



**2023** CONFERENCE ON  
AMERICAN HISTORY

# AWARDS PROGRAM



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**LOS ANGELES**  
March 30-April 2



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*The Organization of American Historians sponsors annual awards and prizes given in recognition of scholarly and professional achievements in the field of American history. Please join us in congratulating the following 2023 OAH award and prize recipients:*

## Roy Rosenzweig Distinguished Service Award

*for an individual or individuals whose contributions have significantly enriched our understanding and appreciation of American history*

### Award Committee:

George J. Sánchez, University of Southern California, Chair

Susan Sleeper-Smith, Michigan State University

Brenda E. Stevenson, University of California, Los Angeles

Mike Williams, National Humanities Center



On June 16, 2019, **Lonnie G. Bunch III** assumed the position as the 14th Secretary of the **Smithsonian Institution**. As Secretary, he oversees 21 museums and is overseeing the development of two new museums—the National Museum of the American Latino and the Smithsonian’s American Women’s History Museum, 21 libraries, the National Zoo, numerous research centers, and several education units and centers. Bunch is the first historian to be Secretary of the Institution in its 173-year history.

Many Americans got to know Bunch as the founding director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture from 2005 to 2019. Indeed, he won the Friend of History Award from the OAH in 2017 largely because of this work. But he has spent most of his career as a renowned history museum curator and administrator. Bunch received his Ph.D. in history in 1978 in American and African American history. Having started his work at the Smithsonian as a master’s student, he was hired as a history professor at the University of Maryland. In 1983 he became the first curator at the California African American Museum, then worked from 1989 until 1994 as a curator

at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. He was promoted there to Associate Director of Curatorial Affairs before leaving to become president of the Chicago Historical Society from 2001 to 2005.

Throughout his curatorial career, Bunch designed pathbreaking exhibitions and created events that brought critical aspects of American and African American history to the wider public. During that time he also co-authored and co-edited books, which spanned the history of California's East Bay African American community (1989), the U.S. presidency (2000), Black Washington (2009), history, race and museums (2010), and slave culture (2014). In 2019 Lonnie Bunch published *A Fool's Errand: Creating the National Museum of African American History and Culture in the Age of Bush, Obama, and Trump*, which chronicles the amazing pathway to the design and opening of the most important U.S. history museum of our era.

Because of his compelling scholarship and visionary leadership in American history, the committee has selected Lonnie G. Bunch III for the 2023 Roy Rosenzweig Distinguished Service Award.

## Friend of History Award

*recognizes an institution or organization, or an individual working primarily outside college or university settings, for outstanding support of historical research, the public presentation of American history, or the work of the OAH*

### Award Committee/OAH Executive Committee:

Erika Lee, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, President, Chair

Anthea M. Hartig, National Museum of American History, President-Elect

David W. Blight, Yale University, Vice President

Jay S. Goodgold, Independent Investor, Treasurer

Philip J. Deloria, Harvard University, Immediate Past President



AIISF barracks

Founded in 1983, the **Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF)** was created to continue preservation and educational efforts for the U.S. Immigration Station on Angel Island (San Francisco) and to increase awareness of the history of im/migration into America through the Pacific. From 1910 to 1940, one million people were processed through the port of San Francisco on their way into or out of the United States. About

half a million spent some time being examined, interrogated, or detained in the Immigration Station on Angel Island. Although sometimes referred to as the West Coast equivalent of Ellis Island, Angel Island's immigration station was built to enforce the U.S. government's anti-Asian, exclusionary immigration policies. The majority of the detainees were of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, and South Asian heritage. A fire in 1940 forced the closure of the immigration station, and the site and its buildings fell into disrepair. The site's historical significance was largely forgotten and erased from public memory in the following decades.

In 1970 the site was slated for demolition, but the discovery of Chinese poetry that had been carved into the walls of the detention barracks led to Asian American community efforts to save the site from destruction, preserve the station for historical interpretation, and increase research and educational initiatives. Serving as the nonprofit fund-raising partner for the Immigration Station site, AIISF has developed the cultural and physical landscape of the site, preserved the poems

on the barracks walls, and created a collection of oral histories about those who came through the Station as well as current-day immigrants. The Angel Island Immigration Station is now a National Historic Landmark. Both the restored detention barracks and the new Angel Island Immigration Museum (2022) welcome visitors onsite and through digital education initiatives and public programs. Thanks to the work by the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation over the past forty years, the U.S. Immigration Station on Angel Island is now recognized as one of the most important Asian American historic sites in the country as well as a site of ongoing community education and engagement around a range of social justice issues today.

The OAH is proud to present Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation with the Organization's Friend of History Award.

