

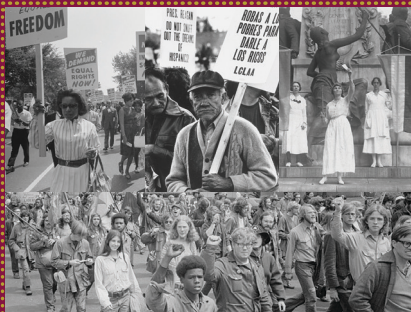
# 2021

OAH ANNUAL  
MEETING

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON AMERICAN HISTORY

PATHWAYS TO DEMOCRACY

April 15-18, 2021



## OAH AWARDS CEREMONY PROGRAM





The Organization of American Historians thanks Oxford University Press for its continued financial support of the OAH Awards and its Clio Sponsorship of the OAH Annual Meeting.

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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 2021 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:

Earl Lewis, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Chair

Katherine Ott, National Museum of American History

Virginia Scharff, University of New Mexico



Recognizing a stellar career as an academic historian, and an equally stellar record as a public interpreter of the American past for communities across Texas, the Organization of American Historians presents **Professor Emilio Zamora**, University of Texas at Austin, with the OAH Roy Rosenzweig Distinguished Service Award. Professor Zamora is not only an award-winning researcher and writer but also a visible scholar-citizen who has made significant contributions to the public understanding of Mexican American people in Texas.

Emilio Zamora has roots in the Mexico-Texas region dating back to the 1700s, growing up and educating himself on both sides of the border. His research interests include the history of Mexicans in the United States and their relationship with Mexico, as well as oral history, the history of the U.S. working class, Texas history, and the archival enterprise in Texas and northern Mexico. Dr. Zamora has single-authored three books, co-edited three anthologies, assisted in the production of a Texas history text, co-authored a Texas history text for high schools, co-edited an Ebook on Tejano history, translated and edited a World War I diary, and written numerous scholarly articles, chapters, and essays. He has received seven best-book awards, a best-article prize, and a Fulbright García-Robles fellowship. Zamora is a lifetime member of the Texas Institute of Letters, a lifetime Fellow with the Texas State Historical Association, and a former member of the Board of Directors and a former president of the Texas State Historical Association.

In recognition of his many contributions to the pursuit of historical knowledge and his work as a public-facing scholar, intellectual, and educator, the Organization of American Historians is proud to present Emilio Zamora with the OAH 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:

George J. Sanchez, University of Southern California, President, Chair

Philip J. Deloria, Harvard University, President-Elect

Erika Lee, University of Minnesota, Vice President

Jay S. Goodgold, Independent Investor, Treasurer

Joanne Meyerowitz, Yale University, Immediate Past President

The OAH is pleased to award the Friend of History Award to **Refusing to Forget**.

Refusing to Forget, an award-winning educational nonprofit, works to increase public awareness of an often-forgotten period in the history of the United States, and to raise the profile of a struggle for justice and civil rights that continues to influence social relationships today.

Between 1910 and 1920, ethnic Mexicans living on the Texas-Mexico border were targets of state-sanctioned violence. The dead included women and men, the aged and the young, longtime residents and recent arrivals. They were killed by strangers, by neighbors, by vigilantes, and at the hands of local law enforcement officers and the Texas Rangers. Some were summarily executed after being taken captive, or shot under the flimsy pretext of trying to escape. Some were left in the open to rot, others desecrated by being burnt, decapitated, or tortured. Extralegal executions became so common that a San Antonio reporter observed that “finding of dead bodies of Mexicans, suspected for various reasons of being connected with the troubles, has reached a point where it creates little or no interest. It is only when a raid is reported or an American is killed that the ire of the people is aroused.”

Far from being surreptitious, the violence was welcomed, celebrated, and even instigated at the highest levels of society and government. Although historians estimate that several thousand Mexican nationals and American citizens were killed, this period of violence has received little public attention.

