUNY Maritime College in the Bronx. My research focuses on global political culture in colonial Mexico during the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. My current book project *Trading Dynasties: Slavery, Smuggling, and Negotiated Loyalty in Spanish America During the Bourbon Succession Crisis (1698-1715)* reveals the overlooked strategies by which multiethnic colonial subjects in Mexico expanded their autonomy and gained socio-economic benefits as a result of the War of the Spanish Succession. I am excited to collaborate with colleagues across the country and with our Mexican counterparts as we work to advance a more complete understanding of Mexican History.



## Teaching and Teaching Materials

**Hannah Greenwald**  
Gettysburg College

I am an Assistant Professor of History at Gettysburg College, where I teach classes on colonial and modern Latin America; comparative borderlands; Argentina; and the Atlantic World. My research examines Indigenous history, settler colonialism, and nation-state formation in the Southern Cone. As an educator, I aim to give students hands-on experience working with historical source materials. I foreground the development of fundamental skills, such as information literacy, interpersonal communication, and creative problem-solving. As part of the Teaching Section, I will foster practical discussions about how to make history education meaningful, accessible, and exciting within a changing academic landscape. I will also compile and disseminate resources to help fellow educators incorporate a diverse range of voices into their syllabi.

**Kevin Coleman**  
University of Toronto

Despite our pretensions, for most of us our greatest impact is not in the books and papers we write. It is on our students. These are the people who show up for our classes, week in and week out, semester after semester. How can we as scholar-teachers of Latin America learn from each other about what's working in the classroom? What's getting students excited about reading and think about the past? What's specifically Latin American about it? What old lessons should we keep in our toolboxes? And which ones are rusted beyond repair?

If elected as Secretary of CLAH, I'd like for us to think together about how to respond to these questions. My name is Kevin Coleman. I'm an Associate Professor of History at the University of Toronto.

**Mark Dries**  
Southeastern Louisiana University

As the Teaching section secretary, I would try to facilitate practical conversations about how to blend pedagogy and research in a way that resonates with students in the current political and international climate. My goal would be to encourage fellow members to share methods and techniques to introduce our research into the classroom (particularly in lower level classes), to consider concretely what our research can contribute to debates in the present, and to help students see the connections between historical scholarship and methods and the challenges of the present moment.

## James R. Scobie Award Reports

Francisca Espinosa Muñoz, UC Davis

### *Chilean childhood experiences of exile (1973-1990)*

The James Scobie Award enabled me to conduct five weeks of research in Santiago, Chile during July and August 2024. The purpose of this research trip was to find materials that will allow me to expand my current project on Chilean childhood experiences of exile (1973-1990). The primary and secondary sources that I found confirmed the feasibility of this topic.

In the Documentation Center of the Museum of Memory and Human Rights, I collected several first-hand sources made by children in exile, such as drawings and letters. They allowed for a rich analysis regarding the multiple meanings that children gave to their experience in exile, in addition to assessing the views that foreign children had about their Chilean peers. Moreover, a wide array of audiovisual materials made in that period shows how children were involved in cultural activities to preserve the Chilean heritage abroad along with transnational activities that helped to fight hunger in the most precarious population due to the impacts of the neoliberal measures taken by the dictatorship, which affected the fulfillment of basic needs.

The Vicary of Solidarity Archive helped me to assess the importance of comedores infantiles (children's kitchen soups) as a historical phenomenon during those years, which I will incorporate into my dissertation. With the primary goal to support children's food needs, this space can also be read as transnational due to the monetary assistance from different countries. Moreover, foreign children were also involved in fundraising campaigns to help Chilean children. The photographic repository was a valuable tool to analyze the material precariousness of the time and observe children in their activities throughout the country and on different dates.

The National Library of Chile was a relevant place to find different kinds of texts on exile as a wider phenomenon that would allow me to approach my analysis of childhood from diverse angles. Primary and secondary sources found on family dynamics, gender tensions, transnational solidarity, the production of a visual culture and testimonies from children in exile made this specific search a valuable one, since I can now better understand the intricacies of exile as a historical and emotional process.

I want to express my gratitude to the Conference of Latin American History and the James R. Scobie Award for supporting my summer research which has been essential to expand my topic into a dissertation project. I was looking forward to spending time in the Chilean archives and this award made it possible. During the weeks in Santiago working with a wide array of sources, I was able to consider new analytical perspectives which will be, certainly, incorporated into my future research.