## Frederick Jackson Turner Award

*for a first scholarly book dealing with some aspect of American history*

### Award Committee:

Philip J. Deloria, Harvard University, Chair

Anne Kornhauser, City College of New York

Bryant Simon, Temple University



**Kathryn Olivarius**, Stanford University, ***Necropolis: Disease, Power, and Capitalism in the Cotton Kingdom*** (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press). Surviving yellow fever in antebellum New Orleans granted one “immunocapital,” a status that Kathryn Olivarius argues helped determine social hierarchy in a world in which the mosquito-borne origins of the disease remained mysterious. Blessed with immunity, white settler survivors jumped to the top of the social and economic world of the Cotton Kingdom, their good fortune seeming to evidence an innate superiority that they converted

into social opportunities and monetary capital. Enslaved Black people, on the other hand, became more economically valuable to those who claimed to own them, and thus more likely to be assigned the most demanding and dangerous kinds of labor. Rather than seeking ways to ameliorate yellow fever, the white leadership of New Orleans doubled down on a world of terrible risk, rejecting quarantines, sanitation, and the very idea of public health. Instead, they built a distinct form of racial capitalism and enslavement out of seasonal and cyclical mortality. Thoroughly researched, brilliantly argued, and written in compelling prose, *Necropolis* takes readers deep inside this social world—one of untidy death, pervasive mourning, and men on the make—while simultaneously analyzing the city’s distinctive mortuary politics and their place within the world of antebellum Atlantic capitalism.



## Merle Curti Intellectual History Award

*for the best book in American intellectual history*

### Award Committee:

Elizabeth Tandy Shermer, Loyola University Chicago, Chair

Brandon R. Byrd, Vanderbilt University

Leilah Danielson, Northern Arizona University



**Kathryn Gin Lum**, Stanford University. ***Heathen: Religion and Race in American History*** (Harvard University Press) is a sweeping, provocative, well-written exploration of the importance of “the heathen” and “heathenism” to American racial discourse, which shaped the country’s political, economic, and social development from the founding through the COVID-19 pandemic. Lum’s impressive research highlights the importance of the idea of the heathen to what it meant to be white as well as whites’ justification for enslaving Africans, excluding Chinese immigrants, and forcing Indigenous children into boarding schools.

She shows that the term might have faded from popular discourse by the early 1900s, but everything it had come to mean persisted throughout the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Lum subsequently raises new questions for scholars attuned to how religion shaped twentieth-century domestic and international politics because the conceptions bound up with the idea heathenism shaped how white Americans “othered” citizens of color and whole regions of the world as people and places that needed to submit to white American Christian ways. Yet Lum carefully documents how the very people this discourse has sought to marginalize have used and continue to deploy this religious, racialized discourse as a way to come together and resist adaptation, adoption, and conversion.

## Merle Curti Social History Award

*for the best book in American social history*

### Award Committee:

Beth Bailey, University of Kansas, Chair

Sam Davis, Texas Christian University

Jacob Lee, Penn State University

Alaina Roberts, University of Pittsburgh



**Laura F. Edwards**, Princeton University, ***Only the Clothes on Her Back: Clothing and the Hidden History of Power in the Nineteenth-Century United States*** (Oxford University Press).

In this innovative and imaginatively researched work, Laura F. Edwards uses stories of everyday Americans to reveal a system of law and economy that is surprising and unfamiliar. In the new republic, Edwards argues, textiles served as forms of currency, credit, and capital. Whether a simple women's slip or an elaborate trousseau, a blanket or a yard of lace, a man's ready-to-wear suit or the shoes he wore with it, textiles were economic

instruments, backed by law. But textiles, unlike most forms of property, could be legally claimed by those with broadly restricted rights, including married women and enslaved persons. By tracing the creative ways that people of marginalized status wielded their personal histories of production, use, or exchange of textiles to gain purchase in the legal order of the new republic, Edwards reveals the limits of rights-based legal histories to our understanding of how ordinary people engaged the economy and the law.

## Ray Allen Billington Prize

*for the best book on the history of Native and/or settler peoples in frontier, border, and borderland zones of intercultural contact in any century to the present and to include works that address the legacies of those zones*

### Prize Committee:

Andrés Reséndez, University of California, Davis, Chair

Maurice S. Crandall, Arizona State University

Julian Lim, Arizona State University



**Paul Conrad**, University of Texas at Arlington. ***The Apache Diaspora: Four Centuries of Displacement and Survival*** (University of Pennsylvania Press) is a comprehensive examination of Apache (Nde) groups from the 1500s, when they entered the Spanish documentary record, to the twentieth century. Particularly impressive to the committee was how *The Apache Diaspora* reveals the astounding range of the Apache experiences in a large swath of North America of what is now the American Southwest and northern Mexico and as far east as Florida and Cuba and as far north as Canada. The book speaks to various strategies of

Apache survival and identity in the face of centuries of violence, forced migrations, and displacement from their ancestral homelands. Committee members also appreciated the empathy with which Conrad treats his Apache subjects, the depth of his research, and his engagement with the work of scholars working on multiple periods and aspects of this history, be that colonialism, Indian slavery, reservations, the establishment of national boundaries, etc.

## Civil War and Reconstruction Book Award

*for the most original book on the coming of the Civil War, the Civil War years, or the Era of Reconstruction*

### Award Committee:

Amy Murrell Taylor, University of Kentucky, Chair

Jim Downs, Gettysburg College

Gretchen Long, Williams College



**Dale Kretz**, California Nurses Association.

### ***Administering Freedom: The State of Emancipation after the Freedmen's Bureau***

(University of North Carolina Press) is an important new history of how African American people related to and made claims upon the federal government in the decades after emancipation. Based on archival research that is impressively broad and deep, and with an eye always trained on Black claimants who continually pushed federal authorities to recognize what was justly due them as citizens, Dale Kretz answers a question that has been staring historians in the face: What happened

after the Freedmen's Bureau disappeared? In careful and precise prose, Kretz offers a sweeping new history that ranges from the throes of war emergency in the 1860s to the New Deal in the 20th century, reperiodizing the history of race and the federal welfare state. The book moves across multiple federal agencies, including the Freedmen's Branch and the Pension Bureau, in a state-centered study that never loses sight of the complex personal stories behind each claim. Kretz ultimately shows that Reconstruction did not end in the federal abandonment of freed people but instead launched a highly bureaucratized and managed process by which the formerly enslaved became documented citizens. Ambitious and thorough, *Administering Freedom* is a paradigm-shifting book.

