

# UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON | HISTORY

NEWSLETTER Issue 9 (October 2023)



Welcome to the 2023–2024 academic year! Colleagues in the department have published three new books in the past year and have researched and drafted portions of many more books to appear in the coming years! Faculty continue to receive commendations for their books, and major grants for their ongoing research projects.

Our faculty have won multiple important awards within the university. Professor Kelly Hopkins won a university Teaching Excellence Award. Professor Matt Clavin received the CLASS Distinguished Faculty Award. Professor Kelly Hopkins was also awarded the Ross Lence Teaching Award from the college.

We teach thousands and thousands of undergraduates each semester in courses ranging from the US Survey all the way through senior capstone classes for History majors. Our undergraduate major is thriving, and students have enjoyed the many benefits of a UH education including experiential learning outside the classroom: internships on real world history research projects and participation in the Mellon Research Scholars Program. Many of our recent BA graduates are on their way to law school and graduate school. We salute them and wish them well on their journeys.

Our graduate students continue to amaze. Multiple graduate students successfully defended dissertations this year. Many congratulations to our newly minted PhDs. Recent graduates have also fared well on the job market, and we are very proud of their success. Our current graduate students are winning external fellowships and research grants, receiving prestigious internships, and dabbling in podcasting.

Instead of saying the future is theirs, I will conclude by saying the past is theirs because they will be the ones writing the history of our world.

This has also been a year of comings and goings. We welcomed two new staff members, Darius Miller and Ray Juarez Ramos, earlier in 2023. Professor Irina Savelieva joined the department as an international scholar in fall 2023. We are looking forward to Professor John Sbardellati joining our department in January 2024 as an associate professor. Several long-serving and esteemed colleagues have moved toward retirement after teaching at UH for decades. Professor Frank Holt, a leading international expert in ancient Greek history, retired at the end of the 2022-23 academic year. Professor Guadalupe San Miguel, a pioneering scholar of Mexican American civil rights, is retired but still teaching one class a semester. Finally, Professor Hannah Decker, renowned expert in German history and the history of psychiatry, has completed several years of teaching a class each semester and is fully retired. We miss them all and their many contributions to our students and our department. We are also saying farewell to two other colleagues who are moving on to positions at other universities. Dr. Monica Perales, our director of the Center for Public History, has been named associate vice provost of the UTSA Institute of Texan Cultures, and leaves UH where she successfully trained and mentored many graduate students. Finally, Dr. Abed Takriti is departing from UH where he was founding director of the Arab-American Educational Foundation Center for Arab Studies to take an endowed professorship at Rice University.

All best regards,

Nancy Beck Young  
John and Rebecca Moores Professor of History  
Chair, Department of History

## Welcome to the Department!



**John Sbardellati** joins the UH Department of History in Winter 2024 as Associate Professor after having spent the academic year 2022–23 as Visiting Associate Professor. He has previously worked at the University of Waterloo in Canada as Associate Professor of U.S. History. Dr. Sbardellati specializes in twentieth-century American political, cultural, and diplomatic history and

is the author of *J. Edgar Hoover Goes to the Movies: The FBI and the Origins of Hollywood's Cold War* (Cornell University Press, 2012).

**Irina Savelieva** is an International Scholar who joined the Department of History in Fall 2023 after her former employer, the Moscow Higher School of Economics, terminated her contract due to her opposition to Russia's war against Ukraine. At HSE, Dr. Savelieva was Professor of History and Director of the Poletayev Institute for Theoretical and Historical Studies. She specializes in the theory of history, history of knowledge, and public history, and is the author or co-author of eight monographs and editor of six collected volumes.

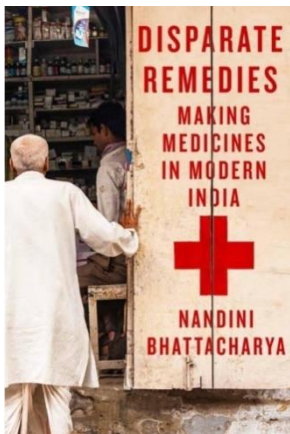


**Darius Miller** has joined the Department of History as the Financial Coordinator 2. He coordinates financial operations, oversees the preparation of financial documents, and reviews reports for accuracy.

**Ray Juarez Ramos** is the Financial Coordinator 1 for the Department of History who also provides administrative support and is the first point of contact for all visitors to our office.



## New Books

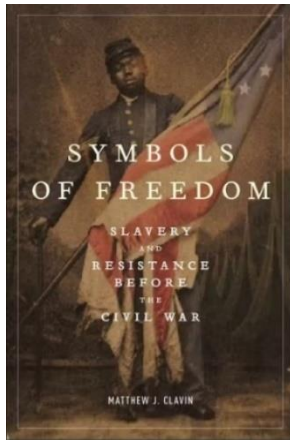


**Nandini Bhattacharya, *Disparate Remedies: Making Medicines in Modern India* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2023)**

At present India is a leading producer, distributor, and consumer of generic medicines globally. *Disparate Remedies* traces the genealogy of this development and examines the public cultures of medicine in the country between 1870 and 1960. Uniquely engaging with the cultures of both consumption and production in the country, *Disparate Remedies* follows the evolution of medicine in colonial India as it confronted Indian modernity and changing public attitudes surrounding health and drugs.