## Camila Sanhueza, UC Irvine

I would like to thank the Conference on Latin American History for making me a recipient of the James R. Scobie Award. With the help of this fellowship, I was able to travel to Havana, Cuba during July of 2024, where I conducted exploratory archival research for my doctoral dissertation. My dissertation, tentatively titled “Equal Children in the Revolution: Illegitimacy and Socialism in Chile and Cuba (1970-1976),” explores the efforts of the socialist projects of the Popular Unity (Unidad Popular, UP) in Chile and the Cuban Revolution to abolish legal and social discrimination that children born-out-of-wedlock suffered. By studying illegitimacy, I intend to also study the vision these distinct types of socialist projects had on childhood, single motherhood, and overall, their understanding of equality in a socialist society.

Back in Havana, I was able to research in different archives: the Instituto de Historia (IHC), the Biblioteca Nacional José Martí (BNJM), the Archivo Central de la Unión de Jóvenes Comunistas (UJC), the Archivo Central Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Cuba (MINREX), and the Centro de Estudios de la Mujer (CEM), center that is part of the Federación de Mujeres Cubanas (FMC). As I expected, developing archival research in Cuba had quite different procedures in comparison to other countries in Latin America. During my first week, I had to introduce myself with an institutional letter to the IHC, in order to receive a set of letters for each archive I was interested to work in. After that, I had to introduce myself in each archive with the respective letter, and it depended on each archive if they allowed me to consult their material. For example, I had planned to work at the archive of the Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual (CENEX), however I was never authorized - nor denied - to work there. Along with that, some of my archival research was mediated by the workers. In the case of the CEM, I was not able to search in a catalog, but instead, I was given documentation that the archivist considered was appropriate to consult after I described to them my dissertation topic. Thus, during my stay in Havana, archival research was slow, but productive, nevertheless. All the workers in every institution mentioned above were extremely generous with me, providing me all the help I needed during my work and my stay in Havana.

At the IHC, I obtained digitalized copies of Cuban newspapers from the revolutionary period such as Granma and Combate, but also from the pre-1959 period such as Avance. I also accessed documents from feminist and women's organizations from the pre-1959 and post-1959 period. In particular, I accessed Fondo Ofelia Domínguez Navarro, which included Domínguez's activism on women's civil rights, and children's rights, and her advocacy to eliminate illegitimacy as a natal category. Looking at Fondo Ofelia Domínguez Navarro helped to confirm the long trajectory of some feminist organizations, their involvement with the Cuban Revolution and the FMC. This would allow me to argue in my dissertation, that the 1975 Family Code created by the Cuban Revolution, responds to long-dated demands from feminist movements and figures like Domínguez Navarro.

## Camila Sanhueza (continued)

At the BJNM, I consulted official documents from the FMC of the 1970s period. Among these documents, I was able to find guidelines from the Second Congress of 1974. Also, I found articles at the FMC official magazine, *Mujeres*, regarding the 1975 Family Code. It seems the FMC did not actually draft the Family Code, but was drafted by a special committee, led by politician Blas Roca. Also, *Mujeres* included a special section on parental education. More thorough research on this magazine in the future certainly will be relevant for my dissertation.

Later, at the UJC Archive I found the Cuban Revolution's concerns about school desertion and the rise of alphabetization's rates among children. Several documents and studies produced by the UJC linked school desertion and child delinquency with "dysfunctional families," including in this category, absent fathers, single motherhoods, and illegitimacy. I hope to expand the research on this topic, but with the collected information, it allows me to argue the Cuban Revolution explicitly associated illegitimacy as a cause for critical issues for Cuban society, such as lack of education and potential delinquency or deviated behavior.

At the MINREX Archive, I found documents from the Cuban Embassy in Santiago, and trace information related to work the FMC developed in Chile during the UP years (1971). I found through these documents that the FMC created a delegation at the Cuban Embassy in Santiago, with the goal of working with students from "Escuela Cuba." I hope that in the future I can use this information to trace this FMC's delegation in Santiago and any information about it.

Lastly, at the CEM Archive, I only did brief exploratory research. Contacting the FMC was extremely difficult, and I was only able to go to the CEM days before my flight back to the United States. At the CEM I was able to trace seminars led by the Instituto de Infancia during the late 1960s and letters written by Vilma Espin, leader of the FMC. Although the work was short, I was able to make connections with the FMC and the CEM. It will be crucial for me to travel for a second time to Cuba and go back to the CEM for more detailed archival research.