**James A. Rawley Prize**

*for the best book dealing with the history of race relations in the United States*

**Prize Committee:**

Yuichiro Onishi, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Chair

Dan Berger, University of Washington Bothell

Margaret Ellen Newell, Ohio State University



**Michael Witgen**, Columbia University, *Seeing Red: Indigenous Land, American Expansion, and the Political Economy of Plunder in North America* (Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture and University of North Carolina Press). Michael Witgen, with tremendous attention to everyday interactions on the ground, issues a challenge to the standard annals of Indigenous dispossession in the Old Northwest after 1787. He argues that “the political economy of plunder” in the Great Lakes region of the Michigan Territory was such that the extension of U.S. colonial power and

missionary activities into the homeland of Anishinaabe peoples long tethered to the fur trade linked up with the production of race, specifically via mixed-race Native peoples and their dual citizenship and vast intricate kinship networks. *Seeing Red* rejects the logic of vanishing Indian mythmaking so pervasive in underwriting settler colonialism by showing how marriage and adoption, remade through dispossession, wrote race into Indigenous relations. This imbrication of race, power, wealth, and Indigenous land buoyed the politics of belonging for the Anishinaabeg in relation to their homeland and the U.S. Republic, even as it animated Black exclusion in the Northwest Territory. *Seeing Red* is a powerful counterhistory to reckon with race making encased in settler colonialism, an imperative so vital to charting new futures in the present.

## Willi Paul Adams Award

*for the best book on American history published in a language other than English*

### Award Committee:

Stephen Pitti, Yale University, Chair  
 Lily D. Geismer, Claremont McKenna College  
 Adam Green, University of Chicago  
 Torrie Hester, Saint Louis University  
 Rachel St. John, University of California, Davis



**Beatriz Carolina Peña**, Queens College (CUNY). ***26 años de esclavitud: Juan Miranda y otros negros españoles en la Nueva York colonial*** [***26 Years a Slave: Juan Miranda and Other Spanish Negroes in Colonial New York***] (Universidad del Rosario) is a microhistory of Juan Miranda, a free person of biracial ancestry from Cartagena de Indias (modern-day Colombia) in the eighteenth century. In about 1733, Miranda was captured by Dutch privateers, taken to Curaçao, and by a British ship captain carried to New York, where he spent nearly two decades as a slave. In 1754 Miranda petitioned for his freedom

in New York, as a free subject of the Spanish King who was illegally enslaved. The book chronicles Miranda's trajectory of enslavement and his lengthy legal battle for freedom, which he seemed to manage to regain around 1761. Deeply researched and carefully argued, *26 años de esclavitud* makes important interpretive and methodological contributions to the fields of early American history, Atlantic history, and the history of African Diaspora.

## Ellis W. Hawley Prize

*for the best book-length historical study of the political economy, politics, or institutions of the United States, in its domestic or international affairs, from the Civil War to the present*

### Prize Committee:

Lila Corwin Berman, Temple University, Chair

Destin Jenkins, Stanford University

Neil M. Maher, Rutgers University/New Jersey Institute of Technology

Julie L. Reed, Pennsylvania State University

Tamara Venit-Shelton, Claremont McKenna College



### **Beverly Gage, Yale University, *G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century* (Viking).**

In this gripping work of historical biography, Beverly Gage produces an intimate, troubling, and deeply human portrait of J. Edgar Hoover that connects one person's life story to the mechanics of twentieth-century state building. With copious and diverse sources (some newly released), she shows how New Deal liberalism enabled the political rise of Hoover, even as he used the tools of the administrative state and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to erode the New Deal

coalition. *G-Man* is a history of an "American Century" defined by government surveillance, the suppression of radical labor and political movements, the harassment of civil rights leaders and social justice activists, and the ascendance of a carceral state. In detailing Hoover's life, Gage showcases the coalescence of a white, masculinist ideal toward which Hoover's "G-Men" aspired, despite the fuller, albeit surreptitious, reality of queer culture in Washington, D.C. Gage weaves a gripping biography into multiple narratives of state formation; the brilliance of this book is her deft ability to tell all these stories as one. Indeed, no political history of twentieth century America is complete without confronting the modes of discipline, power, and administrative rule crafted and exercised by Hoover, the FBI, and other appointed state builders.



