



Conference on Latin American History

FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

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IN THIS ISSUE

2025 CLAH Officers and Committees.....	2
Message from President Alejandra Bronfman.....	3
Message from Co-Executive Director Christina Villarreal.....	5
CLAH Distinguished Service Award.....	6
Fall 2025 CLAH Election.....	8
James R. Scobie Award Reports.....	24
In Appreciation: CLAH Endowment and Fund Contributors.....	34
List of Lifetime Members.....	35

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2025 CLAH Officers and Committees

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Herman Bennett

Past President - Celso Castilho

Executive Directors - Erika Edwards
and Christina Villarreal

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Diana Montaña (2024-2025)

Daniela Samur (2024-2025)

Adriana Chira (2025-2026)

Ernesto Capello (2025-2026)

Haley Schroer (2025-2026)

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The Americas Editor: John F.
Schwaller

H-LatAm Editor: Marc Becker

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Rob Alegre

Jessica Delgado

Program Committee

Renata Keller (2025 chair)

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Marlen Rosas, Chair

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Atlantic World Studies

Ernesto Mercado-Montero, Chair

Farren Yero, Secretary

Borderlands/Frontiers

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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

I'm writing this during CLAH's first ever virtual writing session. Thank you to our Executive Director Erika Edwards for offering this idea and for making it possible. We are hoping that this becomes part of a broader effort to foster community and create opportunities for mentoring and being mentored. Please join us on Thursday afternoons until December! I've just met some colleagues I did not know, and am already heartened by their warmth and willingness to participate.



I'm happy to begin on a positive note, as the last few months have been dark and dangerous for so many. I don't have the space to comment on all that is happening around us, and I wouldn't presume to think that I have anything new to add to the increasingly urgent statements of critique, wisdom and leadership that appear on a daily basis. The satire is pretty good too.

In a few months many of us will be at the AHA meetings in Chicago, where CLAH will mark the 100th year since its founding. Thanks to the hard work of the Executive committee and the Centennial Committee, we will celebrate the centennial at the Newberry Library, which will provide tours and exhibitions of their Latin American collection Friday Jan 9, 2026, 1:00-5:00pm and host the reception Jan 10, 2026, 7:30-11:30pm. This will be free for all members, and I hope to see many of you there. This is an opportunity to note the strength of the organization and the ways it has grown. We have a new roster of prize-winners and look forward to celebrating their achievements and learning from their brilliant scholarship. It will also be a chance to thank all of the members of the prize committees for their incredible work. Perhaps we can look around the room and note the gender, income, racial and institutional diversity of our membership relative to one hundred years ago. We can take stock of the ways scholarship is changing and invite debate about the directions in which it can go.

I take this opportunity to invite everyone to this year's Presidential Panel on Friday Jan 9th at 10:30am. Three fabulous panelists will explore our pedagogical practices and classroom strategies, given recent challenges and developments including but not limited to the criminalization and targeting of immigrants and Latinx communities; the undermining of historical truths with regards to race and slavery; the dismantling of DEI programs and affirmative action. On the other hand, the field (broadly conceived, of Latin American, Caribbean and Latinx histories) remains vibrant, and many of our students are highly engaged and sophisticated navigators of their contexts, which might include dealing with the rhetoric and reality of AI technology in the classroom and post-pandemic shifts in attention spans, reading habits and socialization. My aim with this panel is to temporarily shift our attention towards teaching, which we do a lot of but don't seem to discuss very much. Our students deserve all of our attention and care. This panel will highlight the best of our collective practices and remind us of the strengths and goals of our organization.

But I hope that we can also use the conference in January as an opportunity for constructive criticism, to think of ways we can do better, become more inclusive and participatory, make our voices more effective, support one another's successes but also create contexts for growth. We can remain aware of the continuing inequalities in our profession and find ways to mitigate those in our organization. We can listen more carefully, practice kindness, remain open to change. And we will share some food and drink, listen to music, catch up with friends and colleagues, and dance. As Audre Lorde once observed, (citing Emma Goldman) "if I can't dance, I don't want to be part of your revolution." So let's dance, and find the strength to continue.

Message from Outgoing Co-Executive Director Christina Villarreal

October 3, 2025

Greetings from Sevilla!

Alongside Erika Edwards, I have served as a co-executive director of CLAH since 2023. It has been a wonderful experience, enriched by one-on-one conversations with many CLAH members, my new and old friends.



With CLAH's Centennial Celebration on the horizon, I am encouraged by our community's commitment to critical inquiry, higher education, diversity, and the historical discipline. This is something to celebrate and continue championing for the next 100 years.

As of August, I have stepped down from my position at UTEP (and CLAH) to accept a role at the Spanish Institute for Global Education (Sevilla), where I will focus on building university partnerships and developing study abroad programs. I hope to work with many of you to create international opportunities for your students... or to assist you with archival work! Please do not be a stranger.

Best,
Christina Villarreal

George Reid Andrews, 2025 CLAH Distinguished Service Award Winner

Committee: Laura Correa Ochoa, Kevan Aguilar, Jane Landers (chair)

The Committee has unanimously selected George Reid Andrews, Distinguished Professor of History and UCIS Research Professor at the University of Pittsburgh, to be the recipient of this year's CLAH Distinguished Service Award.

Professor Andrew's long career of original scholarship on Afrodescendants in the Southern Cone and in Latin America more broadly has been recognized by funding agencies such as the Guggenheim Foundation, NEH, Fulbright-Hays and the SSRC and by the book and article prizes he has won. His important monographs on Afrodescendants include *The Afro-Argentines of Buenos Aires, 1800-1900* (1980), *Blacks and Whites in São Paulo, Brazil, 1888-1988* (1991) and *Blackness in the White Nation: A History of Afro-Uruguay* (2010). These works have not only won academic recognition; they also had a significant public impact by addressing racial erasure and social inequalities in those countries and contributing to community and academic activism attempting to correct those problems.

Professor Andrews has also promoted the interdisciplinary field of Afro-Latin American history he helped create through his six important monographs, *The Afro-Argentines of Buenos Aires, 1800-1900* (1980), *Blacks and Whites in São Paulo, Brazil 1888-1988* (1991), *The Abolition of Slavery and the Aftermath of Slavery in Brazil* (1998), *Afro-Latin America, 1800-2000* (2004), *Blackness in the White Nation: A History of Afro-Uruguay* (2010), *Voices of the Race: Black Newspapers in Latin America, 1870-1960* (2022), his co-edited work, *Afro-Latin American Studies: An Introduction*, with Alejandro de la Fuente, his textbook, *Afro-Latin America: Black Lives, 1600-2000* (2016), and historiographical reviews such as "A Short History of Afro-Latin American Studies" for the *Routledge Handbook of Afro-Latin American Studies* (2023). Many of his works have been published in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French and in open source, amplifying his impact on the field.