The advocacy and awareness-raising work of Refusing to Forget has included the launching of a major museum exhibit at the Bullock Texas State History Museum and working to erect historical markers across seven Texas counties. It has meant convening conversations and creating lesson plans for K–12 educators. For all these efforts and in recognition of its continuing ambitions for the future, Refusing to Forget receives the 2021 OAH Friend of History Award.

Refusing to Forget's members are:

Christopher Carmona, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Trinidad Gonzales, South Texas College

John Morán González, University of Texas at Austin

Sonia Hernández, Texas A&M University

Benjamin H. Johnson, Loyola University Chicago

Monica Muñoz Martinez, University of Texas at Austin



Christopher Carmona



Trinidad Gonzales



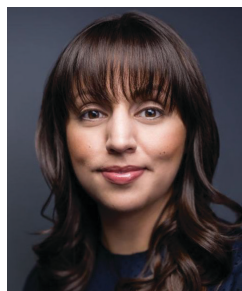
John Morán González



Sonia Hernández



Benjamin H. Johnson



Monica Muñoz Martinez

### Frederick Jackson Turner Award

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

Award Committee:

Joanne Meyerowitz, Yale University, Chair

James T. Downs, Gettysburg College

Sarah E. Gardner, Mercer University

Tera Hunter, Princeton University



**Johanna Fernández**, Baruch College of the City University of New York, *The Young Lords: A Radical History* (The University of North Carolina Press). In this powerful book, Johanna Fernández narrates the history of the legendary Young Lords Party, from its roots in a Chicago street gang to its heyday in New York City to its decline in Puerto Rico. She conjoins a rich social history of everyday activism with a lively account of political culture, intellectual underpinnings, and news-grabbing protests. The book is engagingly written and crisply argued, and the research is phenomenal. Fernández mined archival and personal collections, conducted almost 100 oral history interviews, used Federal Bureau of Investigation counterintelligence

reports, and sued the New York City Police Department to win access to an immense collection of surveillance records. By placing the Young Lords in the context of late 1960s Black power, leftist, third worldist, and feminist movements, she opens our vision of community organizing and shows us how multiethnic class-based politics—both radical and pragmatic—“helped stretch the country’s definition of citizenship and democracy.”

### Honorable Mention

**Jessica Marie Johnson**, Johns Hopkins University, *Wicked Flesh: Black Women, Intimacy, and Freedom in the Atlantic World* (University of Pennsylvania Press). With an eye for detail and a globe-spanning vision, Jessica Marie Johnson pieces together eighteenth-century records to show us how African women and women of African descent practiced freedom in their daily lives. From the coast of Senegal to the islands of the Caribbean to the Gulf Coast of Louisiana, she tracks the complexity of intimate ties, the assertion of pleasure, and the search for safety amid oppression. Johnson brings astute analysis and theoretical sophistication to the fragmented sources she found in multiple archives.



**Merle Curti Social History Award***for the best book in American social history*

Award Committee:

Jennifer L. Morgan, New York University, Chair

Alyosha Goldstein, University of New Mexico

Julie Weise, University of Oregon

Daniel Widener, University of California, San Diego



**Johanna Fernández**, Baruch College of the City University of New York, *The Young Lords: A Radical History* (The University of North Carolina Press) offers a nuanced and lyrical investigation into one of the most underappreciated radical organizations to emerge from the tumult of the 1960s. In ways distinct among the social movements of the time, the Lords took up the full meaning of “power to the people,” tackling not only poverty and discrimination but also colonialism, indigeneity, and anti-Blackness. With profound insight and consistent evenhandedness, Fernández traces the organization’s rise and fall, showing why the Young Lords captured the imaginations of millions and explaining the destructive internal schisms that occurred as they sought to hold the empire at