## Liberty Legacy Foundation Award

*for the best book by a historian on the civil rights struggle from the beginnings of the nation to the present*

### Award Committee:

Simon Balto, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Chair

Lauren Araiza, Denison University

Emilye Crosby, SUNY-Geneseo



**Christina Greene**, University of Wisconsin–Madison. ***Free Joan Little: The Politics of Race, Sexual Violence, and Imprisonment*** (University of North Carolina Press) artfully explores the history of Joan Little’s long struggles with racism, sexism, poverty, and the criminal punishment system in the United States, both before and after the 1975 murder trial for the killing of a sexually violent jailer that made her an icon of the feminist and Black freedom movements. With Little as the book’s narrative center, Greene uses her experiences as a window onto larger histories of Black women’s and other women of color’s

battles with sexual violence and the U.S. carceral regime. Beautifully written and rigorously researched, at once a sensitive and nuanced examination of Joan Little’s life, an assessment of the movement for her freedom, and a larger history of Black women’s experiences inside and organizing within (and against) prisons, *Free Joan Little* offers powerful lessons about the relationships between race, sex, class, power, and carceral institutions in the late twentieth century.



**Lawrence W. Levine Award***for the best book in American cultural history***Award Committee:**

Flannery Burke, Saint Louis University, Chair

Matthew Sakiestewa Gilbert, University of Arizona

Catherine Gudis, University of California, Riverside

Martha J. McNamara, Wellesley College

Mark Padoongpatt, University of Nevada, Las Vegas



**James Zarsadiaz**, University of San Francisco. ***Resisting Change in Suburbia: Asian Immigrants and Frontier Nostalgia in L.A.*** (University of California Press) skillfully centers Asian American experiences in the post-1965 Los Angeles suburbs of the East San Gabriel Valley. The book moves outside the well-studied city of Los Angeles to illustrate the long-running appeal of “country living” to those pursuing the American dream. Extensive oral histories and readings of the built environment undergird Zarsadiaz’s careful analysis of Asian American navigation of racial prejudice and assimilationist pressures. As Asian

Americans became a majority in the East San Gabriel Valley, they both spread the influence of Asian culture and yoked their future prosperity to the whiteness at the heart of “country living.” In revealing the consequences of overlapping imaginaries in southern California—from myths of the frontier to those of effortless upward mobility—Zarsadiaz contributes to a growing body of literature on the history of suburban life and its significance to communities of color.

### Darlene Clark Hine Award

for the best book in African American women's and gender history

#### Award Committee:

Michelle R. Scott, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Chair

Deidre Hill Butler, Union College

Natanya Duncan, Queens College, CUNY

Duchess Harris, Macalester College

LaShawn D. Harris, Michigan State University



**Tomiko Brown-Nagin**, Harvard University, *Civil Rights Queen: Constance Baker Motley and the Struggle for Equality* (Pantheon Books/Penguin Random House). Wide in scope and written for popular audience appeal, *Civil Rights Queen* is a deeply researched and much-needed nuanced biography on civil rights heroine, brilliant legal strategist, and politician Constance Baker Motley. An accessible read with engaging narrative prose (you can tell Tomiko Brown-Nagin took much time writing this book), *Civil Rights Queen* analyzes the three acts of Motley's life, from lawyer to politician to first African American woman on the

federal bench. Motley lived a vibrant life and Brown-Nagin's text is the hallmark biography of Motley and her world. Brown-Nagin succeeds in her efforts to remedy how Motley's exclusion from the historical record "flattens history." The author deftly illustrates how Motley's life and career "shook up the world." Beautifully written and historically grounded in manuscript archives, government documents, oral histories, newspapers, and periodicals, *Civil Rights Queen* offers a detailed portrait of Motley's exceptional life, the challenges of race and gender, the fight for legal justice; and it paints an image of the broad twentieth-century civil rights movement.

## David Montgomery Award

*for the best book on a topic in American labor and working-class history, with co-sponsorship by the Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA)*

### Award Committee:

Eduardo Contreras, Hunter College, CUNY, Chair

Ken Fones-Wolf, West Virginia University (Emeritus)

Stacey Smith, Oregon State University



**Moon-Ho Jung**, University of Washington. ***Menace to Empire: Anticolonial Solidarities and the Transpacific Origins of the US Security State*** (University of California Press) is a sophisticated and absorbing analysis of Asian-origin peoples—including workers, migrants, students, and revolutionaries—and their resistance to the U.S. empire in the first four decades of the twentieth century. Moon-Ho Jung movingly and meticulously explores the radicalization of people who joined and supported revolutionary and working-class movements opposed to the U.S. empire and white supremacy. Tracking the movement of people

and ideas around the Pacific world, he painstakingly reconstructs anticolonial networks that united people in Asia, and in diasporic communities across the globe, as they fought empire and resisted the logics of racial capitalism. The imperial state and its defenders, Jung details, set out to comprehensively and violently extinguish anticolonial organizing and the solidarities it produced; in doing so, they criminalized, racialized, and excluded Asians as “seditious subjects.” Suppressing anticolonial movements transformed how the United States thought about Asian peoples as it solidified its national security apparatus. Jung’s work impels us to understand the connections between anticolonial politics, anti-Asian racism, and the security state. Imaginatively researched, engagingly written, and brilliantly argued, *Menace to Empire* forces us to consider how the U.S. empire spawned racist, undemocratic, and exploitative realities for working people in and from Asia.