**George Reid Andrews, 2025 CLAH
Distinguished Service Award Winner
(continued)**

His important service to Latin American history also includes his editorial work on the Afro-Latin American book series at Cambridge University Press, launched in 2017, which has produced many award-winning books in the field and his service in multiple capacities at the University of Pittsburgh Press's Latin America Series, including General Editor from 2002-2007. Professor Andrews also served as a senior editor of the *Hispanic American Historical Review* from 2007-2012.

The very strong letters of support Professor Andrews received for this nomination stressed his dedication to collaborative work, not only in this country but in Latin America and his career-shaping mentorship of graduate students. His mentorship offered significant attention and support to first-generation students and non-native speakers from Latin America. His dedication to his graduate students was recognized by the Provost's Excellence in Mentoring Award at the University of Pittsburgh in 2016. His attention to graduate professionalization continued in his work with the Mark Claster Mamolen Dissertation Workshop directed by Alejandro de la Fuente at Harvard University since 2016.

In sum, the Committee unanimously selects George Reid Andrews for the 2025 CLAH Distinguished Service Award for his award-winning scholarship and his collaborative work of institution builder both in our country and in Latin America, his important editorial service to the field of Latin American history, and his dedicated mentorship of graduate students.

Fall 2025 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 **November 12**.

General committee members each serve for a term of two years, from January 2025 to January 2027.

You may cast your vote for **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 2025 BALLOT



General Council Members (Tenure Track)

1) Yuko Miki

Associate Professor
Fordham University

Greetings. My name is Yuko Miki. I am Associate Professor of History and Latin American and Latinx Studies at Fordham University, and a specialist in 19th-century Brazil. I have had the privilege of serving CLAH in several capacities over the years in support of our colleagues at various stages of their careers: the Chair of the Lewis Hanke Prize, a judge on the Bolton-Johnson Prize Committee, and Secretary and Chair of the Brazil section. I think I speak for many of us in recognizing how central CLAH has been in providing community and mentorship across fields, generations, and continents. As many of our most beloved mentors are (deservedly) retiring, I believe that a position on the General Counsel will allow me to help chart CLAH's course in service of current and future members. Thank you.

2) Romina Green Rioja

Assistant Professor
Washington and Lee University

I am honored to have been considered by the CLAH Nominations Committee for a position on the General Council. My longstanding commitment to Latin American history—as a scholar, educator, and active participant in the field—aligns deeply with CLAH's mission. I served as Secretary and Chair of the Chile-Río de la Plata section (2023-2024), where I helped foster collaboration, organized panels, and contributed to shaping intellectual dialogue across regions and generations of scholars. My role included co-organizing “The Politics of Doing Southern Cone History” for the 2025 AHA Conference. That panel convened scholars from diverse institutions to reflect on the challenges and stakes of producing scholarship across differing political and historiographic traditions. That experience reaffirmed my conviction in the importance of institutional service as a platform for intellectual and professional stewardship.

As an Assistant Professor at Washington and Lee University, I also mentor students and direct public-facing digital humanities projects. I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to CLAH's governance, support its members—especially early-career scholars—and help ensure that the organization remains intellectually vibrant and inclusive across subfields. We are entering a complex historical and political moment, and I hope to contribute to CLAH's role and response in meeting our upcoming challenges.

General Council Members (Tenure Track) (continued)

3) Sylvia Sellers-García

Professor

Boston College Louisiana State University

Sylvia Sellers-García, Professor of History at Boston College, is a historian of colonial Guatemala. Her recent research focuses on policing, gender, and criminality in the eighteenth century. Sellers-García has experience chairing the Central America section for CLAH, and she has frequently participated in CLAH gatherings in the last decade.

4) Víctor M. Macías-González

Professor

University of Wisconsin, La Crosse

I am honored to receive this nomination. I have served on a number of leadership roles in my field and have insight into trends and concerns, particularly on issues of gender and LGBTQ+ equity, from serving both on AHA Committees in the past decade, and in my roles as president of the U.S.-Canada Committee of Historians of Mexico (2024-2030) and on the executive committee of the International Colloquium on the History of Women and Gender in Mexico (RedMuGen) for 2024-2030. I also serve on the boards of LGBTQ+ history projects at the regional level and in Mexico. My work in the area of increasing Latino access to higher education through mentoring programs and community outreach has been recognized by the AHA, the Regents of the Universities of Wisconsin, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education and Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

General Council Members (Non-Tenure Track)

1) Daniel Richter

Lecturer, University of Maryland

I am pleased to stand for election to the CLAH board to further the participation of non-tenure track faculty in shaping CLAH's mission in the late 2020s and beyond. As a member of the board, I would also seek to contribute to meaningful discussions around teaching and the landscape of interdisciplinary scholarship. As non-tenure track faculty, I am employed at different universities in the Washington, DC area such as the University of Maryland, American University, and George Mason University. I was also the recipient of a Fulbright Faculty Award at the Universidad de San Andrés in Argentina in 2022 and a DAAD visiting professorship at the University of Munich in Germany in 2024. My research is broadly focused on global approaches to urban and cultural history in Argentina and Uruguay as well as hemispheric histories around contemporary Latin American and Caribbean migration to South Florida. I would also seek to emphasize conversation about CLAH's ability to support academic exchanges as well as global approaches to Latin American history and new subfields. I am also interested in charting more discussions for tenured, tenure-track, and non-tenure line faculty and graduate students in North America and Latin America about the shifting realities of academia and futures of archival and digital research and conferences for all Latin Americanists.

2) Jennifer L. Schaefer

Research Services Librarian, University of Connecticut

I am the Research Services Librarian for Latina/o/e, Caribbean, & Latin American Studies and Spanish & Portuguese Studies at the University of Connecticut. After earning a PhD in Latin American history from Emory University in 2015, I held multiple positions that offer insight into the experiences of non-tenure track CLAH members. I served as Interim Director of the Emory Writing Center, held postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Michigan and Washington State University, and was a Visiting Assistant Professor of Latin American history at Carleton College. My research focuses on the intersections of protest and mourning during periods of authoritarianism in late twentieth century Argentina, and I continue to work on a book manuscript titled "Rebels, Martyrs, Heroes: Political Mourning in Authoritarian Argentina, 1966-1983." My work on the executive board of the Latin American Materials Project in 2024-2025 and as incoming chair of the Preservation Subcommittee of the Latin American Global Collections Committee at the Center for Research Libraries offers insight into the importance of service to the field. Since becoming a member of CLAH in 2008, I have appreciated intellectual engagement from colleagues and benefited from the organization's support for graduate student research as a recipient of the James R. Scobie Memorial Award in 2010. Having served on CLAH's ad-hoc Constitution Committee, which revised the constitution and bylaws for our organization in 2020, I remain committed to supporting CLAH's important work.