In the end, my research in Cuba was very productive, but at the same time limited. I was not able to conduct oral interviews as I expected. Nevertheless, the enormous kindness of all the workers at each archive, as well as scholars at Casa de las Américas allowed me to access more archives that I had planned. Also, I was able to begin scholarly connections for a future trip, in which I could focus in debates that jurists and lawyers had regarding the Family Code, the FMC role, and hopefully to have more time to conduct oral interviews. I would like to thank once again the CLAH to awarding me with the Scobie Award and allow me to take a big leap in my dissertation project as well as allowing me as a scholar to learn how different can archives in different countries.



## Thomas Miller, University of Florida

### *Borders of Belonging: Indigenous Politics, Transnational Identity, and National State Formation in the Chiapas-Guatemala Borderlands, 1780-1898*

With the generous support of the Conference on Latin American History's James R. Scobie Award, I was able to spend four weeks in Guatemala City during the summer of 2024 conducting pre-dissertation archival research. This exploratory research proved fruitful in helping me determine the feasibility of my project that explores state formation and Indigenous politics during the nineteenth century in the Chiapas-Guatemala borderlands. I conducted all of my research at the Archivo General de Centro América (AGCA). This research aimed to build on my previous experience working in AGCA conducting research for my master's thesis in June of 2022 while also complementing exploratory pre-dissertation research I had conducted in Chiapas, MX in July of 2023. During that exploratory research trip to, I read rich source material in the municipal archive of the border city of Comitán de Domínguez and in the state-level Archivo Histórico de Chiapas in Tuxtla Gutiérrez. Many of the best sources I found during this previous research were civil and criminal court records from the municipal and departmental level which seemed to provide a unique window into the local dynamics of borderland conflict and negotiation, especially from the perspective of everyday people in these borderlands. Given the richness of these documents in Chiapas, I was eager to assess the contents of comparable sources in the national archive in Guatemala where these same kinds of documents are held. The intention of the exploratory research I conducted in Guatemala this past summer, then, was to better outline the other side of the project's transnational frame.

Ultimately, the work I was able to do over the course of my time at AGCA this past summer exceeded my expectations. My project concerns the Chiapas-Guatemala border specifically, so I was looking for criminal trial records from the present-day Guatemalan departments of Huehuetenango and San Marcos. I decided to split the first three weeks of my trip in half, spending about a week and a half combing through criminal and civil trial records from Huehuetenango from the 1830s through 1905 and the next week and a half doing the same with criminal and civil trial records from San Marcos covering the same rough time span. When looking through these records, I was primarily looking for three types of cases: 1) cases that had to do with any kind of cross-border clash or conflict; 2) land disputes; and 3) cases where the testimony of Indigenous inhabitants of the borderlands discussed the relationship between their communities and the state in some way. While it did take a little while to familiarize myself with the organization of the court records and the procedural style of some of the writing, I immediately began finding the kinds of records I had hoped for. By the time I was finished working with the court records, I was very pleased with the range of cases I had found and photographed.



## Thomas Miller (continued)

I then spent my final week working between the *Mapoteca*, the *Hemeroteca Nacional*, and the *Relaciones Exteriores* collection held at AGCA. The first day I worked with the collections of the *Mapoteca*. The materials in this collection were not the main reason for this archival trip were some of the most fascinating documents I had the chance to look at during this trip. My project deals with the history of a borderland plagued by almost a century of violent conflicts and competing land claims at a time when surveying was difficult and there truly was no enforced national boundary line. So, getting the chance to look at a wide range of nineteenth-century maps of the region—commissioned or drawn by Mexicans and Guatemalans alike—was incredibly exciting. My personal favorite was a detailed map of the entire Guatemalan border with Mexico—and the surrounding region on both sides—hand-drawn by the head of the Guatemalan *Comisión de límites* after the conclusion of a full bi-lateral border survey stipulated in the 1882 border treaty with Mexico. The detailed notation of tiny hamlets, physical landmarks, and isolated roads—often referenced in contemporary archival documents discussing border disputes—proved an invaluable resource as did the maps notation of the finalized border line in comparison to differently-colored and labeled national boundary lines previously depicted by other Guatemalan and Mexican maps. I also spent a day and half in the *Hemeroteca Nacional* reviewing a handful of newspapers which I had seen referenced in other primary sources I have read for my project and by several other historians of nineteenth-century Guatemala. I also managed to track down a few issues which referenced incidents of interest that occurred along the Chiapas-Guatemala border. In some discussions with the archivists there, I also picked up some leads on other newspapers of interest that I am excited to follow-up on during my next visit to AGCA.