## Mary Nickliss Prize in U.S. Women's and/or Gender History

for the most original book in U.S. Women's and/or Gender History (including North America and the Caribbean prior to 1776)

### Prize Committee:

Patricia Loughlin, University of Central Oklahoma, Chair

Darnella Davis, Independent Scholar

Tai S. Edwards, Johnson County Community College



Judy Tzu-Chun Wu

**Judy Tzu-Chun Wu**, University of California, Irvine, and **Gwendolyn Mink**, Independent Scholar. ***Fierce and Fearless: Patsy Takemoto Mink, First Woman of Color in Congress*** (New York University Press) is a trailblazing book about a trailblazing woman: Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink of Hawaii. Using an innovative two-voice structure, the book weaves the scholarship of Judy Tzu-Chun Wu with Gwendolyn Mink's oral histories about her mother. Much more than a traditional biography, this sweeping and highly teachable text uses an understudied Pacific world, Hawaiian perspective to contextualize U.S. twentieth-century history. Intimate details of Mink's life and relationships depict Japanese immigrant communities, higher education as a site of opportunity and discrimination, and the collaboration and conflict between women, especially women of color, on Capitol Hill. Uniquely and powerfully centering Hawaii, the text examines capitalist exploitation, Native Hawaiian activism, local politics, and the state's domestic and international significance. In Congress, Mink prioritized education, family leave, and child-care policies long before her peers. Her public service was central to everything from the Vietnam War, to Title IX, to Clarence Thomas's Supreme Court confirmation, and much more. We owe a debt of gratitude to Mink for her unprecedented leadership and to these authors for their expertly crafted book that shares it with us.



Gwendolyn Mink

## Lerner-Scott Prize

*for the best doctoral dissertation in U.S. women's history*

### Prize Committee:

Celeste Menchaca, University of Southern California, Chair

Sasha Maria Suarez, University of Wisconsin–Madison



**Elizabeth Hearne**, Tulane University. “**Reframing Care: Sexual Violence, Mental Health, and Feminist Activism, 1971–1997**” [dissertation

completed at the University of Illinois Chicago, with Robert Johnston, Chair, Kirk Hoppe, Norma Claire Moruzzi, Catherine Jacquet, and Katrin Schultheiss] traces the role that activists and mental health practitioners played in challenging outdated and misogynist frameworks and treatments for mental health and sexual violence that had been deeply engrained in medical professions like psychiatry and psychology.

Hearne builds on the work of scholars who have documented the rise of antirape activism in the 1970s through her close analysis of medical practitioners’ feminist-informed approaches to treating sexual assault and trauma. Drawing on mental health practitioners’ published and unpublished papers, Hearne documents how feminist clinicians worked together across institutions and organizations to “create new paradigms for understanding the effects of sexual violence and how best to address the needs of victims who sought their assistance.” While feminist practitioners challenged the damaging psychiatric assumptions that led to victim blaming, they did little to understand how issues of race and class intersected with issues of sexual assault and mental health. Hearne examines the activism of trained but unlicensed advocates who developed other forms of “treatment” that included testimony, knowledge sharing, crisis management, and peer-counseling. Women of color activists pushed beyond the limits of feminist practitioners’ “expertise” to develop community-based methods for healing trauma.

## Louis Pelzer Memorial Award

for the best essay in American history by a graduate student

### Award Committee:

Stephen D. Andrews, Interim Executive Editor, OAH/Interim Editor, *Journal of American History*, Chair, ex officio

Catherine J. Denial, Knox College

Quincy T. Mills, University of Maryland, College Park

Terry Anne Scott, Hood College



### Joshua A. McGonagle Althoff,

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities,

### “Peeyankihšhiaki Neighbor Management:

**Narrating *Johnson v. McIntosh* within a Longer History of Piankashaw Community Building.”** This innovative essay explores

how, throughout the 18th century, the Peeyankihšhiaki (Piankashaw people) incorporated and managed new villages, trade routes, and non-Peeyankihšhiaki people into their homelands in contemporary Illinois and Indiana. Drawing on indigenous sources and ways of knowing, it challenges the arguments made in

legal documents and court cases that the Peeyankihšhiaki had purportedly sold their land to the United Illinois and Wabash Land Companies in 1775. In its 1823 ruling in *Johnson v. McIntosh*, the Supreme Court held that Indigenous peoples held only usufructuary rights to their homelands. But histories of this case are too often separated from their Peeyankihšhiaki contexts, and the land sale that became foundational to American Indian law may not have been a sale at all. This essay pairs the United Land Companies’ memorial to Congress with colonial French sources to demonstrate that the Peeyankihšhiaki did not intend to leave their homelands and negotiated with the intent of granting the right to live within Myaamionki (Miami homelands) rather than the right to own it.