Section Secretaries

Andean Studies

Judith Mansilla

Florida International University

Judith Mansilla is an Associate Teaching Professor of History at Florida International University, where she teaches Latin American history courses. As a historian of early modern Peru, I am deeply committed to advancing the field of Andean history and fostering the scholarly community that makes our work possible. My research explores governance, legal culture, religiosity, and crisis management in seventeenth-century Lima. My current research project examines issues of mismanagement, abuse of power, and everyday practices within the royal treasury, thereby contributing to a deeper understanding of this institution and its administration within early modern Spanish American economic and governance culture. In addition to my research, I am dedicated to promoting intellectual exchange and collaboration among scholars of the Andes. Through my teaching, publications, and participation in conferences, I have worked to highlight the importance of Andean history within the broader field of Latin American. I would be honored to serve the Andean Studies Section and contribute to strengthening our community of scholars.

Sara V. Guengerich

Texas Tech University

Sara V. Guengerich is Associate Professor of Colonial Latin American Studies and Spanish at the Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures Department at Texas Tech University. Her research examines the counteraction of individuals and organized sectors to the systemic disenfranchisement of colonialism. She reconstructs the everyday experiences of a variety of individuals, but particularly indigenous people of the Andes, some who were born into noble lines and thus retained both prestige and a variety of concrete legal claims and many who were born without the privileges of power. She is co-editor of *Cacicas. The Indigenous Women Leaders of Spanish America, 1492-1825* (Oklahoma UP, 2021), author of numerous chapters and articles on colonial Peru and is currently writing a social history of Indigenous Women under Colonial Rule in the Andes. She has served as the President, Vice-President and Secretary of GEMELA (Grupo de Estudios sobre la Mujer en España y las Américas, pre-1800) where she acquired the experience of organizing panels and conferences as well as other logistical and leadership skills. She welcomes the opportunity to working with others to achieve the goals of the AHA Andean Studies Section.

Andean Studies (continued)

Gonzalo Romero Sommer

Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú

I am Gonzalo Romero Sommer, I obtained my PhD from Stony Brook University, and I am currently an assistant professor at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, studying the history of Andean infrastructures and landscapes. I believe that as a scholar living and working in Peru, I can help make AHA/CLAH an institution with greater hemispheric representation. We can strive to find ways to include more members from Andean countries so that they will have a greater presence at the AHA annual meeting. At times like these, when official institutions face significant political challenges, organizations like AHA/CLAH can serve as a channel for creating linkages between academics, north and south.

Atlantic Studies

Patrícia Martins Marcos

University of Oklahoma

Patrícia Martins Marcos (PhD 2022, History & Science Studies UC San Diego) is Assistant Professor of History of Science, Medicine, and Technology in Latin America at the University of Oklahoma's Department of History of Science, Technology, and Medicine. She is outgoing Early Career Representative of the History of Science Society and Co-chair of the Early Sciences Forum where she helped introduce the Best Early Sciences Award in partnership with the journal Early Science and Medicine (ESM), including mentorship through the publication process for the winner and honorable mentions. In addition to history of science and medicine, her research also focuses on race and its relation to reproduction, heredity, gender, and sexuality in the Afro-Luso-Brazilian Atlantic. By interrogating ideas about "the Natural order," this work uncovers how early modern medical and scientific views helped create, sustain, and legitimate hierarchies of humankind based on the perceived primacy of white Christian patriarchs. Bridging Portugal with Latin America and West Africa, my work provides novel methodological tools to consider anti-Blackness, anti-indigeneity, and anti-Roma discrimination within a common analytical space. At CLAH, I wish to promote debates on methodological and thematic approaches which, by mobilizing the potential of Atlantic history to foster histories beyond nation-state boundaries, can "bridge-build" between fields all too often siloed by geography, language, and disciplinary subfields of expertise.

Atlantic Studies (continued)

Jesús Ruiz

Vanderbilt University

I am an assistant professor of the practice at Vanderbilt University, where I am also the director of the Caribbean Studies Program and Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) program Coordinator. I am a historian of Latin America and the Caribbean, and my research explores slavery, freedom, and Black political thought in the Atlantic World. For me, Atlantic History is not merely a method through which to examine oceanic crossings or imperial rivalries, but a framework that makes visible the movement, struggles, and creativity of people who too often remain at the margins of conventional narratives. I see the African Diaspora, and Blackness more broadly, as central to the making of the Atlantic World—not as an afterthought to European empires, but as a driving force that shaped economies, cultures, and political thought across four continents. Equally important is a commitment to history from below: the recognition that enslaved, Indigenous, and migrant peoples carried with them ways of knowing and resisting that unsettled dominant structures of power. Finally, I understand Atlantic History as necessarily transnational and transimperial, attentive to the crossings, entanglements, and borderlands that confound neat national or imperial frames. In this sense, Atlantic History is less about fixed boundaries than about tracing movement, contradiction, and struggle as constitutive forces in the making of the modern world.

Ana María Silva Campo

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

I am an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, specializing in the connections between Andean societies and Atlantic slavery. My work examines freedom and enslavement across imperial networks spanning the Spanish and Portuguese empires. I envision the Atlantic Studies section as a vital space for showcasing the innovative methodologies that junior scholars bring to our field. If elected, I'd be particularly interested in highlighting work that engages spatial approaches and critical geographies, which offer transformative ways of understanding Atlantic connections and power structures. I am committed to building robust networks that support junior scholars through different phases of early academic development, recognizing that scholars need different forms of mentorship from dissertation completion through the tenure process. As secretary and future chair, I would prioritize creating panels that not only advance cutting-edge scholarship but also provide strategic professional development opportunities for emerging Atlantic historians.

