



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Issue 10 (October 2024)



From a map of New Spain in the Special Collections of the University of Houston Libraries in Historia de Nueva-España, published in Mexico City in 1770.

Welcome from Department Chair Catherine F. Patterson, PhD

Greetings from Agnes Arnold Hall! The Department of History has much to celebrate as we begin the new academic year. As you will read below, our accomplished and productive faculty continue to publish books, win teaching awards and prestigious fellowships, and connect our research to the broader community. Our faculty expertise spans the globe and follows compelling themes, including Race and Social Movements; Gender, Women, and Identity; Public and Digital History; Health and Medicine; and Politics, Colonialism, and Borderlands.

Building on our historic strengths, our scholarship and teaching move us into new areas of inquiry as we work to show how history matters.





We welcome a new faculty member to the department, Dr. Hanan Hammad. Dr. Hammad holds the Arab-American Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Arab History and serves as the [Director of the AAEF Center for Arab Studies](#). A social and cultural historian of the modern Middle East, Dr. Hammad brings a wealth of scholarly expertise and academic experience to UH.

Our outstanding students, both graduate and undergraduate, continue to make our department proud. National fellowships, cutting-edge research, and digital humanities projects are among the many accomplishments of our doctoral and master's students. An exciting new addition for our graduate program is the Nau Endowed fellowships in Texas History. We are grateful for the generous gift and the new opportunity it will afford some of our graduate students.

Our undergraduate students are doing great things. History majors are getting more opportunities to conduct research, whether in new courses like "The Historian's Craft", writing for *Houston History* magazine, or in a research internship like the Summer Internship in Public History and Digital Humanities (SIPHDH), sponsored in the Center for Public History and led by History faculty. Our graduating majors go out into the world prepared to think critically, assess information carefully, and communicate effectively, all of which they can put to work throughout their careers and their lives.

I hope you enjoy reading the pages below, which help tell the story of History at UH.

Best regards,
Cathy Patterson
Professor and Chair
Department of History

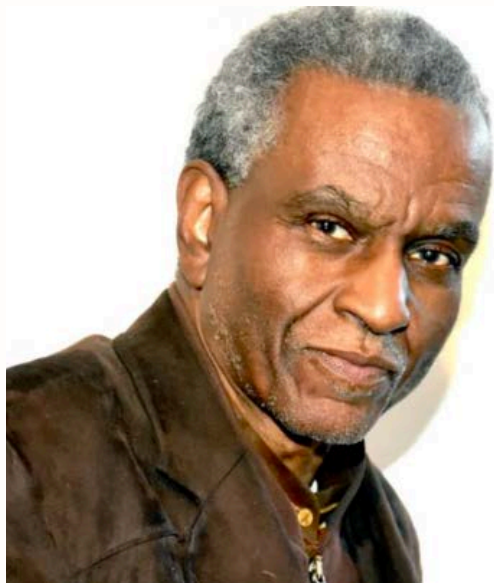
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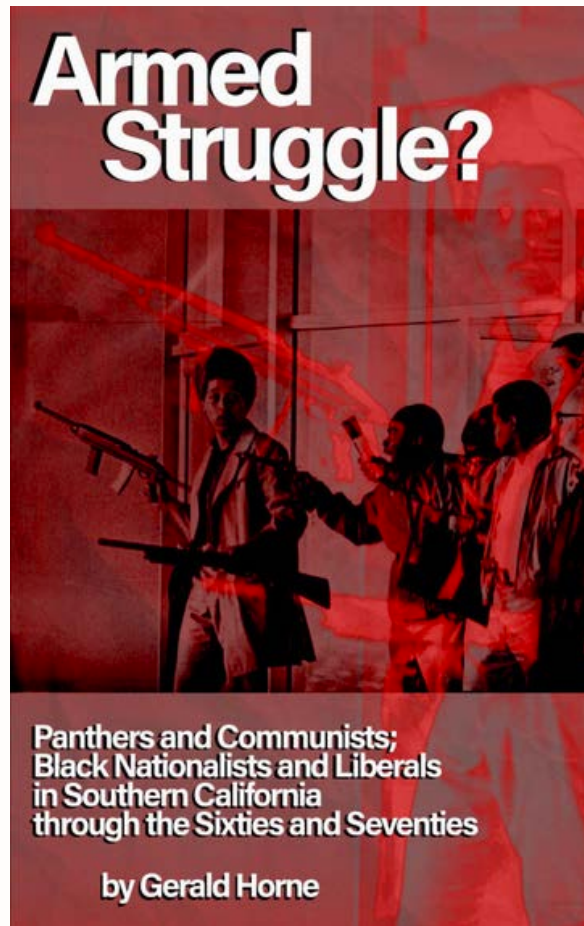
Faculty Books and Awards

“Southern California has been a leader nationally in fomenting radicalism. The Communist Party had one of its strongest units there, buoyed by influence in Hollywood. Yet, this region also has been a stalwart of the Black Liberation Movement, as suggested by the importance of the Watts Uprising of 1965 in Los Angeles and the concomitant ascendancy of the Black Panther Party, whose leaders—e.g., Eldridge Cleaver and George Jackson—had roots in Pasadena. Angela Davis, accused in the early 1970s of murder, kidnapping, and conspiracy, was not only a bridge between the CP and BPP, but studied in San Diego before teaching at UCLA.

In this exhaustively researched book, Gerald Horne sketches the apparent paradox of some African Americans turning to armed struggle at a time when it appeared that Jim Crow was retreating. He draws critical distinctions between armed propaganda, armed self-defense—and armed struggle—all of which he places in a global context of anti-war activism, the Cold War, and African liberation.” --- International Publishers



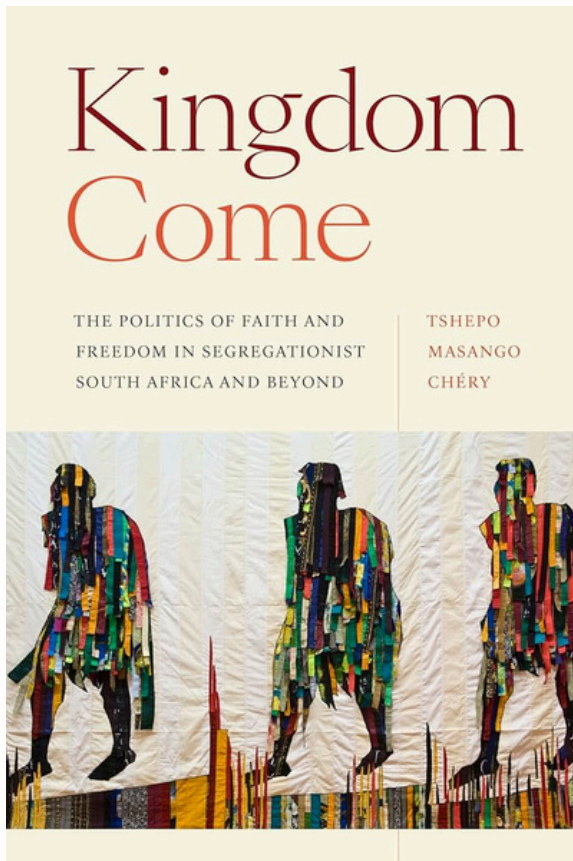
*Gerald Horne, **Armed Struggle? Panthers and Communists; Black Nationalists and Liberals in Southern California through the Sixties and Seventies***
(International Publishers, 2024)



Dr. Gerald Horne Hosts Weekly Public Programming

Dr. Horne is a co-producer and host of “[Freedom Now](#),” an internationalist, Pan-African, world affairs program which is broadcast every Saturday on KPFK-FM Los Angeles. He also contributes to a live show each week featuring a roundup of International News and Analysis for the Activist News Network.

Tshepo Masango Chéry,
*Kingdom Come: The Politics of Faith
 and Freedom in Segregationist
 South Africa and Beyond*
 (Duke University Press, 2023)



“In *Kingdom Come*, Tshepo Masango Chéry charts a new genealogy of early twentieth-century Black Christian activists who challenged racism in South Africa before the solidification of apartheid by using faith as a strategy against global racism. Masango Chéry traces this Black freedom struggle and the ways that South African church leaders defied colonial domination by creating, in solidarity with Black Christians worldwide, Black-controlled religious institutions that were geared toward their liberation. She demonstrates how Black Christians positioned the church as a site of political resistance and centered specifically African visions of freedom in their organizing. Drawing on archival research spanning South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya, the United Kingdom, and the United States, Masango Chéry tells a global story of the twentieth century that illuminates the formations of racial identity, state control, and religious belief. Masango Chéry's recentering of South Africa in the history of worldwide Black liberation changes understandings of spiritual and intellectual routes of dissemination throughout the diaspora.”

--- Duke University Press

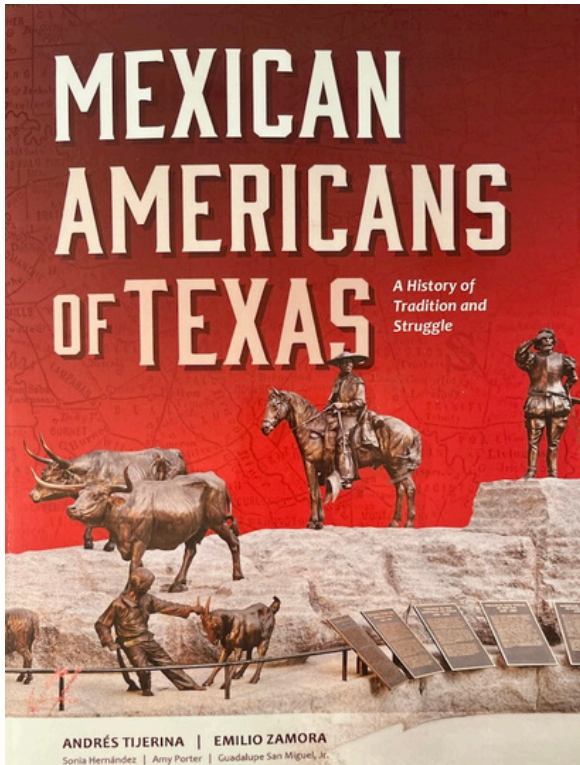
“The University Belongs to Us!”
 Meditations on Protest and Change in
 South Africa’s Higher Education and
 Beyond

Dr. Tshepo Masango Chéry delivered the Carroll R. Pauley Memorial Lecture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in October of 2023. Analyzing the intersections between race, education, protest, and religion, she historicized contemporary struggles to demand change in higher education as part of South Africans’ tradition of protest.





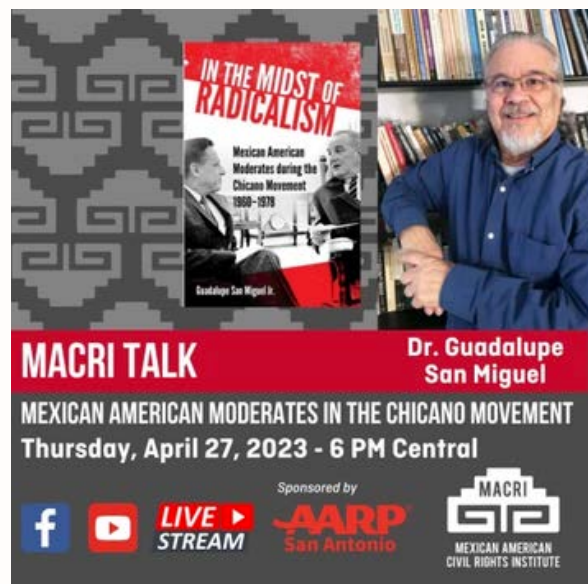
Dr. Guadalupe San Miguel, Jr., with Emilio Zamora, Andres Tijerina, Amy Porter, and Sonia Hernández (PhD 2006), published *Mexican Americans of Texas: A History of Tradition and Struggle* (Kendall Hunt Publishing, 2023)