Nandini Bhattacharya is Associate Professor of History.

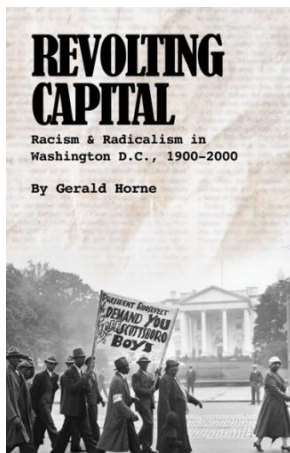




**Matthew J. Clavin, *Symbols of Freedom Slavery and Resistance Before the Civil War* (New York University Press, 2023)**

*Symbols of Freedom* is the surprising story of how enslaved people and their allies drew inspiration from the language and symbols of American freedom. Interpreting patriotic words, phrases, and iconography literally, they embraced a revolutionary nationalism that not only justified but generated open opposition. Mindful and proud that theirs was a nation born in blood, these disparate patriots fought to fulfill the republic's promise by waging war against slavery.

Matthew J. Clavin is Professor of History.



**Gerald Horne, *Revolting Capital: Racism & Radicalism in Washington, D.C., 1900–2000* (International Publishers, 2023)**

There is a fundamental contradiction in U.S. Imperialism: the capital of this empire for decades has had a majority Black population, which—in turn—has created favorable conditions not only for the erosion of the pestilence that is racism but the flourishing of the antidote that is radicalism. This sweeping history of Washington, D.C. traces the pestilence that is racism—and radical resistance against it—over a century.

Gerald Horne is the Moores Professor of History & African American Studies.



**Frank Holt, *Kogda den'gi govoriat. Istorii monet i numizmatiki ot drevnosti do pop-kul'tury* (Eksmo, 2023)**

A Russian translation of Frank Holt's 2021 monograph *When Money Talks: A History of Coins and Numismatics* (Oxford University Press), this book takes its readers on a lively journey through the history of numismatics, the study of coins—one of the oldest and most important contributions to the arts and humanities.

Frank Holt is Professor of History (retired).

## Faculty Awards and Fellowships

**Natalia Milanesio** was awarded the prestigious Leverhulme Visiting Professorship—one of only thirteen scholars in the humanities from all over the world to receive it in 2022. Established in 1925, the Leverhulme Trust is one of the most important grant-making organizations in the United Kingdom. With the professorship, Prof. Milanesio will spend a year at the University College London, Institute of the Americas (UCL-IA), a leading multidisciplinary institution for the study of Canada, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the United States, which has been ranked number 1 in the UK for area studies.



**Gerald Horne** won the prestigious 2023 Frantz Fanon Lifetime Achievement Award from the Caribbean Philosophical Association. The award description noted him for "research and scholarship [that] played and continues to play an important role in bringing to the fore important dimensions of struggles for freedom along axes and intersections of class, gender, and race."

**Kelly Hopkins** received the 2023 Ross Lence Teaching Award from the UH College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Named to honor the memory of one of the University of Houston's most inspiring teachers, Ross M. Lence, only two Lence Awards are given each year, one in humanities and another in social sciences. Dr. Hopkins also became a recipient of the 2023 Faculty Excellence Award: Provost's Core, which is given to faculty who have demonstrated outstanding teaching in undergraduate core curriculum courses.



**Matt Clavin** became the recipient of the 2023 Distinguished Faculty Award from the UH College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. This award recognizes the outstanding publications and reputations of the most accomplished faculty members working in the college.



Leandra Zarnow

**Leandra Zarnow** held a prestigious one-month residency in spring 2023 at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, one of the oldest learned societies in the United States founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin among others. She researched anthropologist Elsie Clews Parsons, one of her subjects in her next book, “The Heterodites: Six Women and the Secret Society that Shaped American Feminism,” which will come out with W.W. Norton & Company.

**Alexey Golubev** became the recipient of an Aleksanteri Institute Visiting Fellowship at the University of Helsinki, Finland. Aleksanteri Institute is one of Europe’s leading centers specializing in Russia, Central and Eastern Europe, and Eurasia. It provides two-month-long visiting fellowships that allow its recipients to conduct research and to benefit from interaction with the Eastern European, Eurasian, and Russian studies community in Finland.



Alexey Golubev

## Faculty News

**Norah Gharala** and **Josiah Rector** were promoted to Associate Professors (with tenure), while **Catherine Patterson** was promoted to Full Professor. Congratulations!

**Norah Gharala** published a new article entitled “From Mozambique in the Indies of Portugal’: Locating East Africans in New Spain” in the



Norah Gharala

October 2022 issue *Journal of Global Slavery*. She also served as lead editor for an edited volume on Spanish Manila which aims to annotate and publish parts of a rare manuscript held in the library of the University of Santo Tomas, a project that brings together a dozen scholars from around the world and has a contract with Palgrave Macmillan to publish in 2024.