Borderlands Studies

Sarah Sarzynski

Claremont McKenna College

I am an Associate Professor of History whose research focuses on Amazonian borderlands. My research, including my current book, *Colonizing Amazonia: A History of Conflict and Perseverance in the Borderlands*, uncovers how Indigenous and non-Indigenous Amazonians in the Three Borders region (Brazil, Colombia and Peru) actively navigated and reshaped colonializing projects. From war to spiritual conversion to resource extraction and tourism, local-foreign collaborations created the culture admixture that defines the Amazonian borderlands today. As a historian committed to decolonial and interdisciplinary methodologies, my approach centers on writing history from the borderlands versus the nation-state. As secretary/chair, I will prioritize discussions about how we collaborate with borderlands peoples - past and present - to reinterpret, reclaim and reframe their histories.

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 research the early history of the Indigenous peoples of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands with the assistance of members of the extant Native communities. 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 by my edited book *Indigenous Borderlands: Native Agency, Resilience, and Power in the Americas* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2023).

Oscar Aponte

Villanova University

I am an Assistant Professor of History at Villanova University with a PhD from the CUNY Graduate Center. My research combines oral history, archival work, and ethnography to explore land conflicts and ethnic politics in the Amazon rainforest. I have published my work in *Ethnohistory* and *The Journal of Transport History* and produced the documentary film *The Way Back to the Maloca*. As secretary of the Borderlands Section of the Conference on Latin American History, I will collaborate with the chair to foster conversations on borderlands at the Annual Meeting and beyond, and to support scholarship that bridges disciplinary and geographic divides.

Brazilian Studies

Elizabeth Schwall

Northern Arizona University

My name is Elizabeth Schwall, and I am working on a book about the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro (Eco-92). With this project, I have moved from Cuban dancers (the stars of my first book) to Brazilian environmental activists, but my main questions remain the same: how did people use their bodies and movements to effect political change? I would be honored to serve the Brazil section of CLAH and would be eager to organize a roundtable, perhaps about Brazilian public history (inspired by the work of historians based in Brazil). Thanks for considering!

Tom 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 and another, co-authored with Jeffrey Manuel, on the transnational history of ethanol in Brazil and the United States. 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.

José Juan Pérez Meléndez

University of California, Davis

José Juan Pérez Meléndez is a historian of imperial Brazil and the global nineteenth century. He serves as Associate Professor of History at the University of California, Davis. His first book, titled *Peopling for Profit in Imperial Brazil: Directed Migrations and the Business of Nineteenth-Century Colonization* (2024), charts the formation of early migration policy in Brazil in counterpoint to state making, elite consolidation, and world crises. He is currently conducting research on the illegal slave trade after 1850 and on the meanings of monarchism across post-independence Latin America.

Caribbean Studies

Christina Davidson

University of Southern California

Christina Cecelia Davidson is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Southern California. She specializes in African diaspora history, religion, and US empire, with a focus on Dominican and Haitian history. She is the author of *Dominican Crossroads: H.C.C. Astwood and the Moral Politics of Race-Making in the Age of Emancipation* (2024). Her articles have appeared in edited collections and journals, including the *Journal of Civil War Era*, the *Journal of African American History*, and the *New West Indian Guide*.

Mónica A. Jiménez

University of Texas at Austin

Mónica A. Jiménez is a poet and historian. She is currently associate professor in the African and African Diaspora Studies Department at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research and writing explore the intersections of law, race, and empire in Latin America and the Caribbean. Her first book, *Making Never-Never Land: Race and Law in the Creation of Puerto Rico* (UNC Press, 2024) was awarded the 2025 Gordon K. and Sybil Lewis Book Award from the Caribbean Studies Association. She has received fellowships in support of her work from the Institute for Citizens and Scholars, the Ford Foundation, and the Mellon Foundation.

Frances Peace Sullivan

Berklee College of Music

Frances Peace Sullivan is an associate professor of history at Berklee College of Music. A historian of Latin America and the Caribbean, she focuses on transnational solidarity movements in the twentieth century. Her book *Cuba's Cosmopolitan Enclaves: Imperialism and Internationalism in Eastern Sugar Towns* (UPFlorida, 2025) describes how sugar towns along Cuba's northeastern coast became steeped in internationalist organizing in the 1920s and 1930s. Her work has appeared in *The New West Indian Guide*, the *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, and in edited volumes on *Global Garveyism*. She has begun a new project on leftist Catholicism during the Cold War.

Central American Studies

Nicole Ramsey

University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Nicole Ramsey is an interdisciplinary cultural studies scholar of Black Central America and an Assistant Professor of Latinx Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at UT-Austin. Her manuscript-in-progress examines how Black Belizeans navigate post-colonialism, race, and national belonging within Belize and across the diaspora. Her work highlights Belize's centrality, demonstrating how its geographic, social, and political location within the region unsettles conventional boundaries and expands understandings of Central America. Her intention to serve as secretary is guided by a commitment to fostering collaborative scholarly networks, centering Afro-descendant and Afro-Indigenous histories, and promoting more inclusive historiographies of the region.

Sarah Foss

Oklahoma State University

Dr. Sarah Foss is Associate Professor of History at Oklahoma State University and a historian of modern Latin America, with a focus on Central America. Her work engages discussions about the parameters and interdisciplinary opportunities in studying the region. She is currently researching the longstanding Guatemala-Belize territorial dispute, emphasizing everyday diplomacy from the borderlands and insisting Belize be included in Central American narratives. She also directs the Latino Oklahoma Oral History Project, a digital archive highlighting Central American diasporic histories. If elected, she would continue to press for an expansion in scholarly understanding of what constitutes Central America and its histories.

Daisy Guzman Nunez

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Dr. Daisy Guzman Nunez is a Black Studies scholar and Black feminist ethnographer focusing on the Garifuna community and the Caribbean coast of Central America. She is an Assistant Professor in the W.E.B. DuBois Department of Afro-American Studies at the UMass Amherst. Her forthcoming book examines the migratory experiences of Garifuna-Guatemalan women during the Guatemalan Civil War (1960-1996). Her praxis emphasizes listening to these stories and revising accounts of the Garifuna people, authored by themselves. Dedicated to her community, she seeks to highlight the often-overlooked region of Livingston, Izabal, within the history of Central America and the Caribbean.

Southern Cone Studies

Yovanna Pineda

University of Central Florida

I'm a historian of technology and Latin America, publishing on Argentine industrialization, rural technology, and labor history. My current research involves collaborating with community leaders to uncover hidden histories of La Isla Maciel, a villa in the southern Buenos Aires docks region. Through archival research, participant observations, and fieldwork, I examine "Pintó la Isla," a mural art and tourism program the community developed to generate income and reimagine their barrio's history. As CLAH secretary, I would enthusiastically support the Chair and expand the section by encouraging membership and participation among South American-based historians, graduate students, early-career scholars, and independent researchers.