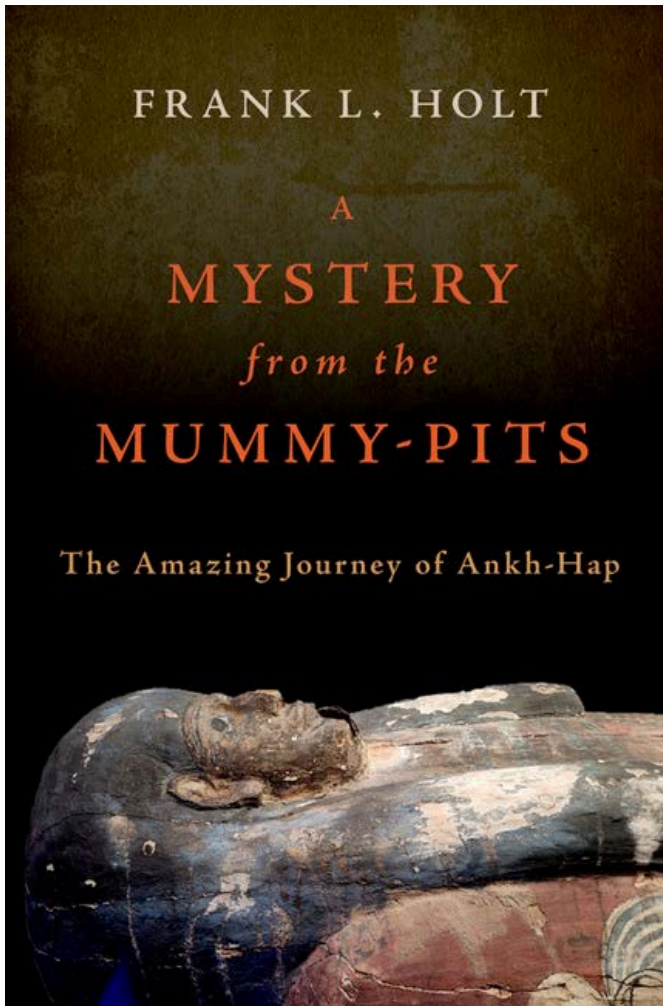
“Mexican Americans of Texas: A History of Tradition and Struggle revisits the history of Texas and connects the Mexican Americans to the history of the United States as well as the history of Europe and the rest of the world. The textbook features seven sections and 15 chapters in chronological order. Each chapter begins with learning objectives, key terms and a timeline that aims for each student to learn how Mexican Americans came to be Texans and how their story is a quintessentially American one. Mexican Americans provided Texas with distinctive culture, Texan vocabulary, and delivered its independence from Spain. Mexican Americans are the only Texans who have been in Texas under all six flags over Texas. The first chapter dates back 30,000 years and discusses the early migrations, various peoples, agriculture and geography of Indigenous groups. Chapter 15, the Post Nationalist Era, covers 1980-2015.” --- Kendall Hunt Publishing

Dr. Guadalupe San Miguel Delivers Public Talk at Mexican American Civil Rights Institute

In October, 2023, Dr. Guadalupe San Miguel, Jr., delivered a public talk based on his 2022 book, *In the Midst of Radicalism: Mexican American Moderates during the Chicano Movement, 1960-1978* published by the University of Oklahoma Press. At the Mexican American Civil Rights Institute in San Antonio, TX, he spoke about the role of Mexican American moderates in advancing social justice through policy and reform.



Frank L. Holt, *A Mystery from the Mummy-Pits: The Amazing Journey of Ankh-Hap*
(Oxford University Press, 2023)



“A *Mystery from the Mummy-Pits* contextualizes this fascinating information by surveying the history of similar mummies from antiquity to the twentieth century, moving from ancient tomb robbers and medieval apothecaries to modern dime museums, traveling shows, pulp fiction, films, and pop culture. The book offers readers a new glimpse inside a dark chapter of mummy history.”

Dr. Frank Lee Holt is Professor Emeritus of History. This is his tenth book.

From Oxford’s press release: “As the world recently commemorated the hundredth anniversary of the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun, our fascination with the pharaoh begs for a balanced view. Most Egyptian tombs are not royal; most were never carefully cleared and documented; most have not had their occupants treated with respect or returned to their sepulchers; and most recovered mummies have not escaped the modern trafficking in ancient bodies and body parts. The story of Ankh-Hap, a Ptolemaic-era mummy seized in the nineteenth century from the infamous mummy-pits of Egypt, provides a salutary example of what most mummies have endured.

Like a detective, Frank Holt makes use of a robust combination of scientific tools and archival research to tell the story of Ankh-Hap's life, death, and his mummified remains, which ended up in the back of an American college classroom. *A Mystery from the Mummy-Pits* takes the reader into a forgotten world of mummy trafficking by an American entrepreneur named Henry Augustus Ward (1834-1906). In Rochester, N.Y., his company's shelves were stocked with mummies, coffins, and even ancient body parts such as mummies' heads (\$10 each), legs (\$4 each), and arms (\$5 each). Customers could piece together their ‘Frankenmummy’ with authentic wrappings and amulets sold separately.”



Dr. Leandra Zarnow Awarded Grants by American Philosophical Society, National Endowment for the Humanities, and UH Hobby School of Public Affairs

Dr. Leandra Zarnow has won three competitive external and internal awards to support her research on women’s political, legal, and intellectual history in the United States. This represents a rare achievement in recognition of an outstanding scholar. Dr. Zarnow won a Faculty Research Award for Hispanic Serving Institutions from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which she will hold between 2024-2026. Dr. Zarnow was selected as a Mellon Fellow at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, founded by Benjamin Franklin. She will also be a Fellow at the Rockwell Center for Ethics and Leadership in the Hobby School for 2024-2025 at the University of Houston to provide archival research support. With Dr. Nancy Beck Young, Dr. Zarnow secured a monumental, three-year NEH grant in 2021 for “Sharing Stories from 1977” and continues to bring acclaim to the Department of History and UH as a whole.

These highly selective grants for the next two years will support Dr. Zarnow’s current book project with Liveright of W.W. Norton & Co., “The Heterodites: Six Women and the Secret Society that Shaped American Feminism,” a collective biography of important, but lesser-known, feminists. According to Dr. Zarnow, studying the “lives of a few Heterodites in close range allows a better understanding of how Heterodoxy became a hub of American feminist thought and action.” The secretive collective included women of many walks of life, and Dr. Zarnow places Heterodoxy in the context of the social movements of the 20th century. She traces the connections between the Heterodites through their written correspondence and other unpublished materials. The theme continues her focus on feminists as, in her words, a “constellation of women, organizers and activists.”



WHAT IS FEMINISM?
COME AND FIND OUT
FIRST FEMINIST MASS MEETING
at the PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE, Cooper Union
Tuesday Evening, February 17th, 1914, at 8 o'clock, P. M.
Subject: "WHAT FEMINISM MEANS TO ME."
Ten-Minute Speeches by
ROSE YOUNG GEORGE CREEL
JESSE LYNCH WILLIAMS MRS. FRANK COTHREN
HENRIETTA RODMAN FLOYD DELL
GEORGE MIDDLETON CRYSTAL EASTMAN BENEDICT
FRANCES PERKINS EDWIN BJORKMAN
WILL IRWIN MAX EASTMAN
Chairman, MARIE JENNEY HOWE.
SECOND FEMINIST MASS MEETING
at the PEOPLES' INSTITUTE, Cooper Union
Friday, February 20th, 1914, at 8 o'clock, P. M.
Subject: "BREAKING INTO THE HUMAN RACE."
The Right to Work.— RHETA CHILDE DORR
The Right of the Mother to Her Profession.— BEATRICE FORBES-ROBERTSON-HALE.
The Right to Her Convictions.— MARY SHAW.
The Right to Her Name.— FOLA LA FOLLETTE.
The Right to Organize.— ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN.
The Right to Ignore Fashion.— NINA WILCOX PUTNAM.
The Right to Specialize in Home Industries.— CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN.
Chairman, MARIE JENNEY HOWE.
ADMISSION FREE. NO COLLECTION.

“First Feminist Mass Meeting Flier” from 1914 held at New York Historical Society



Dr. Natalia Milanesio Holds Leverhulme Professorship in United Kingdom

Dr. Milanesio spent the summer and fall of 2023 and spring of 2024 at the [Institute of the Americas, University College London](#) on a Leverhulme Professorship. Established in 1925, the Leverhulme Trust allows universities in the U.K. to bring in scholars from overseas who can contribute to disseminating new academic knowledge currently untapped in Britain. While in residence at UCL, Dr. Milanesio advanced her current book project on 1980s feminism in Argentina and gave talks, lectures, and seminars at the University of London Institute of Historical Research, the University of Cambridge, the University of Oxford, Warwick University, and the University of Amsterdam. Her journal article, “Beyond Sex: Pornographic Journalism, Violence, and Politics in Argentina’s Transition to Democracy,” appeared in *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies*.



Dr. Milanesio also received a UH Research Progress Grant and a UH Small Grant in recognition of her projects. She contributed chapters to two edited volumes: *El año que recuperamos la democracia. 1983: Una coyuntura de disputas* (Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata); and *Recasting the Nation in Twentieth Century Argentina* (Routledge).

Dr. José Angel Hernández Wins Medal for Historical Merit

On May 17, 2024, Dr. José Angel Hernández received the [Captain Alonso de León Steel Medal for Historical Merit in its International category from the Sociedad Nuevoleonesa de Historia, Geografía y Estadística, A. C.](#) (Society for History, Geography, and Statistics of Nuevo Leon) founded in 1942 in the Mexican state of Nuevo León. Its prestigious medals are awarded annually to scholars in Mexico and abroad for outstanding scholarship and contributions to the advanced study of history, geography, and culture. A three-time Fulbright Scholar (2004, 2015, 2019), Dr. Hernández has conducted research in Mexico and the Philippines with Fulbright support. He has served as an [Alumni Ambassador](#) for the Fulbright Scholar Program.



Dr. José Angel Hernández accepts a medal from the Sociedad Nuevoleonesa de Historia, Geografía y Estadística in May, 2024

Dr. Alexey Golubev Awarded a Visegrad Scholarship for the Open Society Archives

According to Dr. Alexey Golubev, “this award is for a short-term visit to do research, where Dr. Golubev previously studied public communication of knowledge in the Cold War Soviet Union. The Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives house the archive of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty’s (RFE/RL) Research Institute, formed in 1976 when the research departments of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty merged. Its goal was to provide expertise on the Eastern bloc. Among its many collections on political, economic, and social issues, the USSR-related materials, known as the “Soviet Red Archives,” cover fields such as medicine, astronomy, biology, psychology, and physics. The RFE/RL Research Institute never claimed strictly scientific expertise in these fields; instead, its staff compiled Soviet newspaper articles and radio broadcasts alongside English, German, and French materials discussing knowledge in the USSR.

Since RFE/RL sought to provide an informed critique of state socialist politics and societies, its staff operated on the assumption that scientific knowledge and practices in the USSR were ideologically and socially constructed. This positionality was a product of their own ideological stance, but in the context of my research, it is important to note that, thanks to this positionality, they were aware that science and society were mutually constitutive and shaped each other long before Sheila Jasanoff encapsulated this idea in the concept of the co-production of science and social order. By extending its expertise into the area of knowledge production and communication in the USSR, the RFE/RL Research Institute assumed the functions of epistemic arbitrage between Soviet and Western knowledge producers and communicators.”



Above, Dr. Alexey Golubev at the inaugural Health is Politics conference in April, 2024

Below, Dr. Richard Mizelle



Dr. Richard Mizelle published a chapter, “Simkins v. Cone and the Hospital Desegregation Movement in the Long Twentieth Century,” in the edited volume *Public Health and the American State* from Edinburgh University Press this year.



Dr. Adela Cedillo poses a question to a visiting historian at a campus event

Dr. Adela Cedillo continued to raise the profile of our department by publishing with leading journals and presses in Mexico. Her recent article, [“Perspectiva comparativa de las llamadas guerras sucias en América Latina y México” in the prestigious periodical *Historia Mexicana*](#), compares “dirty wars” and state terror across Mexico and Latin America. She was also part of a [Forum on Historical Fiction published in the *American Historical Review*](#), in which she discussed “A New Approach to Dirty Wars in Latin America. *Review of the novel Velvet Was the Night by Silvia Moreno-Garcia* (New York: Del Rey, 2021) and the films *Marighella* by Wagner Moura (2019), and *Argentina, 1985* by Santiago Mitre (2022).”

She contributed chapters to edited volumes, including “La Liga Comunista 23 de Septiembre en el Cuadrilátero de Oro: un experimento foquista parcialmente exitoso (1973-1975)” in *Violencias mexicanas, 1920-2020* from El Colegio de Mexico, 2024; and “Las guerrilleras serranas y la disrupción de las jerarquías de clase, etnia y género en la Sierra Baja Tarahumara durante la década de los setenta.” in *Historia de las Mujeres y de Género en México. Espacios y experiencias diversas en el siglo XX mexicano*, which was jointly published by Universidad de Sonora and El Colegio Mexiquense in 2023.