Catherine Patterson

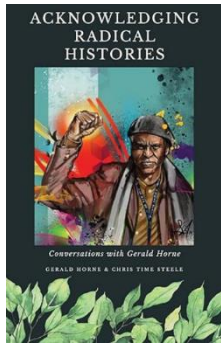


Josiah Rector

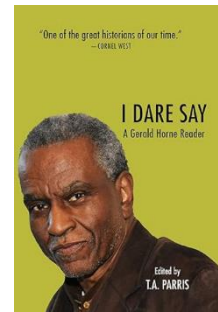
**Leandra Zarnow** and PhD Candidate **Caitlyn Jones** with Sara Case, editor of *The Public Historian* at UCSB, organized an intergenerational roundtable attended by over fifty practitioners at the 2023 National Council for Public History meeting in



April. The panel, “Where We Are and Are Not: Reflecting on Women's Public History,” has led to an ongoing working group focused on women’s professionalization, gender equity in working conditions, and the state of public history scholarship on women.



**Gerald Horne**’s work became the foundation of two collections published in 2023. One of them, edited by Chris Time Still, is entitled *Acknowledging Radical Histories: Conversations with Gerald Horne* (International Publishers, 2023). In this collection of conversations, Horne confronts the history of settler colonialism and fighting fascism while giving dazzling insights on Jazz, Claude Barnett, Paul Robeson, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Shirley Graham Du Bois. Another one is *I Dare Say: A Gerald Horne Reader* (OR Books, 2023), edited by Tionne A. Parris. It is an essential collection of Gerald Horne’s works.



**Natalia Milanesio** published a book chapter entitled “Sexuality, Citizenship, and Nation in Argentina’s Transition to Democracy,” in *Recasting the Nation in Twentieth Century Argentina*, edited by Benjamin Bryce and David M. K. Sheinin (New York: Routledge, 2023). She spoke about her scholarship in a conference presentation “Argentine Feminists against Sexual Violence in the Return to Democracy (1983-1990)” at the conference *Do No Harm: Researching the Pasts, Presents, and Futures of Sexual Violence Conference* at Birbeck, University of London (May 31–June 2, 2023) as well as in the podcast episode “**Queering the Sexual Revolution of Argentina**” at Queer History 101 After School Club with Dr. Eric Cervini.

In September 2022, **Kristina Neumann** and Peggy Lindner presented on data visualization for ancient Antioch at the XVI International Numismatic Congress in Warsaw, Poland. The International Congress, which only takes place every six years, represents the world-renowned event in the field of numismatics. In June 2023, Neumann along with Drs. Peggy Lindner and Liz Rodwell conducted the panel “How Can UX Make History Accessible? Adventures in Storytelling through UX” at the UXPA International conference in Austin, TX. They presented their research into better guidelines or heuristics for evaluating how users engage with digital humanities projects. Neumann’s book, *Antioch in Syria: A History from Coins (300 BCE–450 CE)* (Cambridge



University Press, 2021) continues to garner positive reviews from the scholarly community. According to the *Journal of Roman Studies*, “The book is well written and learned, presenting up-to-date discussions of specific numismatic research questions and of the historical context and cultural profile of the given periods.” The *Classical Review* likewise concludes “the book is erudite, insightful and clear.”

**Alexey Golubev** and Mary Neuburger (UT Austin) served as the co-organizers of the workshop *Alternative Beliefs under and after State Socialism* held at UT Austin’s Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies in October 2022. In April 2023, Golubev was also a keynote speaker at the conference *Commodities, Trade, and Materiality in the Global Cold War* at the University of Vienna.



Richard Mizelle

**Richard Mizelle** published an article “A Slow-Moving Disaster – The Jackson Water Crisis and the Health Effects of Racism” in the June 2023 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

**Leandra Zarnow** became the sole featured historian in the Ken Burns Prize winning film, “Bella! This Woman’s Place is in the House,” by filmmaker Jeff Lieberman. This film premiered in New York in August 2023 and debuted in the American Masters series on PBS in fall 2023. As the author of *Battling Bella*, Zarnow helped contextualize Abzug’s life, offering a dose of historical perspective among reflections by notables including Maxine Waters, Barbra Streisand, Lily Tomlin, Nancy Pelosi, and Hillary Clinton.

**Bob Buzzanco** conducted an extensive interview with Noam Chomsky for the educational platform MasterClass known for its comprehensive and insightful courses by leading experts. The interview discussed the power of the media to influence, control, and shape public perception. Buzzanco also continued to run his extremely successful



Bob Buzzanco (left) and Noam Chomsky

**Green and Red** podcast ([greenandredpodcast.org](http://greenandredpodcast.org)) adding ca. ninety episodes over the course of the past academic year.



## Center for Public History



Monica Perales

The History Department and Center for Public History said goodbye to Dr. **Monica Perales**, who directed the center for last 5 years. She is the new associate vice provost of the Institute of Texan Cultures (ITC) at the University of Texas at San Antonio. An award-winning researcher and educator, Dr. Perales expanded CPH's partners across the city and brought a focus on new, diverse communities and institutions through projects, programming, and outreach. She oversaw several phenomenal projects housed at the center, including the NEH-funded Gulf Coast Food Project, 100 Years of Stories, Resilient Houston: Documenting Hurricane Harvey, and The Algorithms and Power Systems Architecture: Using Historical Analysis to Envision a Sustainable Future, funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The breadth of these projects highlights Dr. Perales's expansive approach to public history, which included faculty, staff, graduate, and undergraduate involvement. Based on her tenure at CPH, we know the ITC is in great hands.