Jeffrey Erbig

University of California, Santa Cruz

My first book considers Indigenous responses to the creation of a border between the Río de la Plata and Brazil. My current research analyzes historical connections between deportation and other forms of forced migration in the Southern Cone, namely the trafficking of Indigenous captives and enslaved Africans. Both projects have been guided by spatial history, critical archival theory, and the use of digital tools. As secretary, I would aim to support the Chair and the section by building ties with scholars based in the Southern Cone and by developing support for graduate students, early career scholars, and independent researchers.

Javier Cikota

Bowdoin College

Javier Cikota (UT-Austin B.A.; University of California, Berkeley- PhD) is a scholar of Latin America with an emphasis on borderlands and legal culture. His first book, *Frontier Justice: State, Law and Society in Patagonia, 1880-1940*, looks at how settlers, immigrants and indigenous peoples in Patagonia learned to use the institutions and agents of the Argentine state to practice citizenship while being excluded from formal politics. As Secretary he looks forward to continuing to shine a spotlight on the amazing and creative work being done by scholars to deepen our understanding of the key issues in the region.

Colonial Studies

Hannah R. Abrahamson
College of the Holy Cross

Hannah R. Abrahamson is assistant professor of Latin American History at College of the Holy Cross where she teaches courses on early modern Latin America, Indigenous history, and histories of gender and sexuality. She earned her PhD from Emory University in 2022, which received dissertation awards from the Latin American Studies Association and the New England Council of Latin American Studies as well as a post-doctoral prize from the Conference on Latin American History. Her research interests include household dynamics, gendered labor structures, and bondage in the Atlantic World. She accepted postdoctoral and residential fellowships from the Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory, the Omohundro Institute, and the John Carter Brown Library for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic years.

Mackenzie Cooley
Hamilton College

Mackenzie Cooley is Associate Professor of History and Director of Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Hamilton College. Her first book, *The Perfection of Nature: Animals, Breeding, and Race in the Renaissance* (University of Chicago Press, 2022), considers how communities from Renaissance Italy to Nahua Tenochtitlan were shaped by a lingering fascination with breeding. She has co-edited two volumes, *Natural Things in Early Modern Worlds* (Routledge 2023) and *Knowing an Empire: Imperial Science in the Chinese and Spanish Empires* (Lever 2025). She is currently directing the Historical Pharmacopeias project and completing her second monograph, *When Nature Becomes Medicine*. She is a winner of the 2025 Dan David Prize.

Lauren E. MacDonald
Idaho State University

Lauren MacDonald is a historian of religion and the early modern Caribbean. She is an assistant professor at Idaho State University, where she also serves as faculty advisor for the local university chapter of the Phi Alpha Theta National History Honors Society. Her research has received support from the Folger Institute, the John Carter Brown Library, and the Library of Congress, and her article on the Mercedarian friar Bartolomé de Olmedo will be forthcoming in the *Sixteenth Century Journal*. For 2025, she will be the co-organizer of the annual conference for the Front Range Early American Consortium (FREAC).

Gran Colombia Studies

Juan Cobo Betancourt

University of California, Santa Barbara

Soy historiador enfocado en las interacciones entre los indígenas, el cristianismo y el colonialismo español en el Nuevo Reino de Granada en los siglos XVI y XVII, y también en la preservación y activación de archivos históricos en Colombia. Me formé en la Universidad de Cambridge y soy profesor asociado de historia en la Universidad de California, Santa Bárbara, donde dirijo el programa de estudios latinoamericanos. Como secretario de la sección Gran Colombia quisiera abrir espacios de diálogo que permitan repensar temáticas más amplias de la historiografía de América Latina desde las perspectivas singulares de Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador y Panamá.

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, social movements and political violence in. My first book project examines the entangled histories of Indigenous and Black mobilization in Colombia from the 1930s to 2022. I'm co-developing a digital humanities project exploring understandings of territory and territoriality in contemporary Colombia.

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

Daniela Samur

University of Utah

I am an assistant professor at the University of Utah. I hold two B.A.s (Political Science and History) from Universidad de los Andes, an M.A in Literature from Universidad Nacional de Colombia, and a PhD in History from Cornell University. I focus on labor and urban history and everyday state formation in modern Latin America. If elected as secretary of the Gran Colombia section, I would like to encourage conversations that expand the thematic, temporal and geographical frames with which we study the Northern Andes and Southern Caribbean, and convey to broader audiences why and how history matters.

Mexican Studies

Luis Herrán-Ávila

University of New Mexico

I am an Assistant Professor of History and Latin American Studies at the University of New Mexico. My research and teaching revolve around diverse topics in the political and social history of Mexico and Latin America, with especial attention to revolution and counterrevolution in the Cold War period and the history of right-wing politics in the twentieth century. My forthcoming first monograph is a study of the national and transnational dimensions of anticommunism in Cold War Mexico. In it, I trace the legacy of the Cristero War in the imagination and mobilization of conservative Mexicans in the wake of the Guatemalan coup of 1954 and the contentious impact of the Cuban Revolution in the region, thus providing a reassessment of the place of the Mexican Right in shaping the country's experience with the Cold War. If given the opportunity to serve as the secretary of CLAH's Mexico Section, my main goal is to contribute to promoting the dialogue and collaboration that sustain our diverse community of scholars in, and of, Greater Mexico, which feels necessary in this moment of hostility against the humanities and higher education more broadly.

Ricardo Álvarez-Pimentel

Baylor University

My name is Ricardo Álvarez-Pimentel, Assistant Professor of History at Baylor University. My forthcoming book examines the rise and fall of Acción Católica Mexicana, a social, political, and right-wing religious movement spearheaded by laywomen and youth from Mexico City. Since 2020, I have co-led the "Historians of Catholic Mexico" (HISTCATMEX) virtual network, organizing seminars, workshops, and conferences that engage US and Mexican historians at all stages of their careers, from advanced graduate students to emeritus scholars. As Secretary, I would lean on this experience and work with our Chair to organize sessions integrating US and Mexican scholarly perspectives.

Ulices Piña

California State University, Long Beach

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

Teaching and Teaching Materials

Carlos R. Hernández
Wayne State University

Carlos R. Hernández (he/él) is an Assistant Professor of History with a dual appointment in the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies at Wayne State University, a public R1 with an urban mission, located in the heart of Detroit. A specialist of Mexico with extensive teaching and mentoring experience, Hernández is committed to diversifying the field of Latin American history. As Secretary/Chair of the Teaching and Teaching Materials Section of the CLAH, he would advocate for the greater inclusion of multilingual materials in the undergraduate classroom. He would also support the professional development and career versatility of all graduate students.