Dr. Pratik Chakrabarti is honored at the President's 50-in-5 celebration in February

Dr. Pratik Chakrabarti was named a UH 50-in-5 Faculty Scholar for 2023. He delivered the keynote address, “The Naked Pharaohs: Decolonizing the Nineteenth Century,” at the inaugural conference of the International Nineteenth-Century Studies Association held in Durham in July. His chapter, “‘Europe does not want you’: Natural History, Materia Medica and the Empire,” was included in *Histories of Health and Materiality in the Indian Ocean World: Medicine, Material Culture and Trade, 1600-2000*, published by Bloomsbury Academic in 2023.

Dr. Karl Ittman signed a contract with Oxford University Press for his forthcoming book *Fueling Empire: The British Imperial Oil Complex 1886-1945*.





Dr. Cihan Yüksel Wins NEH Summer Stipend Award to Conduct Research

Dr. Cihan Yüksel was awarded an National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend. This is highly competitive national prize with an award rate of only 13% of the submitted applications. Dr. Yüksel’s winning project proposal was, “Captivity Narratives in the Context of and Medieval and Early-Modern Muslim Encounters.” The summer stipend funded two months of archival research and writing.

Dr. Yüksel explains that her project will “locate and identify captivity narrative texts within the context of encounters between the Ottoman Empire and its Muslim peers and rivals; these texts will form the basis of an article examining how these texts enrich our understanding about the role of captivity narratives in these societies as well as the place of the Ottoman Empire in the flourishing field of captivity studies. This study is significant for at least two reasons: First, it will contribute to our understanding of the connections among captivity narratives, colonialism, and orientalism. Additionally, it will bolster recent studies that have emphasized the significance of encounters among the Islamic powers for their rhetoric of power and sovereignty, along with their engagements against their non-Muslim counterparts in the West.”



Above, Dr. Cihan Yüksel prepares for an archival visit in İstanbul

Below, Dr. Mark Goldberg delivers a lecture at the Holocaust Museum Houston



Dr. Mark Goldberg Wins CITE Grant

Dr. Mark Goldberg received a Cougar Initiative to Engage Grant for Expanding Research Access in STEM at the University of Houston. His Co-Principal Investigators are Dr. Greg Morrison in Physics and Drs. Martín Núñez and Ricardo Azevedo of the Department of Biology and Biochemistry. Their project works in partnership with the UH chapter of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science. Dr. Goldberg will direct the oral history component of the project by training graduate students to conduct interviews of students of color in STEM fields.



Princeton University Humanities Council Awards Collaborative Humanities Grant for Three-Year Project to Dr. Alexey Golubev

Prior to the Russian-Ukrainian War, the field of Russian, Eastern European, and Eurasian studies (REEES) had been engaged in productive inquiries into the Soviet predicaments of modernity, a direction that was instrumental for creating a vibrant dialogue with other fields in social sciences and humanities. When full-scale war broke out in September 2022, these key transdisciplinary conversations and connections took a hard hit.



Photo by Soviet photographer Max Penson featured on [SovMode: A Series of Annual Workshops](#)

Instead of placing this war in the global context of present-day imperialism and the failure of the international security system, a new dominant discourse emerged in the REEES field. This discourse is preoccupied with the production of teleological narratives that seek to establish linear cause-and-effect links between Soviet socialism and the current Russian-Ukrainian war and lead to new divisions of societies into “progressive” and “barbaric” under the disguise of decolonization.

To counter this trend, Dr. Alexey Golubev and Dr. Serguei Oushakine (Princeton University) organized the three-year long project *SovMode: Reconsidering Modernity and Socialism*. The goal is to renew and reframe our understanding of how Soviet modernity was imagined, practiced, embodied, and materialized throughout the twentieth century in the USSR, and how its legacies continue to impact post-Soviet societies and globally. The organizational framework of the project is a series of thematic annual workshops held at Princeton. We hope to reignite the debate on modernity in the Soviet Union, using our discussions as points of departure for reconfiguring the logic of the field itself. --- Dr. Alexey Golubev



Dr. Kelly Hopkins contributed “Bringing Group Research to the Large Lecture Hall,” to [Designing Introductory History Courses for Student Success](#), published by the American Historical Association in 2024. Dr. Hopkins regularly teaches the department’s survey of American history and has compiled her strategies for student success to this new pamphlet from the AHA.

Sharing Stories from 1977:
Putting the National Women’s Conference on the Map Data & Feminism

Dr. Nancy Beck Young and Dr. Leandra Zarnow are pleased to announce the release of [Researching the NWC](#), a new page on the [Sharing Stories from 1977 website](#) with datasets for Texas, Guam, and Montana (additional state/territorial datasets will follow between now and 2027 when data for all fifty states plus six territories will be published). Researching the NWC provides scholars the opportunity to conduct basic and advanced research into the demographic data about NWC participants on everything from basic biographical information to education and career, political and community engagement, and role at the NWC. This powerful feature makes an important intervention in the scholarship, showing that American women remained very engaged in the lives of their communities in the late twentieth century.



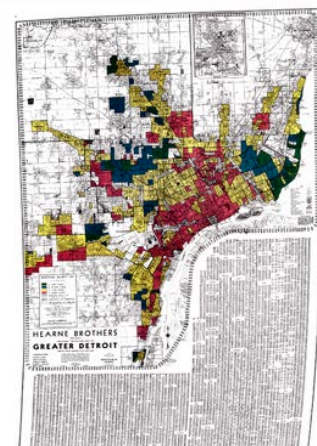
Dr. Leandra Zarnow and undergraduate interns with the Summer Internship in Public History and Digital Humanities.



Dr. Nancy Beck Young speaks at the Health is Politics conference



Dr. Josiah Rector contributed an entry on Detroit to the project [Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America](#) from the Digital Scholarship Lab this year. His contribution contextualizes a residential security map from 1939, lists further readings, and allows users to view spaces in the city based on population and modes of housing discrimination.



Faculty News

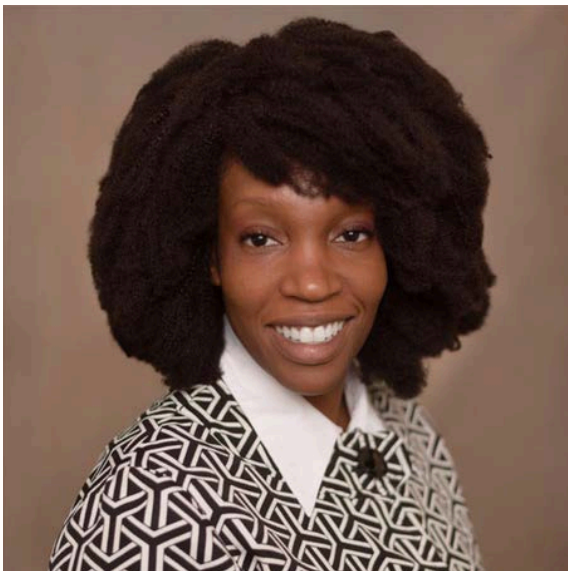
Welcome Dr. Hanan Hammad, our incoming Arab-American Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Arab History & Director of the AAEF Center for Arab Studies!



Dr. Hanan Hammad is an expert in histories of the Egyptian working class, gender and sexuality, women’s activism, and film. She is the author of two books, *Unknown Past: Layla Murad, the Jewish-Muslim Star of Egypt*, (Stanford); and *Industrial Sexuality Gender, Urbanization, and Social Transformation in Egypt* with UT Press. Recently, she wrote “Gendering the History of the Labor Movement: Reconceptualizing Women’s Labor Activism in Egypt,” in the *Oxford Handbook of Modern Egyptian History*; and “Policing Women in Downtown Cairo: Students and Their Brothel Friends in Colonial Times” in *Cairo Securitized: Reconceiving Urban Justice and Social Resilience* from The American University in Cairo Press.

Faculty Promotions to Associate and Full Professor

Dr. Tshepo Masango Chéry (Left) achieved promotion with tenure and is now Associate Professor of African History (see p. 4). Dr. Nandini Bhattacharya (Right) has been promoted to Professor of South Asian & Medical History, with the publication of her book *Disparate Remedies: Making Medicines in Modern India*, featured in last year’s Newsletter.





Letter from Graduate Director Raúl Ramos, PhD and Associate Director Scout Johnson, PhD

This fall, the department welcomed 16 new graduate students into our program, six pursuing their MA and ten in the PhD track. Included in the MA degree are several students enrolled in the Public History program. We are excited to see these students develop their research and scholarly agendas. Overall, we currently have 52 students enrolled in various stages of the graduate degree.

Our students have been active presenting at conferences, teaching courses, and receiving grants and fellowships and generally engaging in the profession. Our department recognizes excellence in multiple areas of scholarship through prizes and fellowships that support graduate research. Shine Trabucco holds the inaugural John L. Nau, III PhD Fellowship in Texas History. The John L. Nau, III Fellowships will fund dissertation and thesis completion as well as public history projects in Texas history. Incoming graduate student Miranda Ruzinsky was a Welcome Wilson Houston History Intern. PhD student Rahil Asgari received the Margaret Henson Prize for Best Paper on Women's History in the History Department. Recent graduate Dr. Caitlyn Jones won the John King Prize for Outstanding Graduate Student in the Department, received the Center for Public History Joseph A. Pratt Houston History Prize, and was appointed to a National Parks Service Mellon Fellowship at the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument. The Stanley Siegel Prize for Scholarship in Texas History and Center for Public History Ernesto Valdes Prize in Oral History went to recent graduate Dr. Allison Sáenz, a fellow in the Inter-University Program for Latino Research/UIC Mellon Program at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

Beyond our department, our students garner institutional, national, and international recognitions. Seth Uzman held the UH Presidential Fellowship. James Burke and Muthuvel Deivendran received Dean's Recruitment Scholarships in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. The D.W. Mitchell Scholarship went to Claire Keck and Miranda Ruzinsky. Finally, PhD candidate Fadi Kafety received an internationally prestigious and highly competitive Doctoral Fellowship from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers at the American Center of Research in Jordan.

We recognize and congratulate Cady Hammer and Jesús Sánchez, who graduated with the MA degree in Spring 2024. Cady has begun work as a genealogist in Arlington, Virginia, with the Daughters of the American Revolution. Jesús continues graduate studies in the History PhD program at the University of Illinois Chicago.



The Department celebrates the graduation of the following doctoral students in 2023 and 2024:

- Patrick D Higgins, “Palestinian Revolution and World Imperialism in the ‘American Century,’ 1945-1972” Major Advisor: Abdel Razzaq Takriti
- Caitlyn Jones, “‘The Most Important Event Nobody Knows About:’ The 1977 National Women’s Conference in Public Memory” Major Advisors: Nancy Beck Young and Leandra Zarnow
- Karla Lira-Moore, “For the City: Latinx and Black Athletes in Houston, 1950s-1970s” Major Advisor: Mark A. Goldberg
- Alison Sáenz, "Being a U.S. Central American: Migration, Culture, and Ethnicity in Houston Post-1965" Major Advisors: Monica Perales and Mark A. Goldberg

Our graduate department continues to be a leader in the state in cutting edge research and preparing scholars for higher education and beyond.

Dr. Raul Ramos
Director of Graduate Studies

Dr. Scout Johnson
Associate Director of Graduate Studies

Graduate Student News



Fadi Kafeety has been awarded a prestigious predoctoral fellowship by the [American Center of Research from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers](#) (ACOR-CAORC) in Jordan. He will devote his time in Jordan to completing his dissertation, “A History of the Jordanian Communist Party, 1951–1993.”

Fadi Kafeety presented his research, “The Kuwaiti Press and Third World Liberation Struggles during the 1960s,” at the Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association in November, 2023, in Montréal, Canada. Dr. Abed Takriti (Rice University) has mentored Fadi’s research on anti-colonial movements in the Arab world. Prior to joining the American Center of Research as a predoctoral fellow, Fadi served as assistant director of the AAEF Center for Arab Studies at UH from 2020 to 2024. Fellowships from Council of American Overseas Research Centers are highly competitive, and only twenty fellows were selected from around the world for the cohort at the American Center for Research in Amman, Jordan. Fadi will be in residence among colleagues in archaeology, medicine, anthropology, and religious studies, among other disciplines.