Mark Goldberg

Dr. **Mark A. Goldberg** is excited to serve as Director for the Center for Public History in 2023-2024. Goldberg is a U.S. Latinx, immigration, and border historian. He has participated in several CPH projects, including Resilient Houston: Documenting Hurricane Harvey and the Gulf Coast Food Project, and his new research on Cuban Jewish migration engages oral history and community archive building. He has taught oral history for the MA program in public history, and he is currently co-teaching (with Dr. Beth Merfish, UHCL) a museum studies graduate course serving the Mollie and Louis Kaplan Museum of Judaica History. Dr. Goldberg also brings public history into his undergraduate classes. Funded by a Cougar Initiative to Engage grant, Dr. Goldberg's students developed the Sephardic Latinx Oral History Project in partnership with Holocaust Museum Houston's Latinx Initiatives. In addition, undergraduates produced immigration history podcast episodes for CPH's Public Historians at Work podcast series. Dr. Goldberg is looking forward to a wonderful year at CPH.

Generously supported by UH friend and patron and hosted by the Center for Public History, Carey C. Shuart, "**100 Years of Stories: Documenting a Century at the**

**University of Houston**” is part of an innovative storytelling collaboration and interactive public history initiative that showcases the important role the University has had played in shaping the city. Lighting the path to the UH centennial celebration in 2027, the Center for Public History is collaborating with Houston Public Media and MD Anderson Libraries to collect, share, and preserve the stories of the University’s people and institutions that have defined our city and region.

This past year, CPH successfully applied for a large, three-year collaborative grant, along with Georgia Tech and the University of Minnesota, to the **Alfred P. Sloan**



Sutanwi Chatterjee

**Foundation** for an oral history project related to the U.S. electric power grid and how experts developed particular algorithms that became system standards for controlling and optimizing the grid. The grant funded two summer graduate assistants: Mahbul Bhuiyan, master’s student in the Valenti School of Communication, and **Sutanwi Chatterjee**, doctoral student in the Department of History.

Following a month of preparation, Bhuiyan and Chatterjee joined CPH Research Historian, Dr. **Julie Cohn**, in conducting oral history interviews at the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) Power & Energy Society General Meeting in July in Orlando, Florida.



Julie Cohn

## *Houston History Magazine*

At the *Houston History magazine* our students continued to tell under told stories of Houston. Published by the Center for Public History, the magazine aims to educate and entertain readers while exploring important aspects of Houston’s history and culture. Our goal for *Houston History* is to make our region more aware of its history and more respectful of its past; we hope to contribute to the development of a stronger historical consciousness in Houston. The magazine produces two print issues per year in late spring and fall with added digital content on the website such as movies, audio clips of interviews, photographs, and links.

This past year, many of the articles related to people and programs at UH as part of the 100 Years of Stories: Documenting a Century at the University of Houston project, funded by a grant from Carey Shuart. Students, most in the Oral History

Methods class, conducted oral histories for the 100 Years articles, giving them an opportunity to meet with local history makers and hone new skills.

“Innovative Thinkers in the Arts, Education & Politics,” *Houston History* 20, no.1, features articles on John Lienhard and *Engines of Our Ingenuity*, UH President Marguerite Ross Barnett, Arte Público Press, community activists Katy Caldwell and Nancy Sims, The Art Guys and *The Statue of Four Lies*, and the UH integration records, as well as the Charity Guild of Catholic Women centennial and the Greens Bayou watershed.



“Agents of Change,” *Houston History* 20, no. 2, includes articles on President Khator; architect Burdette Keeland Jr.; The Public Art University of Houston System collection; Postcards from the Trenches, highlighting art preserved by former head of art history Peter Guenther and faculty member Irene Guenther; two alumni, Gen. Barrye Price and 2LT Katelyn Kubosh, and head of UH ROTC, LTC Melissa Comiskey, who expanded opportunities for women in the U.S. military; the Tillman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine; the CPH/Special Collections collaborative exhibit *Agents of Change: Celebrating Innovation at UH’s Centennial*; as well as Miller Outdoor Theatre’s centennial and a WCL student photo essay of historic downtown.



In October 2022, the Center for Public History and *Houston History* magazine hosted its launch event for the Spring 2022 issue, “Community Engagement from Blackboards to Digital Technology,” highlighting the article on the CMALS Latino cARTographies digital project. Serving on a panel of guest speakers at the event were CMALS director Pamela Quiroz and Mikaela Selley, former UH History MA student and former His-

panic archivist at the HMRC.



Panel celebrating John Lienhard’s life and work.

In March 2023, CPH and *Houston History* magazine hosted a panel honoring Professor Emeritus John Lienhard, as part of the magazine launch event for the fall 2022 issue, “Innovative Thinkers in the Arts,



Education & Politics.” Lienhard is a prominent historian of technology and the creator and prolific contributor of the radio show-turned-podcast, *The Engines of Our Ingenuity*, that has been consistently on the air for thirty-five years since its inception in 1988! Check it out at <https://uh.edu/engines> with 3290 episodes to listen to!

## Project on Race and Capitalism



George Floyd Memorial Lecture, April 18, 2023. Left to right: Philonise Floyd, Keeta Floyd, Robin Kelley, David McNally.