In short, the four weeks I spent conducting research in Guatemala this summer were an energizing and productive experience. I was fortunate to have this chance to collect a sizeable body of preliminary source material which will continue to be useful to me as I work on and think about this project. Indeed, some of them were put to immediate use as small example cases in my dissertation prospectus which I began writing as soon as I returned from my trip. Additionally, I had the good fortune of sharing my time at the archive with the kind and helpful staff at AGCA and with a handful of fellow researchers who shared lunch breaks, archival tips, thoughts on my project, and good conversation which made the experience even more fulfilling. I would like to thank the Conference on Latin American History once again for supporting this research.

## Marina Dadico Amâncio de Souza, UC Santa Cruz

With the support from the James R. Scobie Award, I was able to travel to Porto Alegre, Brazil, and conduct preliminary fieldwork for six weeks during the summer of 2024. I used this trip to determine the feasibility of my doctoral project, which explores the political and spatial practices of maroon communities (quilombos) in Porto Alegre—the capital of Brazil’s southernmost state—and how racialized and gendered imaginaries shape their struggles for land tenure. I aimed to identify historical documents pertaining to maroon (quilombola) communities in the region, as well as their interactions with different political regimes between the abolishment of slavery in 1888 and the establishment of the Brazilian Federal Constitution of 1988. During my time in the city, I worked in three archives with collections on slavery and urban development projects in Porto Alegre and Rio Grande do Sul state. Unfortunately, due to the terrible floods that hit the state earlier this year, I could not consult the collections in the Arquivo Histórico do Rio Grande do Sul as I had initially planned; the building was closed for repairs and renovations.

At the Arquivo Público do Rio Grande do Sul, I was able to consult collections containing pre- and post-abolishment documents, including slave criminal procedures, the purchase and sale of slaves, and manumission. These were especially easy to identify thanks to the research instruments developed by the archive in the Documentos da Escravidão no RS series. In this archive, I was also able to consult documents pertaining to early to late twentieth-century urban planning projects related to the erasure of Black territories, which were patches of land that stretched over Porto Alegre between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. They emerged during a time of intense territorial reorganization and were mostly home to freed and enslaved Black communities, as well as places of refuge for those who fled enslavement. At least eight of the city’s eleven quilombos are currently located in these areas. These findings, which included zonal plans for the urban development of central areas of the city and federal bank reports, supported sources I had been reading about the deep transformations that took place in the urban space of the city center, the former existence of four Black territories in this area, and their subsequent removal for the urbanization of the city center in the second half of the twentieth century.

## **Marina Dadico Amâncio de Souza (continued)**

At the Instituto Histórico e Geográfico do Rio Grande do Sul (IHGRGS), I was met by a very supportive staff of historians and librarians who helped me identify city maps and development plans from the late nineteenth to the late twentieth centuries. The institute's staff also suggested supplemental readings about the history of Black communities in Porto Alegre and helped me get in contact with a sociologist who had worked and done research for the Department of Habitation. At the Arquivo Histórico de Porto Alegre Moysés Vellinho (AHPA), I located documents dating from the twentieth century that included urban planning technical reports, municipal telegrams, transcribed lectures, municipal regulations and official publications, newspaper articles, and city development plans for Porto Alegre from 1914 to 1979. Together, the sources I found on IHGRGS and AHPA helped me understand where the city's Black territories used to be located, some of the dominant narratives about them, and projects related to their dissolution. More importantly, these findings emphasize the connection between present-day quilombos, the former Black territories, and a history of state-sponsored policies that sought to actively displace Black communities in Porto Alegre to make way for its urbanization.

I am deeply grateful to the Conference on Latin American History for this award. This trip was essential not only to determine the feasibility of my project but also to familiarize myself with the archives and comprehend which areas within my dissertation require further reflection and research. During my visits to the archives, I was put in contact with key actors for my research, which I would not have had a chance to do otherwise. I can now confidently move forward with my doctoral project and use what I learned this summer to prepare my materials for my qualifying examinations that are due by the end of this academic year. I could not have hoped for a better research experience!

## In Memoriam

### In Memory of David “Tío” Stark

On Oct 19, 2023, Dr. David Stark was called home, after living with (glioblastoma) brain cancer for almost 4 years.

In August, when I and two other former students visited with him, he let us know he only had a few months left. As always, our beloved former professor and dear friend, had the wisdom to know what was ahead, was dedicating his time and energy to everything that he loved and cherished, and was preparing us. It was during that visit Ryan Rickert, Joel Rickert, and I laughed, smiled, teased, and reminisced about our 20-year-old relationship with our former professor and now friend, David Stark. We had all taken one or more Latin American history courses with him at Grand Valley State University. How grateful we are to have been among the very lucky ones to have been taught by him over his incredible 24-year career. It was during this time he published numerous articles in *Hispanic American Historical Review*, *The Americas*, *Colonial Latin American Review*, and his book, *Slave Families and the Hato Economy in Puerto Rico*.