Miranda Ruzinsky at the Summer Internship in Public History and Digital Humanities

Miranda Ruzinsky is a Lydia Mendoza Fellow with the UH Center for Mexican American and Latino/a Studies and a graduate student in the Center for Public History. She has researched the transmission of Spanish in Latinx families as a 2022 Mellon Scholar and interned for several public history projects. Miranda’s interest in public history began as a child growing up in a bicultural family. Her desire to understand her father’s New York Ashkenazi Jewish roots and her mother’s Mexican American background from South Texas has fueled her research. Ultimately, she decided to pursue a Ph.D. in history. She plans to explore Texas history using a range of theoretical methods.

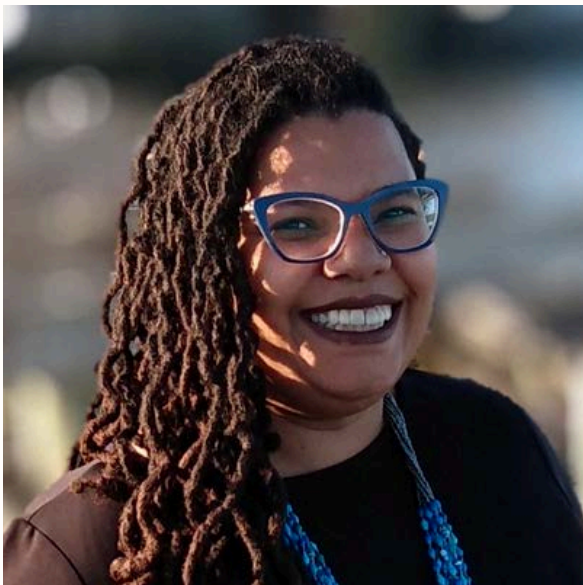


Valeria González conducts archival research for Houston History Magazine

Valeria González is a Lydia Mendoza Fellow with the UH Center for Mexican American and Latino/a Studies and a first-generation college student who recently graduated with honors from the University of Houston. Working with Dr. Mark Goldberg, she will focus on U.S. History and Public History. She comes to the graduate program with experience with Recovering the US Hispanic Literary Heritage, the Sharing Stories from 1977 Project, and the UH Libraries. While working on these projects, Valeria became interested in public history and digital humanities scholarship. Her research interests include Texas and northern Mexico and, specifically, the history of Jews in the U.S.-Mexico border region.

Rahil Asgari, a PhD candidate in U.S. History advised by Dr. Nancy Beck Young, won the Margaret Henson Prize for Best Paper on Women’s History in 2024 from the Department of History. Rahil’s interests range from Labor History to the history of sexuality. With members of the project team working on NEH-funded digital humanities project, “Sharing Stories from 1977,” and facilitated by her advisor, Rahil participated in a roundtable, “Using Public History to Study Modern Feminism” this past spring at the National Council on Public History annual meeting.





Heather Butina-Sutton, a PhD candidate in History with a certificate in Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies advised by Dr. Philip Howard, was one of just seven graduate students at UH to be honored by a [College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences 2023 Research Excellence and Diversity Fellowship](#). This support will allow Heather Butina-Sutton to further her research in Charleston, SC, as part of her comparative dissertation project, "Hucksters, Hawkers, and Ganhadeiras: How Black Women Shaped Culture and Capitalism in the Atlantic World."

Heather is also the recipient of a 2023 Catherine Prelinger Award from the Coordinating Council for Women in History. Broadly, Heather studies the cultural and economic histories of women of African descent in the Atlantic World and has expertise in both Brazil and the United States in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. She is interested in framing Black women's entrepreneurship as a form of resistance.



Recent graduate Dr. Allison Sáenz (PhD 2024) was a fellow in the Inter-University Program for Latino Research/University of Illinois Chicago Mellon Program for 2023-24. With this opportunity, she successfully completed her dissertation mentored by Dr. Kency Cornejo (Associate Professor, Art History, University of New Mexico) and guided by her PhD advisors Drs. Monica Perales (UTSA) and Mark Goldberg (UH).

Her 2023 essay, "[The Immigration History\(ies\) That Make Me](#)" appeared in the online publication *Not From Here* of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society. In the piece, Dr. Sáenz talks about her research into placemaking and immigration policy and the memories of what these policies have meant in her own life and the lives of her loved ones. The piece reflects on what it means to visit a repository like the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services History Office and Library.

"[D]espite the heaviness that weighs down on me, I feel affirmed when remembering why I made this trip, and who I made it for." --- Dr. Allison Sáenz



Jacob King has been awarded a John L Nau, III Fellowship in Public History, and with it, has worked with Dr. Todd Romero on the La Louisiane en Tejas: Gulf Coast Foodways in Southeast Texas. Jacob is a student of Dr. Josiah Rector in the MA program in Public History, with research interests in environmental justice movements and mobilization in Houston. He also interns with the Coalition of Environment, Equity, and Resilience. He assists with their organizing efforts around environmental justice and helps the organization document the history of their campaigns. Jacob also organizes events for the nonprofit Give2Cuba.



Sutanwi Chatterjee presented a paper titled, “Mercury as Medicine in the Indian Subcontinent (1750-1915)” at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference in Seattle, Washington, in March of 2024. A PhD student in History working with Dr. Nandini Bhattacharya, Sutanwi is working on “Disease Control in Colonial Port cities (Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay) of India (1857-1947).” She comes to the University of Houston with the M.Phil. from Ambedkar University. Recently, Sutanwi was a summer graduate student research assistant with the CPH project, “Algorithms and Power Systems Architecture: Using Historical Analysis to Envision a Sustainable Future.” Funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, her work included collecting oral histories and editing transcriptions of oral histories.



Jesús Sánchez completed an M.A. Thesis in Latin American History this year entitled, “No Soy de Aquí ni Soy de Allá.” Historical and Collective Memory of the Salvadoran Civil War by the Salvadoran Diaspora in Houston,” with the mentorship of Dr. Adela Cedillo. Jesús joined the PhD program in the Department of History at the University of Illinois Chicago.



Recent graduate Dr. Karla Lira-Moore (PhD 2024) held the Catarino and Evangelina Hernández Research Fellowship in Latino History from the Texas State Historical Association, an annual prize for research. Dr. Lira-Moore’s research focuses on Latinx and Black college athletes in the educational and athletic spaces from the latter part of Jim Crow to the 1970s. Using oral histories, her dissertation research maps the relationships Latinx and Blacks formed in Houston and the in the University of Houston Athletic Program.

Aracely Lara, a Public History student advised by Drs. Mark Goldberg and Nancy Beck Young, is part of the Graduate Fellowship Program of the Center for Mexican American and Latino/a Studies. Her research concerns Texas-based muralists with a focus on communal healing and resistance. She was also featured in the “[Public Historians at Work](#)” podcast series. She researched and produced this recorded podcast episode, “Finding Radical Hope: 100 Years of Stories,” which focused on alumnae leaders like Yolanda Black Navarro, Maria Jimenez, and Graciela Saenz.



Nancy Katz, PhD candidate, was awarded a Texas Jewish Historical Society Grant to conduct dissertation research this past summer in the Rio Grande Valley. Her advisor is Dr. Mark Goldberg. Nancy Katz was also a Roundtable Participant in the discussion of, “The Sephardic Diaspora: The Places Crypto Jews Inhabited After Expulsion,” at the Southern Jewish Historical Society Annual Meeting in Houston in 2023. Her research focuses on what are today the U.S.-Mexico borderlands.





Shine Trabucco currently holds the inaugural John L. Nau, III Fellowship in Texas History as she completes her dissertation research and writing. Shine is interested in digital humanities, oral history, material culture, environmental history, and Indigenous histories. Shine has already gained national awards and attention for outstanding research and public scholarship, such as a 2022-23 [Crossing Latinidades Mellon Humanities Fellowship](#). On our campus, Shine has worked as a researcher for “To Bear Fruit for Our Race,” with the Center for Public History, and with [Arte Público Press in the Recovering the US Hispanic Literary Heritage Digital Collections](#) on an Optical Character Recognition (OCR) project for the book, *La Patria Perdida*.

Shine, who comes from Taos Pueblo and Quechua ancestors, spoke at the first [symposium of the Alliance for Texas History](#) as part of the discussion “Writing Against the Master Narrative.” She was featured in an article in [Texas Monthly](#) covering the establishment of the new Alliance.



Shine Trabucco indicates the adobe mixture in a household she studied as a fellow of the Crossing Latinidades Humanities Research Initiative

Shine has worked with the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, among other groups in San Antonio, to research adobe homes, many of which were destroyed to make way for new tourist attractions.

John L. Nau, III Endowed Fellowships in Texas History for Graduate Students

We are excited to announce the inaugural year of the John L. Nau, III Fellowships in Texas History Endowment. Mr. Nau, a businessman and philanthropist with a passion for history and historic preservation, generously established an endowment for the UH History Department that will help support graduate students who are working in areas of Texas history. For the 2024-25 academic year, the Nau endowment is funding a dissertation fellowship and an RA-ship in Public History.

The first Nau fellowship awardee is History PhD student Shine Trabucco, a student of Dr. Raul Ramos. Shine’s dissertation investigates the history and cultural significance of adobe buildings in Texas, exploring the intersection between Latina/o and Indigenous communities in early Texas history. The second awardee is Public History MA student Jacob King. Jacob will participate as a research assistant in two public history projects, one an oral history of food in the Gulf Coast region that explores the cultural fusion of race and ethnicity in southeast Texas and the other a curatorial project for a museum that looks at environmental history of Houston. The History Department looks forward to the positive impact the Nau Fellows will have on the study of Texas at the PhD and MA levels. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Nau, the endowment will make our department a destination program for studying Texas history, raising the profile of the department and the University of Houston as academic leaders. --- Dr. Cathy Patterson

Reflections on the 2024 Health is Politics Conference

by Muthuvel Deivendran
and Katherine Truax
PhD Students

The inaugural Health is Politics conference was a great experience. As graduate students of Professor Pratik Chakrabarti, we helped plan and run a comfortable and harmonious conference. Moderators skillfully handled questions and discussion, and, the importance of which should never be underestimated, the coffee and snacks were abundant.

The conference featured international scholars as well as experts in their fields, including Dr. David Persse, Chief Medical Officer of the City of Houston; attendees from Brazil, Bristol, and Germany; and a speaker on Zoom from India despite the 10.5 hour difference.

The speakers and attendees from the University of Houston were a key part of the program, showcasing the strength of UH in the diverse and important ways health is political and in need of interventions. Speakers highlighted new research and issued calls to action, providing a clear picture of the problems at hand but also hope for scholarship and policy to address those problems.

The final dimension, the atmosphere, is one that may seem less important but is key and was the best part of Health Is Politics. Everyone who attended was fully committed to the topic of the talks, asking incisive questions, and taking discussions further during meals and breaks. There was laughter and engagement across all three days of the conference thanks to the tone set by Dr. Chakrabarti, who conveyed the seriousness of the conference subjects while allowing room for hope and celebration. The collegiality throughout the conference was capped off at with a dinner where conference-goers shared delicious food, toasts, and the promise of future events through the Project on Health is Politics.



The authors attend the inaugural Health is Politics conference at the University of Houston, April 18-20, 2024



Letter from Undergraduate Director John Sbardellati, PhD

In the past year the UH undergraduate program in History continued to flourish. In Fall 2023 we introduced major updates to the BA. Two curricular changes are especially of note. Undergraduate majors are now required to develop a more geographically expansive breadth of historical knowledge. Accordingly, all of our majors now take courses in at least three of the following geographic regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Global, Latin America, the Middle East, and the United States. A second pillar of our curricular refresh entailed an emphasis on building greater awareness of the skills and methods of doing historical work. To this end, the Department created a new course, “The Historian’s Craft,” to equip our majors with the methodological skills needed to “do history.” Offered to students at the second year level, the course functions as a foundational introduction to the discipline, as the historical tools students cultivate in this course prepare them for success, and especially as they culminate their studies in one of our Capstone Research Seminars in their final year.

The state of the undergraduate program in History remains quite healthy. As the Fall 2024 semester opened, History counted 377 majors in the program. Out of this number, 73 students were new to the major, demonstrating that our discipline continues to attract. Moreover we are very proud of the students who completed their degrees this past year. Last Spring, History graduated 33 majors and 38 minors, while over the Summer we graduated 9 majors and 20 minors.