Led by **David McNally**, the Project on Race and Capitalism sponsored four events during the academic year 2022–23. The highlight was the annual George Floyd Memorial Lecture delivered on April 19 of this year by Dr. Robin D.G. Kelley, Distinguished Professor and Gary B. Nash Endowed Chair in US History at the University of California at Los Angeles. Titled, “Making a Killing: Anatomy of the Cincinnati Rebellion of 2001,” Dr. Kelley’s talk drew 120 scholars, students, and community members to the UH campus. Once again, the lecture was attended by Philonise Floyd, brother of George Floyd, and Philonise’s wife Keeta. Scholars from several cities were in attendance. The Real News Network livestreamed Dr. Kelley’s lecture

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4QmYaANY0k>) and posted it to YouTube, where it was seen by over 8,000 people.

## Arab-American Educational Foundation Center for Arab Studies



Abdel Razzaq Takriti

The fourth year of the Arab-American Educational Foundation Center for Arab Studies (AAEF-CAS) was filled with dynamic academic programming and achievements. For the 2022–23 academic year, Founding Director **Abdel Razzaq Takriti** served as the Mahmoud Darwish Visiting Professor in Palestinian Studies at Brown University, and Professor **Emire Cihan Yüksel** served as the Center’s Acting Director overseeing a dynamic series of lectures and academic programming.



We opened our dynamic academic year on September 8, 2022 with Dr. Fady Joudah (Physician, Poet, Translator) and Dr. Hayan Charara (UH Honors College), who were our keynote speakers for the 2022 AAEF Dr. Burhan and Mrs. Misako Ajouz Distinguished Lecture in Arab Literature, “**Contemporary Poetry: The Arab American Turn.**” As part of our growing portfolio of national collaborations, we co-sponsored a virtual panel with Brown University’s Center for Middle East Studies and The Jerusalem Fund on October 3 titled, “**Gaza: The Longest Siege in Modern History – 2007 to the Present,**” which featured powerful contributions about the political and historical context of the ongoing siege of Gaza. Later that month, we had the pleasure of hosting a bi-lingual poetry event, “**You Can Be the Last Leaf: An Evening with Maya Abu Al-Hayyat,**” which presented the debut of Palestinian poet Maya Abu Al-Hayyat to a U.S. audience.

In December, the Center sent a delegation of faculty and graduate students to participate in the 56<sup>th</sup> annual Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) conference in Denver, CO, which included Dr. Takriti, Dr. Yüksel, Assistant Director **Fadi Kafeety**, and PhD candidate **Erica Augenstein**.

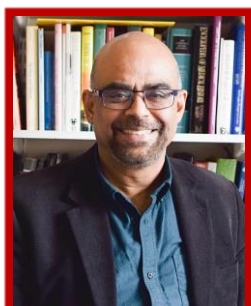
The previous semester’s momentum continued in the Spring with a range of academic events, starting on February 02, 2023, with an interdisciplinary book launch discussion of Professor Elora Shehabuddin’s *Sisters in the Mirror: A History of Muslim Women and the Global Politics of Feminism*. The following week, Dr. Ronald A. Judy (University of Pennsylvania) came to the University of Houston to deliver a lecture on February 9 titled “The Black Study of an Old Matter: The Poetic Socialities of Africanité and Arabité.” Later in March 2023, Dr. Emine Fetvacı (Boston College) delivered the fifth AAEF Annual Lecture in Ottoman History: “**From Adam to Murad: Universal History Through Ottoman Eyes.**” Our final two events for the semester included public lectures by Dr. Samah Selim (Rutgers University) on “A Tale of Two Cities: The Scales of Literary History and the Ends of Comparison” and Dr. Luis Tapia Mealla (CIDES & UNAM) for a public lecture titled “Methods and Concepts for Thinking About Social Diversity.”

Finally, it is with immense pride that we announce the graduation of the Center’s first doctoral student, **Derek Ide**! Dr. Ide joined the University of Houston in 2017 to work under the supervision



of Professor Takriti and during his time as a graduate student of the Center published multiple peer-reviewed academic chapters, represented the Center at numerous academic conferences at the national and international levels, and won several prestigious awards and fellowships. Dr. Ide's dissertation, "The Anticolonial International: Black Internationalism and the Palestinian Revolution, 1965-1973," explores the solidarities forged between Black internationalists and Palestinian revolutionaries, documenting their shared internationalist commitments as well as the ways these movements legitimated each other during the 1960s.

## Health Is Politics



Pratik Chakrabarti

"Health is Politics" is a research program launched at the University of Houston (USA) and funded by the NEH-Cullen Chair held by **Pratik Chakrabarti**. The program seeks to trace the history of political activism that has shaped community healthcare globally. It also initiates discussions on how the future of global and community healthcare depends on political activism and thereby refers to several such political roles that are defining healthcare in the contemporary period. This is at an early stage, and in July 2023, Dr. Chakrabarti organized a workshop at the French Institute of Pondicherry to launch the program and discuss its future course. Dr. Chakrabarti plans to have several graduate students in the next few years along with postdocs. Dr. M. Kamatchi started research for the program last year and is conducting research among the Dalit midwives in southern India who are serving the key aspects of community healthcare in India. We are seeking to link these with the historical trajectories of similar activism.



Workshop participants.

## Department of History Stories

"**Resilient Houston: Documenting Hurricane Harvey**" has been a Center for Public History initiative and oral history project over the last several years. The project has created a substantial archive of oral histories and supporting materials, as well as a





Debbie Harwell

website showcasing excerpts from these interviews. With both graduate and undergraduate research done in collaboration with CLASS, the UH Honors College, and community partners like the African American History Research Center (formerly The Gregory School), Resilient Houston is reaching out to a broad audience to tell the story of this seminal event in Houston history.