Cassie Osei
Bucknell University

Greetings! I'm Cassie Osei (she/her), an assistant professor at Bucknell University. I am currently at work writing my book on the long but overlooked strategic prowess of Black female domestic workers of Brazil's twentieth century. As a first-generation professor, who is currently employed at a teaching focused institution, I regularly engage the scholarship of teaching and learning in the discipline of history and adapt best practices to my offerings on Latin America and African diaspora. If elected, my role will aid programming development to shape our pedagogical practices and meet this current moment of higher education in the U.S.

Ivonne Wallace Fuentes
Virginia Tech

With seventeen years at Roanoke College, where I won the Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching, and my current role as Assistant Director for Professional Development at Virginia Tech's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, I bring both classroom and institutional experience. My pedagogical scholarship centers on deep reading skills and developing teaching responses to AI and informs my vision for CLAH's Teaching Section. With evidence, analysis, and critical inquiry increasingly at risk, I will emphasize practical approaches for responsible, resilient, and sustainable Latin American history teaching strategies for our students and communities who have never needed it more.

James R. Scobie Award Reports

Beatriz de Souza Bravo

University of California, Irvine

The James R. Scobie Awards was crucial for the continuity of my pre-dissertation research. The research in Chile completes my preliminary research for Brazil, continuing my investigation into the transnational project concerning telenovelas during the military dictatorships in Brazil and Chile.

My pre-dissertation project, titled "The Critical Melodrama: Telenovelas during Military Dictatorships in Brazil and Chile," explores the collaboration between the television industries of Brazil and Chile during their respective military regimes. It examines how telenovelas functioned as a public sphere for debate and cultural production, often surpassing the government's agendas to control citizens. In my research, I will analyze how the creators of these telenovelas challenged the restrictions on what could be portrayed on television during the military dictatorship. I argue that Chileans viewed Brazil as a model; even under a military regime, Brazilian writers managed to create successful telenovelas that criticized social issues and questioned norms related to gender, sexuality, and class. This Brazilian telenovela model inspired Chilean media creators to voice similar critiques regarding the transformations occurring in Chile under the Pinochet dictatorship. In contrast to Venezuelan and Mexican telenovelas that typically adhered to conventional historical melodrama, Brazilian shows focused on contemporary daily life, shedding light on social class differences and political issues. Series like "Irmãos Coragem" (1971) and "Pecado Capital" (1975) featured protagonists facing economic challenges and authoritarian leaders.

During the summer of 2025, I spent five weeks in Santiago, Chile, from Sunday, June 15, to Sunday, July 20. My primary focus was to research the functioning of Chilean television and to explore how and why authors and producers constructed their telenovelas in the 1980s. In addition to visiting archives, I met with scholars to discuss my research. One notable meeting was with Sergio Escobar, the author of *Ríe cuando todos estén tristes: el entretenimiento televisivo bajo la dictadura de Pinochet*. He was able to answer some of my questions and direct me to important documents for further exploration.

Beatriz de Souza Bravo (continued)

In the first two weeks, I visited the Archive of Administration to understand how the government controlled television and how it perceived this medium as a political tool. In Chile, the Ministry of Education was the institution responsible for regulating the media. I had the opportunity to review their documents, including laws and the *actas* from the National Television Council (Consejo Nacional de Televisión). These documents revealed that the institutions not only discussed financial goals for television channels but also set guidelines for what could or could not be broadcast. The information indicated that the relationship between television owners and the government was a complex negotiation over programming content.

During the second part of my research trip, I analyzed two magazines, *Vea* and *TV Guia*, available at the *Biblioteca Nacional de Chile* in the *Archivo de Referencias Críticas, Colección General*. My focus was on finding interviews with television producers, directors, and actors, as well as comments on the viewers of telenovelas. Concentrating on the years 1981 to 1986, I discovered numerous interviews with Chilean producers who were defining the "Chilean way" of creating telenovelas. Additionally, I found articles and interviews featuring Brazilian producers Herval Rossano and Lauro César Muniz, who worked on soap operas in Chile during the 1980s.

Both magazines indicated that Brazilian telenovelas served as a reference point for Chilean productions, highlighting the significant influence of Brazilian culture in Chile, exemplified by the frequent appearances of figures like Sonia Braga and Roberto Carlos in various publications. I argue that the telenovela industry took shape in Chile during the 1980s, and this transformation is evident in the entertainment magazines from that period. Initially, these magazines primarily featured singers on their covers; however, following the tremendous success of *La Madrastra* in 1982, the covers gradually began to showcase more telenovela actors than singers.

Jack Casey
New York University

Margins of Freedom: Caribbean Central America and the Age of Revolutions,
1786-1821

The James R. Scobie Award granted me the opportunity to visit both the British National Archives in London and the Archivo General de las Indias (AGI) in Seville this summer to continue preliminary dissertation research. My project seeks to reframe Central America as part of a diasporic network of information and knowledge exchange surrounding global struggles over slavery, anticolonial revolution, and imperial warfare from 1786 to 1821. I explain how the forced exile of Afro-descendant and Indigenous groups like the Black auxiliaries from Saint-Domingue in 1796 and the Garífuna (Black Caribs) in 1797 impacted revolutionary projects in Central America.

Last summer I had the opportunity to visit the Archivo General de Centroamérica (AGCA) in Guatemala City and the Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamérica (CIRMA) in Antigua. During my time in London and Seville, I cross-referenced Spanish and British archival sources with those from Central America in order to better understand the role of Anglo-Spanish conflict in the Gulf of Honduras in the broader context of the Age of Revolutions and the Atlantic world.

At the British National Archives, I analyzed correspondence and reports from the Colonial Office (CO), War Office (WO), and Foreign Office (FO) from Jamaica and British Honduras. They also had a rich collection of maps that marked settlements and forts throughout the Gulf of Honduras in the late eighteenth century when Britain was officially ceded British Honduras (modern-day Belize) in 1786. These visual sources and texts proved to be quite extensive and offered reports, maps, and exchanges between officers in London, Jamaica, and British Honduras about conflict with the Spanish and the deportation of the Garífuna in 1797 to Roatán, an island off of the coast of modern-day Honduras.