One reason for the success of our program certainly lies in our efforts to build community for our students. In the past year the Department sponsored an array of lively and well-attended events. Spring Open House once again served as an exciting gathering, with students getting the opportunity to meet with faculty, as well as with representatives from the UH Libraries, the Center for Public History, the Writing Center, and the Office of Undergraduate Research. Meanwhile, our “Night at the Museum” event proved popular enough in the Fall semester that we held an encore in the Spring. Last October Professors Matt Clavin, Kristina Neumann, and Cathy Patterson took students to a “Night at The Printing Museum,” leading them through a pop-up gallery tour while engaging them in discussions about onsite artifacts that spanned from ancient times to the present. Then, in March, Professors Philip Howard, Kairn Klieman, and Linda Reed guided student exploration of the Kinsey African American Art & History Collection, a special exhibit at Holocaust Museum Houston.

Last fall, the Department continued its undergraduate outreach efforts with its popular “Ask A Historian” pop-up booth. Setting up camp just outside Einstein Bagels, faculty volunteers engaged 113 students who were curious enough to chat up an historian. Conversations covered an array of topics. Some passersby were history majors asking for advice about coursework and graduate school. Others were students who had already taken some of our classes, but appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the History major and minor. And some were the “history curious,” students wondering what classes we offer and how they can get involved in history activities on campus even if they do not have room in their schedules to take our classes. And a few simply asked random questions about history, demonstrating their hunger for historical discourse, or at least for a free cookie.



Undergraduate Awards and Achievements

The Department of History bestowed Undergraduate Awards in 2024 that were earned by:

Outstanding Achievement in History Certificate

Ava Galluzzi
Valeria González
Emily Harris

Distinguished Achievement in History Certificate

Abbey Burn
Megan R. Dagnall
Alivia Mayfield

Distinguished in the History Minor Certificate

Niamh Clarke
Zachary Gentry

Chair's Recognition Certificate

Jacquelynn Chase
Cory Matt Clark

P.C. and Josephine Del Barto Scholarship

Andres Rios

Murray Miller Undergraduate Scholarship

Artemis Ward

In the academic year 2023-2024, our students conducted several research projects with the support of the following faculty mentors:

2023 Houston Early Research Experience Program (HERE)

Laura Pham

2023 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)

Alivia Mayfield with Dr. José Angel Hernández

2023-24 Research for Aspiring Coogs in the Humanities (REACH)

Cory Matt Clark with Drs. Nancy Beck Young and Leandra Zarnow, mentors

Valeria González with Drs. Gabriela Baeza Ventura and Lorena Gauthereau (US Latino Digital Humanities Program), mentors

2023-24 Provost's Undergraduate Research Scholarship (PURS)

Gerardo Angulo with Dr. Jennifer Clark (Political Science)

Joaquín Dávila with Dr. José Angel Hernández

2023 Mellon Research Scholars Program

Megan R. Dagnall with Dr. Debbie Harwell

Katherine Galland with Dr. Debbie Harwell

José Gutierrez with Dr. James Schafer

Christine Le with Dr. Ivan Small (Comparative Cultural Studies)

Selected History Students Accepted into Graduate Schools

- Ava Galluzzi received a Dean's Scholarship for tuition to Texas A&M Law School
- Emily Harris, University of Houston, MA in Arts Leadership Program
- Evie Rickard will attend University of Houston Law Center
- Mary Kassman, School of Library and Information Science at Simmons University
- Megan Dagnall, CIEE Teach, in Spain



Why History Matters

by Andres Rios, Class of 2025 and Del Barto Scholar

The most exciting part of history, for me, is realizing that anything can be historicized. As a history major, I can see now that the homes I lived in, the local parks, and the schools I attended all have their own history connected to the people that are from the area. My father's career as a Marine required us to move to different states every couple of years, causing my surroundings to change constantly and my curiosity to grow.

I consider my time living in northern Virginia from ages nine through twelve to be the moment where I fell in love with history. Never had I lived in a state where so many major US historical events occurred so close to home. To put this into perspective, a weekend trip to the mall required crossing the Rappahannock River bridge to get to Fredericksburg, which were both notable landmarks during the American Civil War. Being able to immerse myself in history just by looking out the car window made me all the more excited to learn US history going forward, even as I moved away from Virginia.

As I grew older, however, I became aware of the fact that the history I had learned thus far did not include my own history. To alleviate the loneliness I felt growing up bisexual, transgender, and Latino in North Carolina, I reconnected with the history of my predecessors. I sneakily watched documentaries like *Screaming Queens* (2005) and *Paris is Burning* (1990) before my parents came back from work. Since teachers only discussed Cesar Chavez, I delved into topics like the Bracero Program and the rest of the Chicano movement in my free time. Learning about the Bracero Program was especially important to me, because it was the reason why my paternal grandfather came to the United States. Learning my own history helped me feel less alone in a predominantly white high school during the peak of the North Carolina anti-transgender bathroom bills.

Since becoming a history major, I have acquired multiple skills that have helped me analyze and interpret history. I always recommend being aware of one's own internal biases and abandoning any preconceived notions on any topic before delving into the literature. Always remain critical while reading, especially in the classroom. I have found it harder for myself and my peers to analyze a particular work because we are concerned about saying the right things to please the professor. Education is about engaging in diverse perspectives, especially in lecture.

Over the past year, I had the pleasure of contributing to the *Houston History* magazine by writing an article and conducting three oral history interviews with Houstonians from the East End. Because of this experience, I aim to pursue my Master's in Public History and continued to contribute to the Center for Public History here at UH. I truly feel that this higher degree will allow me to achieve my dream of engaging the Houston public in local history the same way I felt when I was a child, excitedly pointing out the local historical sites in my hometown to my parents.



Summer Internships in Public History and Digital Humanities by Dr. Kristina Neumann, Natalia Siboldi, Charis Wu, and Miranda Ruzinsky

This past summer, 18 undergraduates from across the UH campus participated in the [Summer Internship in Public History and Digital Humanities \(SIPHDH\)](#). The ten-week intensive program was a collaboration of the UH Center for Public History (CPH) and the Digital Humanities Core Facility with financial support provided by the Hewlett Packard Enterprise Data Science Institute, UH Libraries, and the Cougar Initiative to Engage. SIPHDH is directed by Dr. Kristina Neumann of the Department of History, along with Dr. Linda Garcia Merchant (Director of the UH Digital Humanities Core Facility) and Dr. Andrew Kapral (Director of the Pharis Fellowship and Engaged Data Science at UH).

Through real-world projects, cohort community discussions, skills workshops, and guest speakers, SIPHDH interns learned how humanities skills of deep research, analysis, and building of arguments from evidence can be enhanced and translated into new spaces for new audiences through modern technologies and digital methodologies.

Interns also learned how to break out of traditional technological and engineering processes to consider the people and context behind data and design, and how to engage responsibly and ethically in building, visualizing, and communicating arguments to diverse peoples and communities.

As part of SIPHDH, each intern joined one of six ongoing faculty research projects that harness digital technologies, data science, and new media to engage the public with topics of historical and social significance. This includes [SYRIOS, Sharing Stories from 1977, Houston History Magazine, USLDH: The Morales Collection, 1771 Project](#), and Mapping Multicultural Houston. Interns also gathered weekly on campus for skills workshops, guest presentations, discussions, and a microcredential training in digital project management. The summer internship culminated in a public Student Data Showcase with the Pharis program, in which interns reflected on the program's themes of social responsibility, effective communication, and the intersection of digital methods, data, and the humanities.



Student Data Showcase for undergraduate interns with the 2024 Summer Internship in Public History and Digital Humanities



Natalia Siboldi
**Second-year undergraduate student and
History major**

This summer, I partook in SIPHDH where I got to work with my fellow interns, as well as the US Latino Digital Humanities Center (USLDH). I went into this program interested and yet not very familiar with public history and the digital humanities, and I was eager to see how history and STEM could come together.

Working at USLDH, I worked on the Morales Family Collection, which belonged to a prominent Mexican-American family in Houston. Because of this, I learned so much about Houston and about Latinos in America that I didn't know, even as a Latina born and raised in Houston. With the amount of SIPHDH and USLDH projects, I saw that public history and historians are at work in so many ways and each project is different, so public history research is open to anyone who's interested. In our group of interns, there was a diverse background of students and avenues of study, so there was a rich amount of perspectives and ideas that were shared and learned from during our weekly discussions and workshops. I became comfortable with sharing my ideas publicly because communication and collaboration were encouraged. The workshops were intriguing and fun - especially the Lego-building workshop. We had to represent our whole project and its message through Legos. It really pushed us interns to think about the most significant parts of our project, and how we wanted our project to be received by an audience.

Through these activities, I realized two things: there are so many ways to work with public history and the digital humanities, and the importance of a clear message and an accessible and engaging project. This influenced my work with the Morales Family Bible, which is an old Bible that had been used by the family to store items dating back to the 1950s. Firstly, I had to work on its metadata, so the microcredential training I got really helped me. I also got inspiration from the guest speakers we had once a week, as I saw their diverse projects and impact and it made me think about my impact. All of these factors brought me to creating a flipbook to emulate the experience of flipping through the Bible, to make an authentic experience for the audience. At the final showcase, where we all shared our work, I was really impressed with everything I saw. It was clear how important our work was and how much of a reach it could have. We spoke with representatives of the Morales Funeral Home, who were happy to have their story shared, which was really heartwarming and made me and my partners proud of our work.

Overall, the SIPHDH internship was an amazing experience where I learned a lot and I was grateful for the opportunity to participate and to create a digital project where I got to see history and STEM come together.



Charis Wu
**Fourth-year undergraduate student
majoring in History and Sociology**

This past summer, I had the honor of being selected for the 2024 cohort of SIPHDH. This was my second time participating in this program; I also interned with the Center for Public History in 2022, when most of the meetings were held online. This year, the program expanded to include weekly in-person cohort meetings with students from all projects, which featured guest presentations and digital humanities workshops. These meetings were incredibly valuable and helped me develop closer relationships with my colleagues, as well as a deeper understanding and appreciation for digital humanities and public history.

During this internship, I participated in the Mapping Multicultural Houston project, a relatively new project that is still in its beginning stages. The goal of Mapping Multicultural Houston is to eventually create a digital exhibit of Houston's Old Chinatown that is accessible to a public audience. As interns, our role was to collect research on Old Chinatown and help envision the final product. This presented many difficulties, since our assignments were constantly changing and our plans evolving. However, there were also exciting challenges, such as researching physical archives and learning how to use city directories and microfilm.

At the end of the program, the other interns and I presented at the Student Data Showcase in Digital Humanities and Engaged Data Science, where the Mapping Multicultural Houston team was able to walk the audience through our process from start to finish.

Throughout my UH career up until now, I have taken many courses and seen many opportunities that the university has to offer, but the SIPHDH internship easily stands out as one of the most unique and rewarding. I have gained new regard for the innovative potential of collaboration between humanities and technology, and formed relationships that have lasted beyond the program.

My time with SIPHDH has led me to continue work with Mapping Multicultural Houston as a REACH intern for the 2024-2025 school year, and our project team has already been accepted as presenters for the upcoming 2024 SouthWest Conference on Asian Studies. This internship is a prime example of the value of interdisciplinary collaboration, and I am confident that the skills I developed this summer will continue to pay off through graduate school and beyond.



Miranda Ruzinsky

First-year graduate student in Public History



I had the wonderful opportunity to be the Graduate Student Program Manager of SIPHDH. My responsibilities included acting as assistant to the director, Dr. Kristina Neumann, and as a mentor for the 18 undergraduate interns. My duties included event organization, project planning and development, record-keeping, curriculum-building, and discussion leadership. This position offered me invaluable insight and experience beyond the normative scholarly practices of research and publication.

As my predecessor Caitlyn Jones told me, work and internship experience is essential to being a well-rounded historian. Witnessing and participating in historical practice encourages professionalization, leadership, communication, pedagogy, and interdisciplinary scholarship. SIPHDH was designed to not only teach and allow undergraduate participation in ongoing public history projects led by professors but was ultimately an acknowledgement that a diverse participation from different academic and societal backgrounds increases innovativeness and creativity. My role as Graduate Student Program Manager allowed me to observe and practice the manifestation of this principle.

I witnessed projects in all different stages, from ideation to website expansion. I participated along with undergraduates in the exchange of ideas, weekly planning, and the reflection process. The hierarchal status of undergraduate, graduate, and professor were not associated with superiority. There was evidence of advantages to all different levels of experience and perspectives.

My chance to lead a weekly thematic discussion was an education in the art of communication and leadership. This required, as good historical education does, knowing my audience, curating an engaging and timely discussion, applying active learning, and ultimately, NOT doing all the work. I learned that a good leader doesn't actually lead. A good leader guides and encourages, knowing that their group has the ability to critically think and create.