This past year, Dr. **Todd Romero** and Dr.

**Debbie Harwell** conducted a workshop for the

Texas Oral History Association related to the project and worked with REACH students Katherine Galland and Kelly Montano, who conducted additional oral histories from unrepresented groups and added the remaining interviews on the website. These interviews will be transferred to Special Collections for processing.



Todd Romero

The NEH-awarded **Sharing Stories from 1977: Putting the National Women's Conference on the Map** project, led by co-directors Dr. **Nancy Beck Young** and Dr. **Leandra Zarnow**, continues to grow and gain national recognition. Launched in March 2022, this digital humanities project features a website, archive-building efforts, public programming, and curriculum that has been used by educators at more than two dozen universities since its launch. To date, over 800 student-written biographies about elected delegates to the 1977 National Women's Conference have been submitted and are being edited for publication. UH is the flagship powerhouse of this project, editing and preparing all of these biographies to be published on the Sharing Stories site. The first batch can be read on the Discover NWC Stories page.

The Center for Public History completed Season 2 of the **podcast Public Historians at Work**. In this podcast series, CPH-affiliated faculty, staff, and students speak with academics, writers, artists, and community members about what it means to do history and humanities work for and with the public. Produced and edited by Associate Professor of History, **Kristina Neumann**, this second season examines public history as it relates to medicine, health, and the wellbeing of our global community, demonstrating how public history can impact and inspire our everyday lives. The episodes feature a wide variety of experts addressing topics from big data and legal concerns around documentation of toxic substances knowingly used by companies, to the role of religious hospitals within America's healthcare system.

In Fall 2022, with support from the NEH, a Harvard University Loeb Fellowship, and the UH Digital Research Commons, **Kristina Neumann** and her colleagues from the College of Engineering successfully launched a working digital prototype



of SYRIOS to the public at <https://syrios.uh.edu>. With a focus on new engagement with ancient Syrian history and material culture, this interdisciplinary project represents an ongoing experiment exploring the intersection of historical data, usability/user-experience research, and web technology. While content will continue

to be added, SYRIOS invites everyone to check out the project's new features made possible through a custom-built content management system: 1) a "Stories" interface weaving coins into interactive narratives alongside other artifacts, text, and communities of ancient Syria; 2) a "Coin Sort" interface, which allows users to virtually handle the coins as objects – sorting and rearranging them into piles and putting them under a magnifying lens to learn more; and 3) a "Historian's Toolbox" portal, which provides important resources for the vocabulary, practices, and the larger historical issues at play when conducting research on coins, Syria, and ancient history.

## Recent PhD and MA Degree Recipients

**Derek Ide** (PhD, 2023). Advisor: Abdel Razzaq Takriti. Dissertation: "The Anticolonial International: Black Internationalism and the Palestinian Revolution, 1965-73."

**Alex Paul** (PhD 2023). Advisor: Jimmy Schafer. Dissertation: "Unwilling Doughboys: The U.S. Army's Foreign-Born Conscripts in World War I."

**Darah Vann** (PhD 2023). Advisor: Kristina Neumann. Dissertation: "Roman Rape Culture: The Pervasiveness of Sexual Violence in Augustan Era Rome."

**Ezell Wilson** (PhD 2023). Advisor: Philip Howard. Dissertation: "Inhabiting Pará, Brazil: Landscapes of Resistance, 1750-1850."

**Allison Anderson** (MA 2023). Advisor: Nancy Beck Young.

**Samantha De Leon** (MA 2023). Advisor: Nancy Beck Young.

**Brian “Ty” Erickson** (MA 2023). Advisor: Kristina Neumann.

**Nella Sakic** (MA 2023). Advisor: Mark Goldberg.

**Claire White** (MA 2023). Advisor: Nancy Beck Young.

**Eric Boutin-Bloomberg** (MA 2023). Advisor: Mark Goldberg.

**Paula Davis Hoffman** (MA 2023). Advisor: Leandra Zarnow.

## Graduate Program News



**Karla Lira**

**Karla Lira** (PhD) received two awards from the UH Center for Public History in 2023. The first one is the Joseph A. Pratt Prize in Houston History for her dissertation chapter titled, “Latinx Students in Houston, 1939-1970.” This prize recognizes outstanding graduate research on any aspect of Houston history. She also won the Ernesto Valdes Oral History Prize for her dissertation chapter, “Latinx Athletes at the University of Houston 1949-1965.” This prize recognizes outstanding graduate work

that incorporates oral history methodology. Lira also gave several invited talks including “Perspectives of Mexican Americans in Graduate School” in the South Texas College in October 2022.

**Heather Butina-Sutton** (PhD) received the Coordinating Council for Women in History’s Catherine Prelinger Award to assist in writing her dissertation entitled “Hucksters, Hawkers, and Ganha-deiras: How Black Women Shaped Culture and Economics in the Atlantic World.” It is awarded to scholars whose careers have not followed the traditional path of uninterrupted academic study. Valued at \$20,000, the goal of the CCWH is to uplift women in the history profession, allowing them to continue making important contributions to women’s history through their research and other professional activities.