bay. Fernández charts the party’s origins, growth, and impact on the fight for social and economic justice in the era of the civil rights movement and its aftermath. Fernández probes the daily lives of Puerto Ricans in postwar Chicago and New York, finding the origins of the Young Lords’ politics and tactics in their personal experiences with racism, schooling, poverty, first-generation college attendance, and as “language and cultural translators” for their immigrant parents. In addition to an astonishing effort to gather oral histories, Fernández reviewed the Young Lords’ internal documents and even won a lawsuit to access the New York Police Department’s surveillance files on the group. On page after page, Fernández uses her array of sources to overturn assumptions about the Young Lords’ relationship to gender politics, the Black civil rights movement, and white allies, among others. *The Young Lords* is a magisterial history of everyday social movement building and revolutionary community organizing with urgent lessons for the present. Fernández quotes activist Iris Benítez booming through a bullhorn, “The people of El Barrio have gotten to the point that they don’t ask the why of things anymore, they just see things as they exist and try to survive. The Young Lords know the why and we’re trying to relay that information to the people.” Historical education was a central preoccupation of the Lords themselves, and a half century later, Fernández’s sensitive and comprehensive work renews their call to inform a new generation about the struggles of their forebears.

### 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:

Jakobi Williams, Indiana University, Bloomington, Chair

Shannon King, Fairfield University

Ula Taylor, University of California, Berkeley



**Johanna Fernández**, Baruch College of the City University of New York, *The Young Lords: A Radical History* (The University of North Carolina Press). The academy rarely uses the word definitive to describe books but, in this case, Johanna Fernández has produced the most authoritative work on the Young Lords. *The Young Lords* is deeply anchored in an expansive archive that includes a decade-long Freedom of Information Act request and court battle to secure the New York Police Department's Handschu surveillance files—over a million police records of New Yorkers collected between 1954 and 1972, which included the missing infamous Malcolm X records. Also noteworthy are the numerous oral interviews with former members

of the group in New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia. If Fernández's collection is ever digitized it will produce the most robust and exhaustive collection of Puerto Rican activism. Although modeled after the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, the Young Lords, made up of young Puerto Rican women and men, over time developed their own cross-fertilization of political ideas that helped reshape the socialist Left in the United States, which provides a new lens on larger questions related to revolutionary nationalism, civil rights, and Black Power. The Young Lords understood how solidarity with antiwar, women's, and gay liberation movements, Black freedom fighters, workers, prisoners, and Latin American radicals was essential for revolutionary transformation and the decolonization of Puerto Rico. Amid a global pandemic, Fernández gifts us a usable history in which radicals mobilized to protect the health of the economically precarious and the labor rights of essential workers. Moreover, the book's rich history greatly improves our understanding of the Young Lords, the Panthers, and Third World socialist struggles.

Honorable Mention

**Quito J. Swan**, University of Massachusetts Boston, *Pauulu's Diaspora: Black Internationalism and Environmental Justice* (University Press of Florida) centers international Black Power movements from the 1950s through the 1980s by examining the life of Bermudan activist Pauulu Kamarakafego. Pauulu's activist history is part of a concept Swan dubs Radical Black Diaspora, which highlights global Black freedom traditions of struggle, power, self-determination, public policy, and environmental justice. Several movements of Black internationalism, organizing, and efforts toward Black self-determination posed a great threat to colonial powers during the latter half of the 20th century, and Pauulu played a pivotal role in most of the battles that erupted in the global South. Swan excavates an array of primary sources such as photographs, Pauulu's environmental projects and sketches, correspondences, newspapers, print and digital media, oral testimonies, books, scientific manuals and proposals, organizational reports, conference proceedings, and various government's surveillance reports, as well as interviews with Pauulu's communities, comrades, friends, and family members. By expanding the scope of Black internationalism to explore movements in the global South at large and the South Pacific narrowly, Swan invites new scholarship and reverses the marginalization of non-Atlantic diasporic communities. The book showcases the intersections between Africana studies, Black Power, and environmental justice. Swan has produced a robust, detailed, and engaging history of an activist whose life connects Black Power and anticolonial movements as a global struggle for self-determination.