A final important point is the connections I made. It isn't by default that activeness in a community or group will spawn new relationships. This experience taught me that proactivity and interpersonal skills are vital to connecting with fellow academics and future collaborators. Through this program, my network of connections has become more interdisciplinary, local, and prestigious. I have remained friends with several of the interns, gained an incredible PhD advisor, built a rapport with a leading public historian, and much more.

This experience was transformative because it allowed me to branch out from the role of the graduate student in the classroom and learn the necessary skills to practice history in academic, professional, and public settings. The major themes of the program were social responsibility and effective communication. I argue that these skills are a necessary tool in every historian's toolbox.

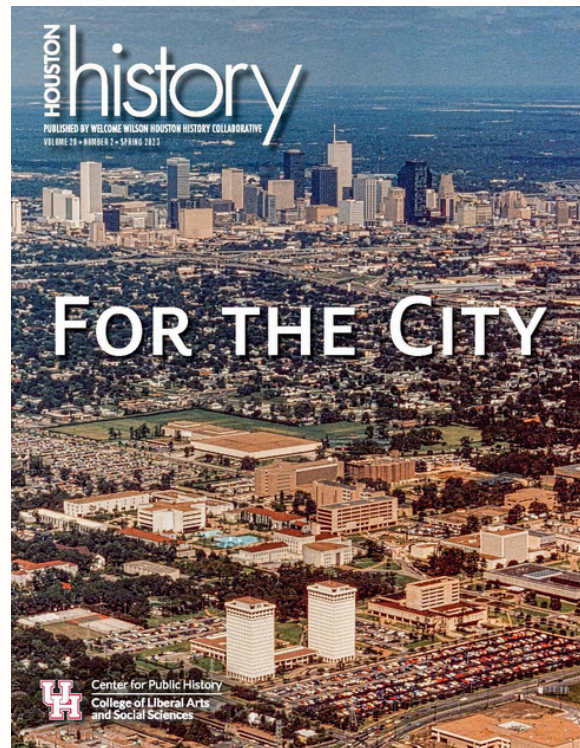


Letter from Center for Public History Director Nancy Beck Young, PhD

I write as the new director of the [Center for Public History](#) (CPH). During this academic year, we are celebrating our fortieth anniversary. Directors who have come before me—Professor Marty Melosi, who founded CPH, and Professor Monica Perales, who expanded the academic reach of the center, along with Professor Mark Goldberg, who stepped up at the last minute to serve as interim director in 2023-24 and looked like he had been doing the job for decades—have set a very high bar! The 2023-24 academic year was a very busy one for CPH. The Houston History magazine published two issues, collaborated on two exhibits, and held two public launch events. In addition, the center sponsored five additional events, and have seen our students reach new heights in their internships and careers.

Houston History Magazine Issues

“[For the City](#)” (21.1, Fall 2023) marked the twentieth anniversary of the *Houston History* magazine that, at the time, had produced 50 magazines with 463 articles – 200 of those written by students including 128 written in the previous ten years. That is when Debbie Harwell began teaching the Houston Since 1836 class on a consistent basis and requiring her students to write articles for the magazine. Now, other classes she teaches also contribute to the magazine including the oral history and public history writing classes. “For the City” was the culminating issue for the 100 Years of Stories project and included articles UH people and programs who have impacted Houston, including: Philip G. Hoffman, Blaffer Art Museum, Mayor Kathy Whitmire, Phi Slama Jama, Jim Nantz, Christine Hà, Elizabeth Rockwell, and the UH Muslim Student Association.



“[Reflecting on Our History](#)” (21.2, Spring 2024) explores both history makers and the ways in which Houstonians preserve our history. The magazine includes articles on two CPH community partners: the Harris County Historical Society, which recently created a \$40,000 endowment for the first endowed scholarship for public history work at UH; and The Heritage Society, which has offered internships to our students and hosted numerous magazine events. Other articles focused on Independence Heights, women in the visual and performing arts, early twentieth century music traditions, the Stephen F. Austin Scottish Brigade, and a photo essay of Near Northside by students in the MCL Houston Anthropology and World Cultures class.

Working with Christian Kelleher in Special Collections of the University of Houston Libraries and CPH Program Director Dr. Wes Jackson, Dr. Debbie Harwell curated the exhibit, *Telling Stories of the Houston Region for Twenty Years*. The historical retrospective of *Houston History* magazine included a collage of all the covers, a text panel summarizing the twenty-year history, three tables cases with back issues, images, and ephemera. It also acknowledged the tenth anniversary of the Welcome Wilson Houston History Collaborative, which includes the magazine, UH-Oral History of Houston, Houston History Archives, and UH Memories Project.



[Image from the Agents of Change: Celebrating Innovation at UH's Centennial exhibit welcome](#)

Houston History Events and 100 Years of Stories Exhibit

The “Agents of Change,” *Houston History* 20.2 launch event was held on September 27, 2023, and featured a panel discussion with UH alumni, Graciela Saenz, Gene Locke, and Grace Conroy. Locke and Saenz were among the students who worked as agents of change to insist on equality and make the university and the city a more inclusive and diverse space. Grace Conroy (BA '22) spoke about her experience working on every aspect of the 100 Years of Stories project to conduct oral histories, research, and write the story of the UH founding.



Left, public history graduate students Cady Hammer and Claire Randall give a tour of the exhibit to guests, expanding on the UH story and the process of creating the exhibit.

The exhibit *Agents of Change: Celebrating Innovation at UH's Centennial*, which also debuted at the launch event, was a product of the three-year 100 Years of Stories gift from Carey Shuart bringing together the Center for Public History (CPH), Houston Public Media (HPM), and the MD Anderson Library to tell the stories of people associated with UH and the impact they have had. The exhibit was based on the original ten video and radio stories for 100 Years of Houston created by HPM and based on CPH students' research. These stories also appeared in the magazine. Graduate students in Monica Perales's classes selected items for the exhibit. The curatorial team of Perales, Harwell, and archivist Mary Manning worked with Bethany Scott in PARD to finalize the exhibit story. Approximately 200 people attended the launch event for the exhibit and magazine.



The "For the City" panel discussion offered a look back at the heyday of UH basketball with Elvin Hayes, who dominated in the 1968 "Game of the Century" against UCLA, and Reid Gettys who was on the Phi Slama Jama teams and remains UH's all-time assists leader. They were joined by sports announcer and Cougar baseball player Bill Worrell, voice of the Rockets, the Astros, and other national sporting events before he retired. For many of the 150 in attendance, this was a walk down memory lane, and for others it inspired new excitement and school spirit.

2023-2024 Public Historians at Work Podcast

The 2023-2024 season of the podcast is dedicated to the innovative public-facing projects of UH faculty, students and staff. Highlights include the [100 Years of Stories exhibit](#) in the MD Anderson Library, looking forward to UH's centennial, as well as a series of student-researched episodes, "Immigrant Stories," which investigates the diverse peoples who have made Houston their home. Also featured in this season are discussions with leaders from the SYRIOS digital humanities project, the Latino cARTographies digital archive and exhibition project, the Sharing Stories from 1977 digital humanities project, the leaders of the Algorithms and Power Systems Architecture oral history project. Executive produced by Associate Professor of History Dr. Kristina Neumann, the podcast to date has 3690 downloads in over 6 continents, 62 countries and 618 cities worldwide.

CPH Lecture Series

In addition to the CPH Lecture Series events tied to the Houston History magazine and the Sharing Stories from 1977 project, we hosted one other important public event in spring of 2024. Censoring Histories presented a cross-disciplinary panel discussion on the impact of censorship in history education from both a national and a global perspective with Dr. Julio Capo Jr., Dr. Irina Savelieva, Dr. Tara Green, and moderated by Dr. Raúl Ramos.

Summer Internship Program

On July 31, 2024, the Center for Public History, UH Libraries, and the Hewlett Packard Enterprise Data hosted the 2024 Student Data Showcase in Digital Humanities and Engaged Data Science.

CPH Projects Celebration

The Center closed out the academic year on May 1, with an event showcasing all the projects underway in CPH. Public event featuring presentations on the current public history projects in CPH and the History Department:

- Houston History magazine
- Public Historians at Work, Podcast
- CPH Summer Internship Program
- Sharing Stories from 1977
- SYRIOS: Studying Urban Relationships and Identity Over Ancient Syria
- Algorithms and Power Systems Architecture - Alfred P. Sloan grant project
- Environmental Justice Activism and the Arts in Houston, 1970s – present
- La Louisiane en Tejas: Gulf Coast Foodways in Southeast Texas

Many Contributions of Dr. Debbie Harwell to the Center for Public History

Dr. Debbie Harwell is at the heart of everything we do in CPH because of her role as editor of *Houston History*. Her work with the magazine is described above in my letter, but that is not all she has contributed to the mission of CPH. She participated in two podcasts for the Public Historians at Work podcast series: Celebrating a University: 100 Years of Stories and Curating Visibility: Latino cARTographies.

Dr. Harwell was appointed to the Harris County Historical Commission in 2024 for a two-year term.

Playwright Nicole Burton purchased the rights to Dr. Harwell's monograph *Wednesdays in Mississippi: Proper Ladies Working for Radical Change: Freedom Summer 1964* (University Press of Mississippi, 2014) for a play. At one performance, Harwell took part in a panel discussion with one of the 1964 participants, Susan Goodwillie Steadman, whom she had interviewed for the book, and moderator Kean Koppen. The play and panel were held on November 18, 2023 in Mt. Ranier, Maryland, November 18, 2023. The play was reviewed here: Debbie Minter Jackson, "[Here's to the ladies who stood for civil rights on 'Wednesdays in Mississippi,'](#)" for *DC Theater Arts*.



Dr. Debbie Harwell attends a production of an adaptation of her book for the stage in Washington, DC

CPH Current Graduate Student News

Valeria González received a Lydia Mendoza Fellowship from the Center for Mexican American and Latino/s Studies. She will be working with Dr. Goldberg as her mentor.

Aracely Lara is a Center for Mexican American and Latino/a Studies Graduate Fellow.

Miranda Ruzinsky received a Lydia Mendoza Fellowship from the Center for Mexican American and Latino/a Studies. She will be working with Dr. Harwell as her mentor.



CPH Graduate Alumni News

Cady Hammer, who received her MA in Spring 2024, was hired as a genealogist at the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Dr. Caitlyn Jones, who received her PhD in Spring 2024, was appointed to a prestigious Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship with the National Park Service to work at the Belmont-Paul Women’s Equality National Monument. This fellowship commemorates the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Sixteen fellows were selected for this year’s cohort. Dr. Jones’s project is “Including All Women in the Sequel: The History and Legacy of the National Woman’s Party.” Dr. Jones describes this position as an opportunity to “transform my research into practice.”

Dr. Jason Theriot (MA 2006, PhD 2011) recently published Frenchie: The Story of the French Speaking Cajuns in World War II with UL Press.

CPH Undergraduate Student News

Megan Dagnall’s thesis, “University of Houston: The Expansion and Erasure of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, 1961-2024,” was chosen as an Outstanding Senior Honors Thesis in spring of 2024, one of only seven selected works by UH undergraduates to receive this award.

Megan examines the way the administrations of Philip Hoffman, Marguerite Ross Barnett, and Renu Khator took UH from a segregated campus to one of the nation’s most diverse and the impact of anti-DEI regulations. Debbie Harwell was Megan’s thesis director.



Above, Dr. Caitlyn Jones is a postdoctoral fellow at the Belmont-Paul Women’s Equality National Monument in Washington, DC

Below, Emily Harris and Megan Dagnall receive the 2023 Harris County Historical Society Award for Excellence in Public History



The first Harris County Historical Society Award for Excellence in Public History was presented to Emily Harris, left center, and Megan Dagnall, right center, at the HCHS centennial celebration in October 2023. This is UH’s first endowed scholarship for public history work. Other students in attendance at right included Cameron Thompson and Evie Rickard.



I am honored and humbled to take over the leadership of this very distinguished center. Please join me in congratulating CPH faculty and students for their many accomplishments.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Beck Young
Moore Professor of History
Director, Center for Public History

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
CENTER for PUBLIC HISTORY

Launching “Health is Politics” by Pratik Chakrabarti, PhD

The “Health is Politics” project held its official launch event from April 18-20, 2024. Prior to the official launch, the project held its inaugural workshop in collaboration with community health activists, social scientists, and medical professionals at the Institut Français de Pondichéry (IFP), India, on July 31, 2023.