**Heather Butina-Sutton**

**Caitlyn Jones** (PhD) received two prestigious national fellowships for her dissertation writing year. One is the American Dissertation Fellowship awarded by the





Caitlyn Jones

American Association of University Women to offset living and research costs for the final year of dissertation writing. Another one is Gerald R. Ford Scholar Award in Honor of Robert Teeter awarded by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library to a doctoral student researching any aspect of the United States political process, with particular attention to how public opinion affects this process.

**Dmitrii Blyshko** (PhD) conducted summer excavations at the late Neolithic site Derevyannoe XIII in Karelia as part of the project “Asbestos Ware in Pottery Traditions of Eastern Europe.” The primary objective of the project is to investigate the development of complexity within Neolithic hunter-gatherer societies. Additionally, Blyshko co-authored an article titled “Segregated Pasts” with **Pratik Chakrabarti** published in The Royal Society’s Science in the Making series. This article critically examines the impact of colonial influences on the field of archaeology and their implications for contemporary archaeological knowledge.



Dmitrii Blyshko



Said Al Hashimi

**Said Al Hashimi** (PhD) published two book chapters, including “Citizenship in the Arab World” (with Erica Augenstein) in *The Encyclopedia of Citizenship Studies*, ed. by Marisol Soledad Garcia Cabeza and Thomas Faist (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2023) and “The Modern History of the Islamists in Oman and The Revolution” in *The Islamists and the Arab Revolutions: Insider and Outsider Revisits*, ed. by Abdulah Baabood and Khalid Al Hroub

(Ahlia Publishing House, 2023). Al Hashimi also served as a co-organizer of the 56th Annual Meeting for Middle East Studies Association in Denver, USA, in December 2022.

**Priscilla JudsonWallace** (PhD) received several scholarships and awards, including a Project on Race & Capitalism Scholarship and a Murray Miller Travel Grant from UH, a Richard Sutch Memorial Travel Grant from the Social Science History Association, and a President’s Graduate Student Travel Award from the American Historical Association.



Priscilla JudsonWallace

**Allison Saenz** (PhD) became a fellow in the Inter-University Program for Latino Research/UIC Mellon Program at the University of Illinois in Chicago. In addition



Allison Saenz

to funding support, the fellowship includes a year-round dissertation writing support, professional development, mentorship, and job market support. Fellows participate in a summer or fall institute in Chicago, various online webinars and meetings throughout the year, structured writing and professionalization programs, monthly cohort check-ins, and a mentorship program.

**Alfonso Nunez Garza** (PhD) was honored with a two-year Graduate Fellowship from the University of Houston’s Center for Mexican American and Latino/a Studies (MALS). In his role as a MALS Fellow and Research Assistant, Garza actively engages in the Center’s academic and intellectual community.



Alfonso Garza



Patrick Higgins

**Patrick Higgins** (PhD) published an article titled “Gunning for Damascus: The US War on the Syrian Arab Republic” in the *Middle East Critique*. On March 10–11, Higgins and a group of other PhD students including **Erica Augenstein**, **Derek Ide**, and **Fadi Kafety** traveled to Providence, Rhode Island, to participate in the 2023 New Directions in Palestinian Studies workshop, “The Palestinian Revolutionary Tradition and Global Anti-Colonialism,” at the Brown University’s Center for Middle East Studies.

**Alexey Chernyavskiy** (PhD) attended the Hoover Institution Summer Policy Boot Camp at Stanford University in August 2023, an intensive four-day residential immersion program focused on the essentials of today’s national and international United States policy. The program’s goal is to teach students how to think critically about public policy formulation and its results.



Alexey Chernyavskiy

## Undergraduate Program News

The Undergraduate Program continues to grow with new majors up 5 percent from last year. We believe that this reflects our strong effort to create community for

students with new annual traditions such as Night at the Museum and our Spring Open House. Students are taking initiative too.

Last year, students—majors, minors, and history enthusiasts—formed the first ever Society of Student Historians (SSH), a new club that is inclusive and open to all with the common cause of sharing their love for history. The first leaders of this group are recent alumni Julian Silva and Jacob Loew and current students Dani Mieles and Cameron Thompson. SSH hosted their first annual “Behind the Headlines” event leading up to the 2022 midterms with faculty Nancy Beck Young and John Sbardellati putting the election in perspective. Another new tradition for SSH is an end of semester study session where upper-class students coach those new to the discipline on writing tips and how to get through finals. The hope is that a strong alumni network will grow, with career connections becoming a feature of club meetings, alongside research talks by department faculty. If interested in connecting, please reach out to faculty liaison **Leandra Zarnow**.

The Undergraduate Committee has also accomplished a curriculum refresh with new major requirements in effect in fall 2023. Now students take classes in at least three geographic areas during their careers to develop the greater global perspective that leads to more well-rounded citizens. The new major has also augmented its focus on introducing students early to historical methods and historiography. Additionally, the History Department recently revamped its professional studies concentration that majors can opt into that allows students to take classes that speak to the following areas: law or policy; science, medicine, or technology; energy or environmentalism; and public history.