**Binkley-Stephenson Award**

*for the best article that appeared in the Journal of American History during the preceding calendar year*

**Award Committee:**

Ji-Yeon Yuh, Northwestern University, Chair

Peter Martínez, Tarrant County College

Traci Parker, University of Massachusetts Amherst



**Seema Sohi**, University of Colorado Boulder.

**“Barred Zones, Rising Tides, and Radical Struggles: The Antiradical and Anti-Asian Dimensions of the 1917 Immigration Act”**

(September 2022) examines the history of legislation restricting immigration and legislation targeting political radicalism to argue that the 1917 Barred Zone act was both anti-Asian and antiradical. Her insight that fear of political radicals and fear of Asians were mutually reinforcing changes our understanding of immigration restrictions and highlights the importance of conservative, antirevolutionary

politics in an era of global radical movements. With deft use of a range of archival sources, Sohi traces how South Asian migrants were targeted by the British Empire, the United States, and Canada for exclusion and surveillance based on their political threat as supporters of homeland independence and their racial threat as Asians. In setting this history in the multiple contexts of (1) domestic and global radicalism and fear thereof, (2) the targeting of southern and eastern European migrants as political radicals, (3) the use of political belief as a litmus test for both entry and naturalized citizenship, and (4) rising anti-Asian sentiment fueled by white nationalism, Sohi persuasively argues for historical complexity and causality. For immigration restrictions like the Barred Zone Act, Sohi demonstrates, this complexity centers on the role of antiradicalism as well as anti-Asian racism.

## Huggins-Quarles Award

*for graduate students of color to assist with expenses related to travel to research collections for the completion of the Ph.D. dissertation*

### Award Committee:

Françoise Hamlin, Brown University, Chair  
 Kami Fletcher, Albright College  
 Irvin Ibarguen, New York University  
 Erika Pérez, University of Arizona  
 Abigail Rosas, California State University, Long Beach



### **Caleb Smith, Brandeis University, “Pillaging the Vanguard: Chicago, Neoliberalism, and the Evolution of Black Politics from 1965–1994”**

(Advisers: Chad Williams, Brandeis University, and Leah Wright-Rigueur, John Hopkins University).

Caleb Smith’s dissertation builds on the work of Lester Spence, Leah Wright-Rigueur, Michael Dawson, Megan Ming Francis, and Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, who have examined “Black neoliberalism” as a distinct historical and political phenomenon. Smith historicizes and localizes the post-civil rights origins of Black neoliberalism in Chicago by focusing on the evolving political

strategies of Black elected officials and showing how adopting a neoliberal governing approach served as both a microcosm and a template for the broader national emergence of Black neoliberalism following the 1965 Voting Rights Act. This strategy included the cooptation of local grassroots radical movements, such as the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, to use the energy and rhetoric of Black Power, while simultaneously advancing ideologically contradictory policies that ultimately harmed the working-class Black community. The resulting contribution expands our understanding of Black politics from the rise of machine politics in the 1930s to the signing of the 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, and the paradox that both expanded democratic participation and representation, while perpetuating a social and economic calamity. Smith helps explain how a young community organizer in Chicago rose to the national presidency while systemic racism and failed government policies continue to affect African Americans.



## John D’Emilio LGBTQ History Dissertation Award

*for the best Ph.D. dissertation in U.S. LGBTQ history*

### Award Committee:

Julio Capó, Jr., Florida International University, Chair

Derrais Carter, University of Arizona

Chelsea Del Rio, CUNY-LaGuardia Community College



**Austin Randall Williams**, University of Missouri–Kansas City. **“The Ordinance Project: Commemorating Kansas City’s LGBTQ Landmark Legislation”** (University of Missouri–Kansas City) accomplishes so much in this ambitious dissertation, which offers new insight in LGBTQ and U.S. history in its strong command and engagement with a wide range of subfields, methods, and inquiries—from digital humanities, public history, oral history, film studies, and more. In this exceptionally well-written work, Williams dissects the efforts of activists and others to pass (or block) a landmark nondiscrimination

ordinance in Kansas City in the late 1980s and 1990s that would shield people on account of their sexual orientation and HIV status. In telling this powerful story of LGBTQ and AIDS activism in the Midwest, Williams also takes to task the historic erasure and marginalization of the stories of the very people who fought so tirelessly in support of the ordinance’s passage and thus commemorates their historic achievement with supplemental audio-visual, public-facing projects and initiatives, from new oral history initiatives to a well-received documentary they directed, also titled *The Ordinance Project*. With this work, Williams makes clear how prodigious research can and should reach multiple audiences both within and beyond the traditional academy. The committee warmly congratulates Williams for paving such a strong path forward for future historians and practitioners for years to come.

## John Higham Research Fellowship

*for graduate students writing doctoral dissertations for a Ph.D. in American history*

### Fellowship Committee:

Andrew Jewett, Independent Scholar, Chair

Maria Raquel Casas, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Joel Zapata, Oregon State University



**Kimberly Phuong Beaudreau**, University of Illinois Chicago. **“Economic Migrant or Refugee? Externalizing American Refugee and Asylum Policy, 1975–2000”** skillfully explores the federal government’s construction of a sharp distinction between two political and legal categories: “refugees” deserving consideration for asylum and “economic migrants,” seen as flouting immigration laws and possibly even threatening national security. This distinction excised social and economic considerations from the earlier, broader understanding of “refugee.” Race figured

prominently, as the “economic migrant” label increasingly adhered to poor and nonwhite populations from Haiti, Central America, and Asia. In examining these shifts, Kimberly Phuong Beaudreau adds broader insights about federal policy formation, emphasizing the key role of discretion as she tracks agencies ranging from the Immigration and Naturalization Service to the Coast Guard as well as the national security apparatus. The dissertation brings numerous migrant groups under a single umbrella, while employing Thailand and Mexico as case studies of policy making through border externalization. It also engages numerous scholarly literatures, combining the methods of immigration history with critical refugee studies. The Higham Fellowship will fund crucial archival research at the History Office and Library of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Maryland.