At the Archivo General de las Indias, I looked across the Guatemala, Ultramar, and Estado sections to better understand how Spanish and British conflict in the Gulf of Honduras shaped systems of imperial warfare and slavery. Most of the military records from AGI corroborated more detailed reports that I found in the archival collections at AGCA. For example, reports of the arrival of Black auxiliaries from Saint-Domingue in 1796 from AGCA bore more detail whereas sources from AGI situated these events within the broader context of Spanish imperial concerns in the region.

From my archival research, I found that there are particular inflection points of Anglo-Spanish conflict in the archive alongside the documents. By reading across multiple imperial archives, challenging the nation-state model, and treating rumor as political engagement, I hope to move beyond the Habermasian public sphere to read revolutionary or insurrectionary activity in Central America. Interpreting the Gulf of Honduras and its connections forged with the circum-Caribbean in such light ask questions that scholars have not asked yet in scholarship on Central America.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Conference on Latin American History and the James R. Scobie Award. The resources provided by CLAH proved to be invaluable to advance my dissertation research.

Paloma Czapla

Indiana University Bloomington

Refusing the Lens of the State: Archives, Photography and Marginalized Women's Lives in Post-Abolition São Paulo, Brazil

I am honored to be the recipient of the James R. Scobie Award, which supported my doctoral archival research on carceral photography and marginalized women's lives in early twentieth-century Brazil. My project examines the decades after slavery's abolition in São Paulo, when Black and impoverished women continued to experience state surveillance and were confined within police stations, psychiatric hospitals, pauper colonies, shelters, and morgues. By looking at state-produced visual evidence about such women, I ask: how did photography function at the heart of this carceral infrastructure to construct categories of deviance and disposability, and how might an ethics of looking reopen these images to honor the women depicted?

The Scobie Award enabled me to conduct six weeks of research in São Paulo, where I visited multiple historical archives. I divided my time between various state, medical, and police archives, searching for documents from three key institutions that illuminate how Black and impoverished women's lives were managed and represented during the post-emancipation era. First, I focused on albums depicting forced detentions of Black and impoverished women experiencing mental disabilities from the Police Assistance Service (Assistência Policial), a state service aimed at providing medical care for the city's poor. Second, I examined medical records containing intake photographs of female patients from one of Brazil's largest psychiatric institutions: the Juquery Asylum (Hospital Psiquiátrico do Juquery). Third, I investigated albums of unidentified female corpses produced by the Medical Legal Institute (Instituto Médico-Legal), a police department tasked with forensic examinations.

Engaging with these archives has made visible the paradox at the heart of state institutions established to provide welfare in the afterlife of slavery. Though presented as providers of care, these institutions' histories reveal how assistance and punishment, treatment and confinement, became indistinguishable for the racialized and dispossessed. Their records show how Black and impoverished women, rather than securing greater access to care, became increasingly vulnerable to forced detention, compulsory practices, progressive debilitation, and premature death. This archival research also showed how photography was crucial to this process, fixing marginalized women within frames that reduced them to pathological or criminal types while stripping away the complexity of their lives.

Conducting this research has defined the main collections anchoring my project and laid the foundation for my dissertation. Thanks to the Scobie Award, I have identified the holdings most essential to my analysis, built connections with key archivists, and assembled photographs and notes that will carry this research forward. These materials will shape the analytical chapters of my dissertation as well as the creative interventions I am developing to reimagine these collections in ways that allow readers to encounter the women depicted not as simply objects of state violence but as subjects having histories, communities, and full lives. In carrying out this research, what became most evident is that honoring these existences requires more than tracing the harm they endured; it demands attention to what the archive conceals: gestures of defiance, intimacy, kinship, and love that affirm the fullness of their lives.

Nathan Darmiento
Rutgers University-New Brunswick

I want to thank the Conference on Latin American History for awarding me a James R. Scobie Award. With this research grant, I was able to spend ten weeks in Mexico City, where I conducted archival research in the Archivo General de la Nación (AGN), the Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (SRE), and the Instituto Nacional de los Pueblos Indígenas (INPI). This pre-dissertation research trip allowed me to explore different archives, work with some of their documents, and confirm the feasibility of my project. My dissertation explores the diplomatic and environmental history of the Mexico-Guatemala border during the second half of the twentieth century, and how discourses of threats to national security and abundance of natural resources influenced the management of this frontier borderland.

At the AGN, I consulted the presidential papers of Miguel Alemán Valdés (1946-1952) and Adolfo López Mateos (1958-1964). Although I initially intended to work with the Luis Echeverría Álvarez (1970-1976) papers, the former presidents' documents were better catalogued and ready for consultation. This change in research plans proved fruitful as I discovered rich material relating to the governance of the southern Mexican border and the different development projects and migration policies Mexico had envisioned at the time. I also worked with documents from the Dirección Federal de Seguridad (DFS). Jumping chronologically in time, these DFS documents illustrated how Mexican intelligence services closely monitored the presence and activity of Guatemalan guerrillas in Mexico City and Chiapas during the 1970s. Reading through numerous files on interrogation reports and the discovery of secret revolutionary cells operating within Mexico led me to consider how the Cold War impacted the way officials imagined and reproduced the border zone.

As I worked with those rich presidential and intelligence documents, I also visited the SRE and worked with their Diplomatic Mission collection and the Archivo de Límites y Ríos México-Guatemala. The former group of documents contained different material on the diplomatic relations between Mexico and Guatemala, including correspondence to and from ambassadors, reports on border incursions, and binational efforts at cooperation in managing the border. The Archivo de Límites y Ríos México-Guatemala collection exemplified this latter point as it contained material on the Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas, a binational commission intended to create a more equitable relationship between both nations in managing the border and exploiting its natural resources. This particular collection contained abundant material on the quotidian practices of border management and the role of the natural environment in enforcing a fluid and dynamic river border. While I was unable to fully explore this extensive archival collection, the files I viewed and photographed greatly impacted the direction of my research project.

Nathan Darmiento (continued)

Towards the end of my research trip, I visited the Instituto Nacional de los Pueblos Indígenas archive and met the excellent staff there. They were happy to allow me to view some of their material concerning the southern Mexican border. I found reports on the local Instituto Nacional Indigenista offices that worked with different indigenous communities along this frontier zone, as well as valuable material on a short-lived state-owned timber company that operated in the Selva Lacandona during the 1970s. Although I did not spend as much time at this archive as at the AGN and SRE, the INPI archive allowed me to work with state material that dealt more intimately with local communities along this frontier border zone. It also showed me what socioeconomic issues the state's *indigenista* programs attempted to alleviate and, admittedly to a lesser extent, how these local communities responded to such efforts.