The main launch event took place on the evening of April 18, with opening remarks from Dr. Nancy Beck Young, who was then Chair of the Department of History, and Dr. Dan O’Connor, Dean of CLASS, who welcomed all attendees. This was followed by two significant keynote speeches: Dr. David Persse, Chief Medical Officer for the City of Houston, delivered a talk titled “Healthcare in Houston,” while Dr. Marcos Cueto from the Instituto Oswaldo Cruz in Rio de Janeiro gave a keynote on “AIDS, Global Health, and Brazil.” Following the launch, a two-day international conference was held, with participants from South Asia, North America, Europe, and faculty members from the University of Houston.



Dr. Pratik Chakrabarti (left) participates in the Health is Politics conference in 2024

The plenary address, “Healthcare in a Time of Catastrophe,” was delivered by Dr. David McNally. Scholars presented research examining how healthcare has been shaped by political ideologies and activism. The topics discussed included abortion rights and maternity health in Texas, healthcare for migrants along the India-Bangladesh border, toxic environmental poisoning among the urban poor, Dalit midwives in Tamil Nadu, and racial and health inequality in the United States.

The three days of events at the conference provided a crucial platform for a project that seeks to trace the historical impact of political activism on community healthcare at a global level.



This events also facilitated discussions on how the future of global and community healthcare is intertwined with political activism, with references to several contemporary political movements that are currently shaping healthcare policies.

The project is led by Dr. Pratik Chakrabarti, the NEH-Cullen Chair in History and Medicine, and is supported by a team of researchers, community health activists, and medical professionals. Dr. M. Kamatchi began her research for the project last year, focusing on Dalit midwives in southern India, who play a critical role in community healthcare. Her research aims to connect contemporary activism with the historical trajectories of similar movements.

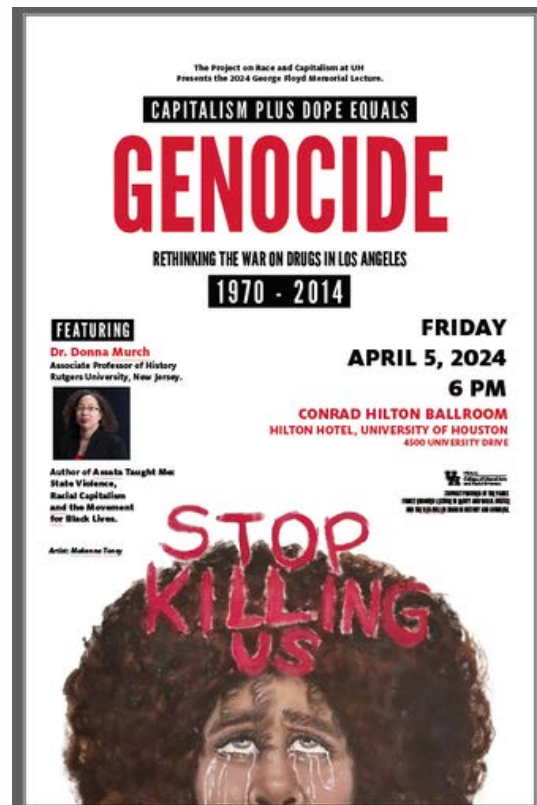
Planned future activities include a joint workshop with experts from India and the University of Houston. Additionally, discussions are underway regarding the potential production of short films documenting the lives of healthcare workers.



Dr. David McNally delivers the keynote address at the Health is Politics conference

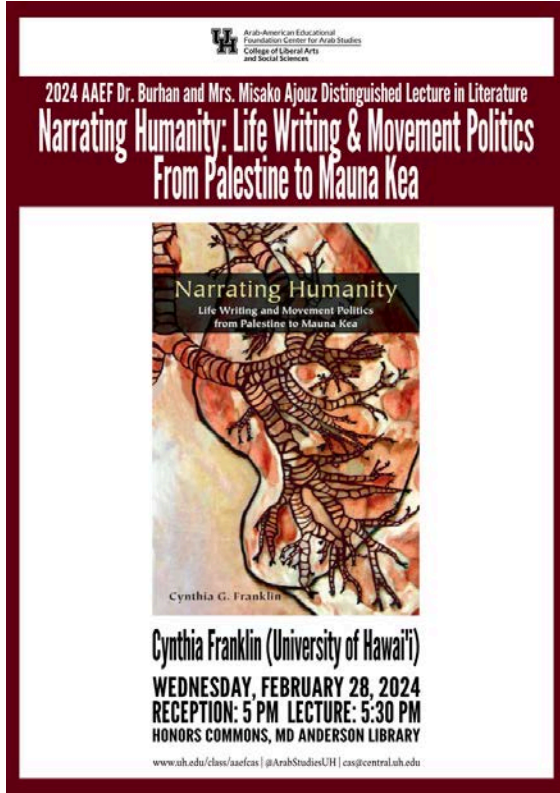
The 2024 George Floyd Memorial Lecture The Project on Race and Capitalism

The tradition of the George Floyd Memorial Lecture, presented by Project on Race and Capitalism under the direction of Dr. David McNally, continued in the spring of 2024. Dr. Donna Murch delivered the lecture, “Capitalism Plus Dope Equals Genocide’: Rethinking the War on Drugs in Los Angeles, 1970-2014.” Dr. Murch (Associate Professor of History, Rutgers University, New Jersey) is the author of *Assata Taught Me: State Violence, Racial Capitalism and the Movement for Black Lives*, from Haymarket Books. The event took place in the Conrad Hilton Ballroom on the University of Houston campus.





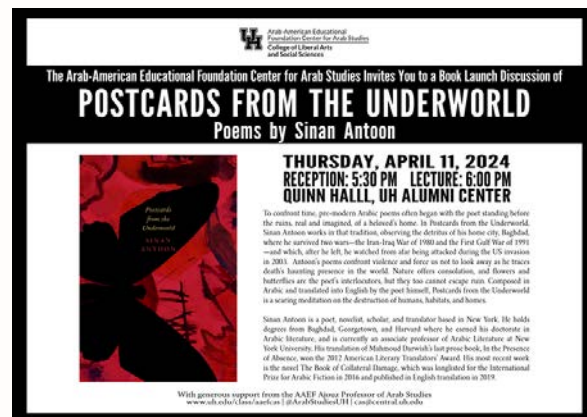
The Arab-American Educational Foundation Center for Arab Studies



Professor Cynthia G. Franklin, of the Department of English at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, gave the the 2024 AAEF Dr. Burhan and Mrs. Misako Ajouz Distinguished Lecture in Literature. Her lecture, “Narrating Humanity: Life Writing and Movement Politics from Palestine to Mauna Kea” drew on her recent book from Fordham University Press. Dr. Franklin asks who counts as human using a concept of “narrative humanity.”

On December 1, 2023, outgoing director Dr. Abdel Razzaq Takriti delivered the AAEF Chair in Modern Arab History Farewell Lecture, “The War on Palestine and the Politics of History,” to a full house in the Waldorf Ballroom at the Hilton University of Houston.

The AAEF Center for Arab Studies hosted noted poet and professor Sinan Antoon, of New York University, this past spring. Professor Antoon read from *Postcards from the Underworld* (University of Chicago Press) described as a “chilling poetic reflection on the world we have inherited and the destructions that made it.” Antoon’s poems center his city of Baghdad as a site of home, war, and ruin.



Dr. Derek Ide (PhD, 2023), published a piece in *Araborama*, from the Institut du monde arabe in Paris, “[Panthères et Palestine](#).” For the 2023-24 academic year, Dr. Ide held a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Michigan’s Inclusive History Project and the National Center for Institutional Diversity’s Anti-Racism Collaborative.



Historians in the Archives and in the News

Dr. Leandra Zarnow Featured in *Time*

Dr. Leandra Zarnow [wrote a piece for *Time*](#) magazine with Dr. Stacie Taranto of Ramapo College of New Jersey and published in August of 2024. In it, the authors argue that, “Harris is drawing on a lengthy tradition in which American women — especially women of color — have confronted political turmoil and efforts to constrict their rights and liberties by mounting future-focused campaigns centered on the expansion of freedom.” To the right is a photo the authors chose to feature in their piece showing women gathered in 1947 with activist Mary McLeod Bethune.



Experts Quoted in Newspapers

Dr. José Angel Hernández [was quoted in *The Washington Times*](#) in its coverage of Francisco “Pancho” Villa’s 1916 attack on Columbus, New Mexico.

Dr. Gerald Horne [was quoted in *The Washington Post*](#) in its story of a recent discovery of an American ship, the Camargo, off the coast of Brazil and the historical context of United States participation in Brazil’s illegal slave trade in the nineteenth century.

Dr. Philip Howard Conducts Research in Spanish Town, Jamaica

In June, Dr. Philip Howard worked in the National Archive of Jamaica in Spanish Town and the Institute of Social and Economic Research on the campus of the University of the West Indies, Mona, to continue his research on the socioeconomic and cultural experiences of Jamaican workers who returned home after cutting and hauling sugarcane in Cuba between the years of 1912 and 1933. He plans to return to Jamaica later this fall to resume his examination and gathering of British colonial records, and the oral histories of these workers.



Institute of Social and Economic Research of the University of the West Indies, Mona.



HOUSTON CHRONICLE

OPINION

A year after Fort Hood became Fort Cavazos, some Texans are still mad. They shouldn't be. Opinion

John Bell Hood was a Kentucky Confederate. Richard Cavazos was a Korean War hero. And a Texan.

Riley M. Kramer Updated: May 9, 2024

Riley M. Kramer Published in *Houston Chronicle*

Riley M. Kramer, a current PhD student of Dr. Nancy Beck Young and Active Duty Army Logistics Officer, has contributed to Houston's newspaper of record. His opinion, "[Texans should be proud of Fort Hood's name change](#)," appeared on May 9 on page A9.



Working on the Russian Archives by Dmtrii Blyshko, PhD Candidate

My project focuses on the history of Soviet archaeology. The sources related to this topic can be found in the archives of the Russian Academy of Sciences and archaeological institutions.

The main archives in Moscow are:

- The Archive of the Russian Academy of Sciences;
- The Institute of Archaeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences Research Archive;
- The State Historical Museum Archive.

The main archives in St. Petersburg are:

- The Archive of the Russian Academy of Sciences (St. Petersburg Branch);
- The Archive of the Institute for the History of Material Culture, Russian Academy of Sciences.

These archives represent the largest and most important documentation center of the Imperial-all-Union Russian Academy of Sciences. They preserve historical materials of fundamental world science.

There are some peculiarities about working with these archives. For instance, both branches of the Archive of the Russian Academy of Sciences have inventory lists available online. Other archives require researchers to conduct their search in person. All archives except the Archive of the Russian Academy of Sciences require an official letter of motivation from the researcher's organization. In the current peculiar political situation, affiliation with Western institutions could be problematic.

Additionally, all archives require making an appointment in advance. For the Archive of the Institute for the History of Material Culture, the number of available seats is limited, so it is important to plan accordingly. Researchers can order from five to ten files at a time. Each archive has a different schedule, but they typically have no more than three open days per week, which could be a significant challenge for researchers. Researchers are only allowed to take notes, no photographs. The archives offer the service of copies at an approximate cost of \$2 per page. However, copying a complete file is not allowed.

Alumni News

Dr. Diana Lovell Breaks Ground on New Projects at SWOSU

Dr. Diana Lovell (PhD 2003) is the current President of Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU), which she has led since 2021. She has pursued historical research, with an emphasis on the Regency Era, and recently oversaw the establishment of a new Jerry and Margaret Hodge Pharmacy Center for Pharmacy and Rural Health on her campus. Dr. Lovell obtained her MA (1992) and PhD (2003) from the Department of History, advised by Dr. Sally Vaughn.



Dr. Diana Lovell featured on the Instagram page of SWOSU signing a beam in 2024

Dr. Sandra I. Enríquez Directs Public History Emphasis at UMKC

Dr. Sandra I. Enríquez (PhD 2016) has been promoted to Associate Professor of History at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. A social historian of the United States, Dr. Enríquez is also the Director of Public History Emphasis and author or consultant on numerous digital and public history projects.

Dr. Sonia Hernández wins National Endowment for the Humanities Grant

Dr. Sonia Hernández (PhD 2006), Professor of History at Texas A&M University, received a research grant from the NEH in 2024 for her project, “Revisiting Cortez: Gender, State Violence, and the Forging of (Un)Likely Transnational Alliances.”