**Andrew Klein**, University of California, Los Angeles. **“Militant Capital: Race, Empire, and the Global History of Oakland, California, 1848–1980”** transcends the usual portrayal of Oakland as the site of a domestic “urban crisis” by demonstrating that the city’s waterfront has been a central node in dense networks of global exchanges and flows—economic, political, military—since the mid-nineteenth century. By showing that Oakland cannot be understood in isolation from China, Hawaii, Cuba, and other seemingly distant lands, Andrew Nelson Carver Klein challenges urban historians to incorporate

the transnational, imperial dynamics that scholars of immigration have begun to examine. He highlights the efforts of marginalized populations to exert their own forms of control over the coastal area, from the villages constructed by Chinese migrants in the years around 1900 to the radical internationalism of Black Power activists in the 1960s and 1970s. Even the containerization process, which accelerated global flows of goods and the offshoring of manufacturing, presented opportunities for local resistance as well as control by global elites. Klein will use the Higham Fellowship to travel to Washington, D.C., and consult sources as varied as photographs of Chinese “shrimp camps,” Bureau of Insular Affairs records, and oral histories of containerization.

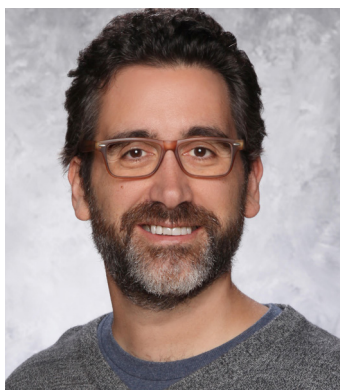
### Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Teacher of the Year Award

*for contributions made by precollegiate teachers to improve history education within the field of American history*

#### Award Committee:

Charles Yarborough, The Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science

James Seymour, Lone Star College–CyFair



#### **Robert M. Fenster, Hillsborough High**

**School.** Teaching high school social studies in Hillsborough, New Jersey, since 1993, Robert M. Fenster has successfully engaged students while teaching U.S. History and AP Government and Politics and also moderating Mock Trial, Model United Nations, Model Congress, Podcasting Club, and Amnesty International. He regularly challenges students to relate to topics personally and creatively when covering diversity, immigration, government and citizenship, among other topics. He inspires students to actively engage their intellects and share their understandings and

perspectives through a wide variety of pedagogical approaches. Fenster has also developed and shared multiple, exemplary lesson plans and curricular guides with other K–12 educators, and his professional involvement with educational and historical organizations has been broad. His lessons inspire historical analysis while developing critical thinking skills.

## Erik Barnouw Award

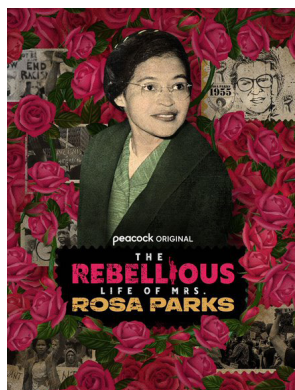
*for outstanding programming on television, or in documentary film, concerned with American history, the study of American history, and/or the promotion of American history*

### Award Committee:

Anne Lewis, University of Texas at Austin; Independent Filmmaker; Appalshop;  
Texas State Employees Union CWA 6186, Chair

Daniel Blake Smith, DBS Films

Eduardo Obregón Pagán, Arizona State University



***The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks***, Peacock (directors Johanna Hamilton and Yoruba Richen, independent filmmakers), thoughtfully takes viewers behind and beyond the icon of Rosa Parks, the quiet, middle-age seamstress whose refusal to give up her bus seat sparked a revolution. Rosa Parks was no accidental heroine. An organic intellectual and activist, she was raised to rebel, joined the movement for civil rights early in her life, served as the first secretary of the Montgomery NAACP in 1947, was arrested and jailed in connection with the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955, and continued the struggle into old age, working with women's rights and the end to war. In

1994 at the age of 81, she was badly beaten fending off a young Black man and then forgave him, blaming his desperation on the conditions of society. This beautifully crafted, deeply researched, and moving film, based on Jeanne Theoharis's book of the same title and wonderfully directed by Johanna Hamilton and Yoruba Richen, serves as a powerful corrective to the dominant narrative of what kind of Black woman could possibly have taken such a courageous stand. As Mrs. Parks said, "the only tired I was, was tired of giving in."

## Stanton-Horton Award for Excellence in National Park Service History

*recognizes excellence in historical projects for, by, and with the National Park Service and is intended to honor projects, parks, or programs that make the NPS a leader in promoting public understanding of and engagement with American history*

### Award Committee:

April Antonellis, National Park Service, Chair

Edward J. Hagerty, American Public University System and Air University

Lori Shea Kuechler, Southern New Hampshire University/Kuechler Nonprofit Consulting



USGNHS leadership from left to right: Julie Northrip, Nick Sacco, Nathan Wilson, and Cody Sims.