**Merle Curti Intellectual History Award***for the best book in American intellectual history*

Award Committee:

Sara Dubow, Williams College, Chair

Keisha N. Blain, University of Pittsburgh

Jon Levy, University of Chicago



**Garrett Felber**, University of Mississippi. *Those Who Know Don't Say: The Nation of Islam, the Black Freedom Movement, and the Carceral State* (The University of North Carolina Press) is an original, timely, and deeply researched study that examines the Nation of Islam's political work and theorizing on the carceral state. The book centers the ideas and political philosophies of an array of historical figures, some well known and others lesser known, who played a vital role in advocating for prisoners' rights during the twentieth century. Felber skillfully and rigorously mines diverse primary and secondary sources, including court records, historical newspapers, and government records to chart an intellectual and political history of an organization

that came to prominence during the 1960s through the leadership of Malcolm X. In this first study to grapple with the intricacies of the Nation of Islam's organizing around prisons before, during, and after the modern civil rights movement, Felber convincingly demonstrates the centrality of policing and incarceration to the Black freedom struggle. In so doing, Felber's work forces readers to reconsider their preconceived ideas about protest, politics, and power in U.S. history.

Honorable Mention:

**Nate Holdren**, Drake University. *Injury Impoverished: Workplace Accidents, Capitalism, and Law in the Progressive Era* (Cambridge University Press) is a beautifully written and moving study that unearths the values and assumptions that shaped the development of workers' compensation law in the early twentieth century. Through careful and rigorous research, Holdren highlights the moral and bodily consequences of this new legal regime for accident victims, compellingly suggesting that workers' compensation law reinforces the injustices of capitalism rather than producing what he calls the "justice of recognition." This book offers new and compelling insights for various fields of study, including legal history, histories of capitalism, and disability history.

### 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:

Ned Blackhawk, Yale University, Chair

Brenda J. Child, University of Minnesota

Alejandra Dubcovsky, University of California, Riverside



**Jeffery Ostler**, University of Oregon, *Surviving Genocide: Native Nations and the United States from the American Revolution to Bleeding Kansas* (Yale University Press). In a

sweeping reorientation of nineteenth-century U.S. history, *Surviving Genocide* examines the displacement of Native Nations, violent practices of U.S. statecraft, and decades-long removal campaigns of the 1830s and 1840s. It more than challenges conventional accounts of antebellum history that have elided these subjects. It introduces compelling reconceptualization of the ultimate goals and “purposes of the United States,” particularly the centrality of taking “the land of Native people [in order] to make them available to speculators and settlers, including small farmers and larger

planters owning enslaved people.” While such suggestions are a growing feature of recent studies of settler colonialism, none has provided such a sweeping and systematic treatment of the violence of these removals of Native nations, probed the demography of removal, or examined the resistance of Native nations so thoroughly. Moreover, as the work’s title suggests, a “reliance on the threat of genocidal violence” drove U.S. policies throughout the era. Such violence both targeted noncombatants and remained a consistent feature of U.S. policy.

### 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:

Diane Miller Sommerville, Binghamton University, Chair

Hilary Green, University of Alabama

Rachel A. Shelden, Penn State



**Thavolia Glymph**, Duke University. *The Women's Fight: The Civil War's Battles for Home, Freedom, and Nation* (The University of North Carolina Press) is innovative, deeply researched, and persuasively argued. Glymph effectively reorients our understanding of the Civil War around the experiences of all women—white and Black, Northern and Southern, elite and poor. In doing so, she brings together generations of scholarship on women's wartime experiences that have not been considered together, breathing new life into old debates and questions, and adding critical insights from an impressive array of primary sources. It is no small feat to author a beautifully written book that offers groundbreaking research *and* effectively synthesizes an entire historiographical field, but that is what Glymph does here. *The Women's Fight* is required reading; it belongs on every women's and Civil War-era historian's bookshelf.