Recent PhD Program Graduates Publish and Hold Positions in Academia

Dr. Caitlyn Jones (PhD 2024) is a Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow with the National Park Service at the [Belmont-Paul Women’s Equality National Monument](#).

Dr. Alex Paul (PhD 2023) begins a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of History at Virginia Military Institute.

Dr. Derek Ide (PhD 2023) is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Michigan’s Inclusive History Project and the National Center for Institutional Diversity’s Anti-Racism Collaborative.

Dr. Timothy Vale (PhD 2022) became Visiting Instructional Assistant Professor in the Honors College at UH.

Dr. Alberto Wilson, III (PhD 2021) contributed “El Paso” to the [Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History](#).

Dr. Mallory Neil (PhD 2019) was named inaugural [Director of Industry Partnerships](#) in the Clemson College of Science.

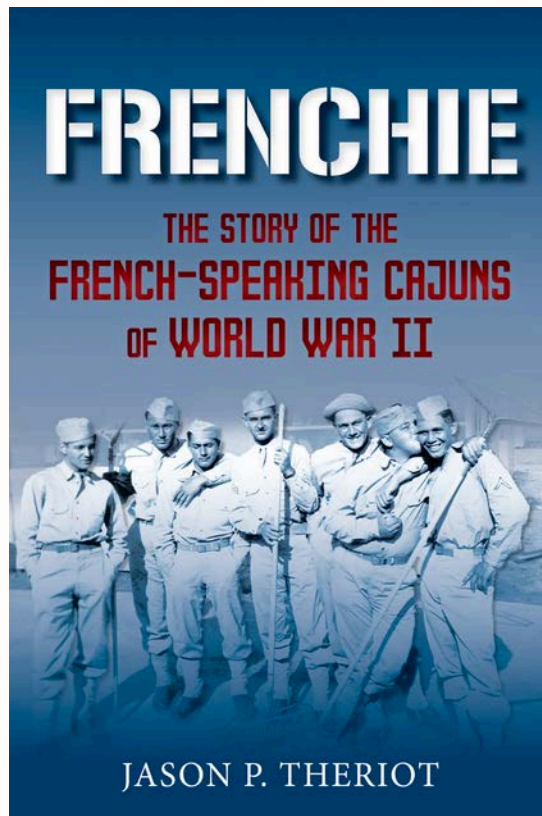
Dr. Andrew Pegoda (PhD 2016) wrote about “Zoom, The Live Sessions and Engaging Pedagogies” for [InsideHigherEd](#).

Alumni News

Dr. Jason Theriot Publishes New Book

Dr. Jason Theriot’s book, *Frenchie: The Story of the French Speaking Cajuns in World War II*, is published by UL Press. “As soon as American forces landed on the beaches of Normandy in June 1944, military commanders called for “Frenchie” to serve as interpreters with the local population. These young Cajun soldiers from Louisiana, like their Acadian ancestors, had grown up speaking French as their first language. In fact, Cajuns represented the largest group of French-speaking Americans in the military, and their linguistic abilities proved invaluable to operations around the world.

Ironically, this same generation experienced discrimination in a state-sanctioned English-only school system that sought to “Americanize” them. Often punished for speaking French at school, many young Cajuns grew up ashamed of their language and culture.



Yet, during the Second World War, when these same Cajuns arrived in the francophone territories of North Africa and Europe, where their bilingual abilities became a vital resource, Frenchie bridged the language gap. What emerged from this unique wartime experience was a long-lost pride in Cajun heritage, creating a profound impact on their identity.”

Dr. Gary Girod Publishes *Domestic Surveillance and Social Control in Britain and France during World War I* (Routledge, 2024)

Routledge, which published the work of Dr. Gary Girod (PhD 2021), describes his book in the following paragraphs. “Domestic Surveillance and Social Control in Britain and France during World War I examines the rapid development and expansion of agencies and governmental power to monitor and control the homefront in Britain and France during World War I. It documents the rapid shift in focus from the feared but unimportant threat of German espionage toward homegrown radicals. The book utilizes a vast array of documents generated during the war by top-level government committees, intelligence agencies, and police services as it demonstrates the emergence of mass domestic surveillance. Detailing how events and ideas in one country impacted the other, the book argues that Britain and France developed remarkably similar intelligence agencies and policies due to their shared experiences before, during, and after the war.”



Notes from a Recent Graduate by Dr. Gary Girod

I enrolled in the Ph.D. program in history in Fall 2015, pursuing a degree in modern European labor history. My primary focus was on British and French labor with a minor in Indian Ocean World history. My 6 years in the program I learned from a number of brilliant scholars, primarily my advisor Sarah Fishman. The University of Houston's scholars are of impeccable quality with a great many willing to support students.

The University of Houston prepared me for the competitive academic job market through its emphasis on scholarly engagement. In 2019, I published [a scholarly article](#) in *Labor History*, one of two top journals in the world for my field of labor history. That same year I founded [The French History Podcast](#), a large-scale digital and public history project that connects world-renowned scholars with a broad audience. Today, the podcast reaches 25,000 unique listeners a month, has over 200,000 followers across social media and is broadcast on French radio. It also won the 2023 Muse Gold Award for exceptional creative endeavors.

After two years of applying I secured a tenure-track position at Oklahoma Panhandle State University. As a teaching university I have a 5-class load which primarily consists of the American history survey, world history, electives in European history and courses on historiography and research. I continue to engage in scholarly activities. In April 2024 [Routledge published my first book](#) on the origins of mass surveillance in World War I Britain and France. I presented at the Rethinking War 2024 conference and am scheduled to present at the Southern Conference on British Studies and the Western Society for French History this Fall. Finally, I will serve as the creative director for a new podcast, *Our Nowhere: Panhandle Histories*, all about the history of the Oklahoma and Texas panhandle.

For many of us, history is a calling, not an occupation. The desire to learn and spread meaningful knowledge is as important to me as music is to a musician. Furthermore, I cannot brush off the thought that my work matters. I am a hopeless romantic; I yearn to make a positive influence on the world. My podcast work has given me a megaphone larger than most.



Dr. Gary Girod hosts the weekly French History Podcast featuring scholars, documentarians, and a range of other guests

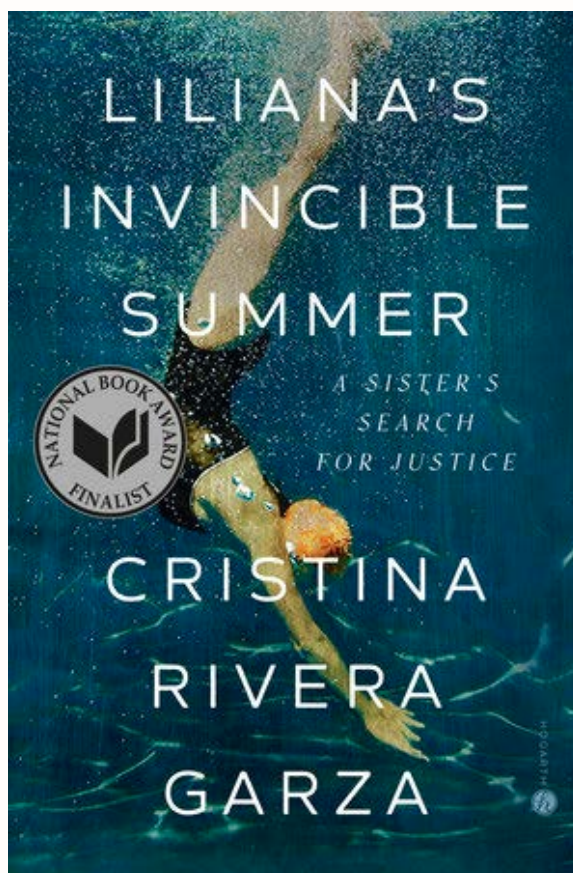
Program Graduate Dr. Cristina Rivera Garza Wins Pulitzer Prize



Cristina Rivera Garza, credit: John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

As a fitting conclusion to this year’s Department of History Newsletter, we celebrate the achievements of our graduate Dr. Cristina Rivera Garza (PhD 1995), who is M.D. Anderson Distinguished Professor in Hispanic Studies at UH. Her book *Liliana’s Invincible Summer: A Sister’s Search for Justice* won the 2024 Pulitzer Prize in Memoir or Autobiography and was a Finalist for the 2023 National Book Award. The book, published by Hogarth in 2023, weaves centuries of history into the author’s search for justice in Mexico City. The book is deeply rooted in the life of the author’s sister, Liliana Rivera Garza, and lingers on the many ways that the pasts of Mexico City affect those who have lived and died there. Dr. Cristina Rivera Garza previously received a MacArthur Fellowship and has published many works, which are often described as refusing to conform to the traditional boundaries of genre. --- Dr. N. L. A. Gharala

In *Liliana’s Invincible Summer*, the author traverses La Condesa, still sometimes called The Hippodrome, in Mexico City, where “[t]he air from the past lingers, crisp and sharp, full of uproar.” Like the animals forced to race around the stretch that is now a tranquil walking path in a tony neighborhood, “You always go around, endlessly, inside an oval, after all. You are always a horse running against the past.”



“I believe that this award belongs rightfully to Liliana,” Dr. Cristina Rivera Garza says of *Liliana’s Invincible Summer: A Sister’s Search for Justice*. “This is a book that I wrote with my sister. It’s not just a book about her.”



Credits

The Director of Communications and the Communications Committee put together the 2023-2024 Department of History Newsletter. Drs. Robert Buzzanco, Adela Cedillo, Tshepo Masango Chéry, Matthew Clavin, N. L. A. Gharala, Kristina Neumann, and Leandra Zarnow made up the committee. Committee members envisioned and commissioned letters and pieces for this edition of the Newsletter. The editor is Director of Communications Dr. Norah Linda Andrews Gharala. We offer our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed!

The Department of History at the University of Houston is currently under the leadership of Department Chair Dr. Catherine Patterson. Dr. Sarah Fishman is the Associate Chair. Our Department Business Administrator is Ms. Carol Aikels, who works with Financial Coordinators Mr. Darius Miller and Mr. Ray Juarez Ramos. Their vital contributions to the Department of History cannot be overstated. So many departmental functions--from managing grant funding to planning departmental events, and beyond--are made possible through the support of a skilled administrative team. Similarly, the opportunities we offer our undergraduate majors are enhanced by the hard work of Undergraduate Advisor Ms. Aarti Arriaga.

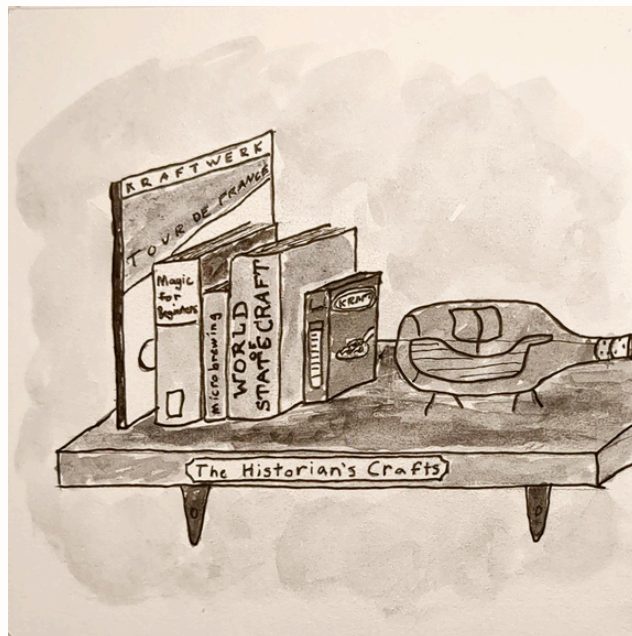
Learn more about our [Undergraduate](#) major and courses, excellent faculty and students, or make a gift to the Department [on our web site](#) or with the [Development Office](#) of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

To follow the goings on in the UH Department of History, visit our [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) (@uhhistorydept) and [our department web page](#).

The Center for Public History has its own [web site](#) and social media accounts on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) (@uhcphistory).

Find out how to apply to our [Graduate](#) programs on our [Admissions page](#) or by emailing the [Graduate Director](#).

Contact the Communications team [at our dedicated email address](#). The History office is located on the fifth floor of Agnes Arnold Hall in room 524.



“The Historian’s Crafts” by Brian S. Gharala, Instructional Designer and Cartoonist in Faculty and Departmental Instructional Support at UH

Thank you for your interest in the Department of History at the University of Houston!