When I received the phone call from his beloved wife, Gladysin, I already knew. The feeling of pain and loss was more than I could bear. Initially I couldn't bring myself to go to funeral, but I changed my mind. Standing stoically alone in the back of the church I told myself over and over I would be ok. But when they rolled the casket by me, I felt my body shake and convulse and my tears would not stop. In a caring move, Gladysin stopped the procession and motioned for me to come to her, and she whispered, “you are family,” and beckoned for me to walk and sit with her at the front of the church.

In that moment, I was reminded of all that Dr. David Stark meant to me. We met in the summer of 2002; he was my McNair mentor. To suggest things went smoothly would be an understatement. I was stubborn, and he proved to be even more so. I couldn't understand why he was so invested in me! What did it matter that I used the passive voice, I just wanted to get it done. It didn't take long to realize that that was not how he worked. He never rushed to just “get it done,” and therefore - nor should I. This was one of many lessons I would learn over the next 20 years, as he would become the closest father-like figure in my life and nicknamed “Tío” to honor that relationship.

He would become an important confidant and mentor throughout my graduate school, the job market, and achieving tenure. Never failing to send me a card of encouragement when I was down or celebration for various achievements.

I would later learn I was his first McNair student or what I describe as the “oldest” and eight more over the years would follow. When he was called home, the youngest was still in graduate school.

He took his role as a mentor very seriously and especially cultivated relationships with students of color, particularly Black and Latino. As a professor of Puerto Rican heritage in the academy he proudly shouldered being a mentor to so many of us. There are no words to properly express the impact Dr. Stark had on the students that he mentored. He believed in us and invested an extraordinary amount of time and energy in us. His enthusiasm for history, his dedication to passing on this enthusiasm to us, and belief in us and our potential now shines quite bright in our commitments to our profession, and our dedication to our students. Among the students he cared so much for and mentored - are professors, authors of books, and tenured faculty. I understand now the true meaning of a person leaving a legacy. His legacy is felt every day by all the students he impacted, and the students they are now impacting. I am dedicated to living up to his example and will continue to pass on his very bright light into the world. He would be so proud of us.

We miss you David “Tio” Stark,  
Erika Denise Edwards

### **In Memory of Thomas D. Schoonover**

Thomas Schoonover was born May 27, 1936, in Winona, Minnesota. Graduating from High School with a full scholarship, he received his BA in Liberal Arts from the University of Minnesota, followed by his MA in Liberal Arts in 1961 from LSU in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and eventually, his PhD in History from the University of Minnesota in 1970. He passed away after a long illness on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 2023, at Pelican Pointe Healthcare in Maurice, Louisiana, with his devoted wife of 57 years at his side.

They seemed destined for one another, as circumstances brought them together 60 years ago at the Royal Festival Hall in London. A native of Berlin, Germany, she was in London to improve her English and he was in Europe to become proficient in two languages as a requirement for his PhD at the University of Minnesota.



Hoping to facilitate this goal, he signed up as a lecturer teaching History at the American bases for the University of Maryland European Division in Heidelberg, Germany. His first assignment, though, brought him to England where he met his future wife. Somehow things clicked between them, and they kept in contact while she was in Paris for another year and he was assigned to Madrid several times, always going by way of Paris. Eventually, they were married in Lausanne, Switzerland and lived in Heidelberg before returning to Minnesota after four years overseas, including two years while he studied Russian and Chinese as a regular student at the University of Heidelberg. His solid command of German, Spanish, and French proved fundamental to his scholarly success. After a long stay in Mexico City doing research, he finished his dissertation and was hired in 1969 to teach History at the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now University of Louisiana Lafayette). He taught there for 36 years until his retirement in 2005. During those years, various scholarships and sabbaticals allowed him to do research in many archives in Mexico, all of Central America, and some European countries, leading to many highly regarded publications in his field and many honors. Among them, as a one-year Fulbright Lecturer and Researcher at the University of Bielefeld in Germany and twice teaching summer courses at Cornell University where he spent many summers to do research as well.

He was a lifetime member and supporter of the major historical organizations, attending and presenting papers at their conferences, writing articles, and book reviews in addition to his own studies.

Besides his academic career, he loved to play bridge and tennis and later devoted a lot of time to coaching soccer, starting when their son was involved in this sport at the very moment it was introduced to Lafayette, and playing soccer with the international students on campus until his late 60's.

For more information, see Schoonover's obituary here:  
<https://www.lafuneralservices.com/obituary/thomas-schoonover>

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