### **Farmer, General, President: Ulysses S. Grant at**

**200.** In commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Ulysses S. Grant's birth, **Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site** in St. Louis, Missouri, developed an impressive scope of special events, exhibits, and special initiatives, to engage a wide-ranging public in the life and legacy of this important American. Working cooperatively among park managers and partners, the park created a varied menu of opportunities for visitors to learn about Grant, from traditional programming to temporary and virtual exhibits showcasing artifacts associated with Grant, his in-laws the Dents, and the enslaved people who lived and worked at their farm, White Haven.

Together, these experiences asked visitors not only to celebrate Grant's significant contributions to American history but also to explore how Grant's legacies continue to give context to the struggle for equal rights and social justice that Americans continue to pursue today. Through this work, the park team developed more than 30 different programs, exhibits, resources, and events, reaching more than 40,000 people.

## OAH/JAAS Japan Residencies Program

The OAH and the Japanese Association for American Studies (JAAS), with the generous support of the Japan–United States Friendship Commission, select two U.S. historians to spend two weeks at Japanese universities giving lectures, seminars, advising students and researchers interested in the American past, and joining in the collegiality of the host institution. It is part of an exchange program that also brings Japanese graduate students who are studying in the United States to the OAH Conference on American History.



## Residencies Committee (OAH/JAAS Japan Historians Collaborative Committee):

### *Members from the United States*

Glenn T. Eskew, Georgia State University, OAH Chair  
 Madeline Y. Hsu, University of Texas at Austin  
 Lon Kurashige, University of Southern California  
 Derek Taira, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
 Judy Tzu-Chun Wu, University of California, Irvine

### *Members from Japan*

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 Yuki Oda, Chuo University  
 Shuichi Takebayashi, Tohoku University



**Jennifer Hull Dorsey,**  
**Siena College**  
 Aichi Prefectural  
 University



**Jane Kamensky, Harvard**  
**University**  
 Meiji University

Two Japanese students studying in the United States were selected to receive funding to attend this year's conference.



**Hiraku Abe, University**  
**of Alabama**



**Minami Nishioka,**  
**University of Tennessee,**  
**Knoxville**

### Germany Residency Program

*Thanks to a generous grant from the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, the OAH is pleased to continue the Germany Residency Program in American history at the University of Tübingen. The resident scholar will offer a seminar on a U.S. history topic of their design.*

#### **Residency Committee (Subcommittee of OAH International Committee):**

Georg M. Schild, University of Tübingen, ex officio, Chair

Dirk Bönker, Duke University

Christopher Capozzola, Massachusetts Institute of Technology



**Felicia Kornbluh, University of Vermont**



## Samuel and Marion Merrill Graduate Student Travel Grants

*The grants, supported by a bequest from the Merrill trust, help sponsor the travel-related costs of graduate students who are confirmed as participants on the OAH conference program and who incur expenses traveling to the conference.*

### **Selection Committee (OAH President-Elect, OAH Vice President, and OAH Incoming Vice President):**

Anthea M. Hartig, National Museum of American History, Chair

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## OAH Presidents' Travel Fund for Emerging Historians

*The fund provides travel stipends for up to five graduate students and recent Ph.D.'s in history (no more than four years from date of degree) whose papers or panels/sessions have been accepted by the OAH Program Committee for inclusion on the conference program.*

### **Selection Committee (OAH President-Elect, OAH Vice President, and OAH Incoming Vice President):**

Anthea M. Hartig, National Museum of American History, Chair

David W. Blight, Yale University

Annette Gordon-Reed, Harvard University

**Kimberly Phuong Beaudreau**, University of Illinois Chicago

**Rebecca Boorstein**, Yale University

**Jaime Sánchez, Jr.**, Harvard University

**Duangkamol Tantirungkij**, CUNY Graduate Center

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Wayne K. Hinton  
Abraham Hoffman  
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Jack M. Holl  
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H. Larry Ingle  
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Travis Beal Jacobs  
Richard Jensen  
Dwight W. Jessup  
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Jack J. Johnson  
James E. Johnson  
Jacob Judd  
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Bruce L. Larson  
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Leuchtenburg  
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Gloria L. Main  
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William C. Marten  
Robert N. Mathis  
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Roger L. Nichols  
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Patrick G. O'Brien  
Arnold A. Offner  
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Robert C. Olson  
Robert D. Parmet  
William E. Parrish  
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Loren E. Pennington  
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Donald K. Pickens  
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Noel Harvey Pugach  
Carroll W. Pursell  
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William C. Reuter  
William A. Riley

A. Rogers  
Malcolm J. Rohrbough  
Dorothy Ross  
Harry N. Scheiber  
Ingrid W. Scobie  
Ronald E. Seavoy  
Paul Siff  
Melvin Small  
Wilson Smith  
Paul H. Smith  
Richard W. Smith  
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Raymond Starr  
Ivan D. Steen  
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Frank A. Warren  
Sydney Stahl Weinberg  
Harold J. Weiss Jr.  
Robert F. Wesser  
Wayne Wilson  
William Henry Wilson  
Gordon S. Wood

## FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS

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### 2024 OAH Conference on American History

New Orleans, Louisiana

Thursday, April 11 to Sunday, April 14

New Orleans Marriott

### 2025 OAH Conference on American History

Chicago, Illinois

Thursday, April 3 to Sunday, April 6

Sheraton Grand Chicago

### 2026 OAH Conference on American History

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Thursday, April 16 to Sunday, April 19

Philadelphia Marriott

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