Besides working in these incredible archives, I also connected with different scholars from the U.S. and Mexico. The southern Mexican border is emerging as a key region of interest for historians of Mexico and Central America, and having a network of different researchers who are all studying this same geography enriches the experience and creates a sense of community across institutional and national boundaries. I would like to express my gratitude to the Conference on Latin American History for its generous assistance in making this research trip possible. On a more personal level, being the first person in my family to return to Mexico City in the five decades since they emigrated from there was a life-altering and unforgettable experience, to say the least. I look forward to returning and continuing my research endeavors and to my continued participation in CLAH.

Mariana Charry Esguerra
Northwestern University

The James Scobie Award enabled me to conduct five weeks of exploratory archival research in the musical archive of San Ignacio de Moxos. I arrived in San Ignacio on July 26th to explore the 7,000-folio collection of notated music and examine how these materials could help me trace the ways musical practices shaped forms of Indigenous political organization in the province of Mojos during the complex long eighteenth century.

I began by establishing relationships with the Indigenous leaders of the Cabildo Indígena de San Ignacio de Moxos, who safeguard and transmit the musical and ritual knowledge of the Mojeño Ignacianos. During this first week, I participated in the Ichapekene Fiesta, the most important celebration of the entire liturgical year. With permission from the cabildo indígena to access the archive under the guidance and assistance of Juan Francisco Limaica, local historian and archivist, I was able to broaden my understanding of this musical collection's history.

These five weeks in the archive helped me both explore the feasibility of my project and opened new avenues of research that help me address my research questions. In the first place, my work in the musical archive invited me to focus on the figure of the copyists and musical interpreters. The notated music sheets that compose this archive have been copied by chapel masters, copyists, and Mojeño Indigenous interpreters who signed, dated, and initialed each of the copies for more than 200 years. This practice of copying and interpretation ensured the preservation of this immense collection of music notated in Indigenous language. The bulk of the musical documents was copied and preserved by Trinitario Mojeño Indigenous people who fled from the exploitation of the rubber boom and carried with them the sheet music and methods for reading and singing notated music. These became key elements in the foundation of new towns and communities in what is today the Indigenous Territory and National Park Isiboro Securé (TIPNIS). In each of the communities, the practice of copying musical scores has been maintained, and these were compiled, archived, and catalogued at the beginning of the 21st century, which is why they are housed today in San Ignacio de Mojos.

Mariana Charry Esguerra (continued)

Secondly, I had the opportunity to review the archive's collection, which is composed of doctrine notebooks that contain transcriptions of musical and religious teaching methods that were also preserved and copied along with the notated music parts. On one hand, the doctrine notebooks show what the methods of music teaching were in missionary contexts. On the other hand, they open possibilities for thinking about the history of the meanings and places that musical teaching took among Indigenous communities beyond the Jesuit missionary structure. These documents open possibilities for tracing the forms of musical knowledge transmission and the role that this exercise of knowledge transmission played in the construction of identities and political formations in the face of changes in the political economy that threatened the stability of previous Indigenous political structures.

Finally, a large part of the documents in this archive bear the names of copyists and interpreters from various decades. While most of these copyists are from the late 19th century, their names allow us to trace musical genealogies and knowledge transmission networks that go back to the 18th century.

These weeks in San Ignacio opened new veins of analysis for me and also many questions still unresolved. For example, how does this notated music form part of a common history among different Indigenous nations? But also, how did ethnic and territorial differences shape musical practices and their archiving process? These documents will be central to my dissertation, since in addition to being an invaluable resource on musical practices in the province of Mojos, they opened possibilities for studying the processes of ritual and musical knowledge transmission.

Yohad Zacarías S.
University of Texas at Austin

Rural electrification and environment: Cooperatives, the state and transnational development, Chile, 1945-1973

With the James Scobie Award 2025 from the Conference on Latin American History (CLAH), I conducted a four-week pre-research archive in August 2025 at the ENDESA archives, located within the Development and Production Corporation (CORFO) at the National Archive of Administration (ARNAD) in Santiago, Chile. These primary sources also provide essential information about the National Federation of Electric Cooperatives (In Spanish: Federación Nacional de Cooperativas Eléctricas or FENACOPEL) during the period under study. By reviewing annual reports, newspapers, electrification requests, and electrical plans, I verified the feasibility of my doctoral dissertation and focused my research on the following points.

First, I gathered information on the impact of electrical infrastructure in rural areas, such as power lines, and its connection to the agricultural industry in central and southern Chile. In this regard, the ENDESA archive not only contains data on rural electrification in the south but also across the entire country. I want to highlight two key points here. First, there is a transnational connection between Chile and the United States through international loans aimed at promoting rural electrification. This supports my main argument about the role of the state—or its absence—in promoting rural electrification during the period under study. It also makes me consider extending the study period, as the ENDESA archive contains information up to 1990. Second, there is the presence of rural electrification and its integration with other private industries, such as dairies.

Yohad Zacarías S. (continued)

Second, I traced the role of electric cooperatives in promoting and developing rural electrification. On the one hand, electric cooperatives in central and southern Chile helped electrify recreational areas, such as hot springs, and many other activities, which led to the formation of political citizenship and membership surrounding them. On the other hand, one of the most interesting aspects I investigated is how electric cooperatives encouraged the development of electrification in rural public schools. This topic will be fascinating to continue exploring, as it connects my thesis with the historiography of education in Chile and Latin America. Regarding this second point, unfortunately, I found no connection with the Mapuche indigenous communities in southern Chile, only with the location of private industries in the area. A task for future research will be to trace this process, as well as to explore whether the promotion of rural electrification involves a gender perspective and what consequences its integration into the private sphere has had.

Third, an interesting aspect of this archival pre-research from a methodological perspective is that most of the information is located in maps and electrification plans. Therefore, for future studies, it will be crucial to consider how this knowledge is generated at different spatial levels and how that information can be used to build a historical narrative. I was only able to recognize this important aspect thanks to archival research.

Finally, regarding the future dissemination of my work, based on the information I gathered during four weeks of archival research thanks to the James Scobie Award 2025, I am applying to present at the Agriculture History Society (AHS) in June 2026, where I will share the progress of my research. This presentation will be part of a panel on rural experiences in Latin America, such as hydrotechnology, the agricultural industry, and electrification, which I am organizing. I also hope to present my progress at the AHA meeting, which CLAH is involved in, in New Orleans in January 2027.

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