In 2023, the Department of History offered multiple Undergraduate Awards that were won by the following students:

### **Outstanding Achievement in History Certificate**

**Miranda Ruzinsky**

**Mavis Wilson**

### **Distinguished Achievement in History Certificate**

**Angel Anchondo**

**Angel Salas**

**Ian Thompson**

**James Travis**



## **Distinguished in the History Minor Certificate**

**Chase Martin**

## **Chair's Recognition Certificate**

**Jacob Loew**

**Andrew Tello**

## **P.C. and Josephine Del Barto Scholarship**

**Duncan McIntyre**

**Jesus Tobar**

**Charis Wu**

## **Murray Miller Undergraduate Scholarship**

**Ava Galluzzi**

The UH undergraduate program offers multiple opportunities for independent research, and in the academic year 2022–2023, our students conducted multiple research projects within several UH programs:

### **2022 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)**

**Akhil Mulgaonker** (Mentor: Dr. Jose Angel Hernandez).

### **2022–23 Research for Aspiring Coogs in the Humanities (REACH)**

**Katherine Galland** (Mentors: Dr. Debbie Harwell and Dr. Todd Romero).

**Erica Delgado** (Mentor: Dr. Gabriela Baeza Ventura).

**Haadi Hasan** (Mentor: Dr. Peggy Lindner).

**Stephanie Masterson** (Mentor: Dr. Mark Sursavage).

### **2022–23 Provost's Undergraduate Research Scholarship (PURS)**

**Akhil Mulgaonker** (Mentor: Dr. Richard Mizelle).

### **2022–23 Mellon Research Scholars Program**

**Megan Dagnall** (Mentor: Dr. Debbie Harwell).

**Katherine Galland** (Mentor: Dr. Debbie Harwell).

**Alex Gurule** (Mentor: Dr. Jose Angel Hernandez).

**Jose Gutierrez** (Mentor: Dr. James Schafer).

**Christine Le** (Mentor: Dr. Ivan Small).

**Andrew Tello** (Mentor: Dr. Debbie Harwell).

**Ian Thompson** (Mentor: Dr. Richard Armstrong).

## Alumni News



**Charles Robinson**

In November 2022, **Charles F. Robinson** who has both BA (1987) and PhD (1997) in history from our department was appointed as the chancellor of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, which is the flagship campus of the UA System. Robinson, who prior to this appointment had been interim chancellor, is the first Black person to be chancellor of UA-Fayetteville in even an interim capacity. He began his career at UA-Fayetteville in 1999 as an assistant professor of history.

**Nella Sakic** (MA 2023) received a Fulbright Award to spend a year as an English teaching assistant in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

**Matthew Howard** (MA 2018) earned doctorate from the North Carolina State University with a dissertation titled **Rendering Hallyu: Gyopo Media Histories of the Korean Wave** (August 2023) and started a tenure-track job as an Assistant Professor in the Loyola University Chicago School of Communication.



**Matthew Howard**

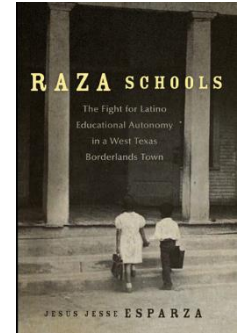
**Derek Ide** (PhD 2023) started a new appointment as a IHP / ARC-NCID Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Michigan. The IHP/ARC-NCID Postdoctoral Fellowships are a joint initiative of the Inclusive History Project (IHP) and the National Center for Institutional Diversity's Anti-Racism Collaborative (ARC-NCID) at the University of Michigan. As part of his appointment, Dr. Ide is affiliated with the University of Michigan's Department of History.



**Alberto Rodriguez**

**Alberto Rodriguez** (PhD 2011), Associate Professor of History and the Director of the Mexican American Studies Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, became the recipient of the "Captain Alonso de León" Steel Medal for Historical Merit in its International category for 2023. This is an award given by the Nuevoleonesa Society of History, Geography, and Statistics (SNHGE) to distinguished individuals in the field of international history. Named after Captain Alonso de León, a Spanish explorer and military officer who played a crucial role in

the colonization and exploration of the Nuevo León region in the seventeenth century, this award is granted to individuals, institutions, or projects that have made significant contributions to the study, research, or dissemination of history, geography, or culture in general, both in Nuevo León and other regions of the world.



A book by **Jesús Jesse Esparza** (PhD 2008) entitled **Raza Schools: The Fight for Latino Educational Autonomy in a West Texas Borderlands Town** came out with the University of Oklahoma Press. Dr. Esparza is Associate Professor of History at Texas Southern University.



**Felipe Hinojosa** (PhD 2009) was appointed as Inaugural Jackson Family Chair for Baylor in Latin America. He moved to Baylor University from Texas A&M, where he had previously served as professor of history, assistant provost for Hispanic Serving Institution initiatives, and director for the Carlos H. Cantu Hispanic Education & Opportunity Endowment.

**Alberto Wilson III** (PhD 2021) was awarded an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship in Latino Studies at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, NM, for the academic year 2023–2024 to make progress on his first book, *Pan-American Cities*. After he completes his fellowship year, he will join the faculty at Texas Christian University as a tenure-track assistant professor of Mexican American, Latinx, and Borderlands History. Between 2021 and 2023, he held a visiting assistant professorship at Wichita State University.



In October 2022, **Trinidad Gonzales** (PhD 2008), Professor of History and Assistant Chair of the Department of History at South Texas College, was announced as the recipient of the 2022 John Lewis Award for History and Social Justice by the American Historical Association. He was recognized for many and varied contributions to social justice through public history work on the Texas borderlands, with a reach and significance for national conversations.