**Darlene Clark Hine Award**

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

Award Committee:

Sonya Ramsey, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Chair

Cherisse Jones-Branch, Arkansas State University

Blair Kelley, North Carolina State University

Kay Wright Lewis, Howard University



**Thavolia Glymph**, Duke University. ***The Women's Fight: The Civil War's Battles for Home, Freedom, and Nation*** (The University of North Carolina Press) is a brilliantly written history of women's roles during the Civil War that firmly places African American women at the center of the struggle over slavery and freedom in America. Another committee member elaborated that this deeply researched book implicitly challenges historians to reconsider their interpretations of women's experiences, writ large during the Civil War. Through meticulous analyses and reinterpretation of seemingly obscure records, Glymph exposes the multitude of ways that African American and white women engaged in their own public and private wars during this tumultuous military conflict.

Honorable Mention:

**Daina Ramey Berry**, University of Texas at Austin, and **Kali Nicole Gross**, Emory University, ***A Black Women's History of the United States*** (Beacon Press). Skillfully researched, beautifully written, and extremely readable, this comprehensive analysis of African American women from their African precolonial beginnings to the millennium's first years will soon serve as the definitive work on Black women and their foundational contributions to the history of the United States.



### 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:

Miroslava Chávez-García, University of California, Santa Barbara, Chair

Brooke N. Newman, Virginia Commonwealth University

Emily Skidmore, Texas Tech University



**Thavolia Glymph**, Duke University. *The Women's Fight: The Civil War's Battles for Home, Freedom, and Nation*

(The University of North Carolina Press) is this year's unanimous selection for the 2021 OAH Mary Nickliss Prize. Richly detailed, mesmerizing, and impressively researched, *The Women's Fight* traces the participation of racially, economically, and regionally diverse women in the U.S. Civil War. Glymph vividly illustrates how women, rich and poor, Black and white, in both the North and South, were directly involved in the conflict and not simply bystanders or confined primarily to the home front, as traditional narratives have argued. In Glymph's pathbreaking study, women—especially Black women, free as well as

enslaved—are not sidelined in favor of battleground events. Instead, women's activities and motivations take center stage as Glymph demonstrates how women's efforts and actions as well as their sacrifices were inherently political and helped shape the war, including its outcome and aftermath. *The Women's Fight* will transform what we know and think about the Civil War. Ultimately, *The Women's Fight* captures perfectly the goal of the book prize to select the most original and impactful book focused on gender/women and American history.



**James A. Rawley Prize**

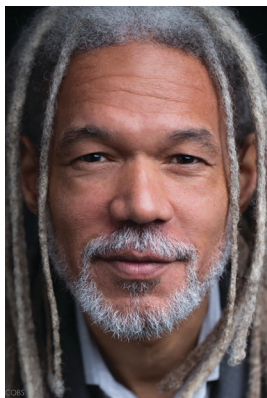
*for the best book dealing with the history of race relations in the United States*

Prize Committee:

Deborah Cohen, University of Missouri–St. Louis, Chair

Daniel Berger, University of Washington Bothell

Kimberly Fain, Texas Southern University



**Vincent Brown**, Harvard University. *Tacky's Revolt: The Story of an Atlantic Slave War* (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press) is a stunning rethinking of slavery that traces Africa's inescapable presence in the Black revolts of the "New World." Brown elucidates slavery as a form of war that bound Europe, Africa, and the Americas together—and shows that enslaved Africans and their descendants mapped and remade the world in their actions. Through methodical archival research, this skillful author makes a geopolitical narrative that resonates with audiences and adds more dimensions and layers to slave uprisings. Brown's own maps aid the story, showing in great detail that race is a global process lived and fought out in a local context.

Honorable Mention

**Marcia Chatelain**, Georgetown University, *Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America* (Liveright Publishing Corporation, W.W. Norton & Company) shows how white-owned companies, Black capitalists, and civil rights leaders worked in concert to usher fast food into the Black community. Using business as a novel lens onto the history of race, it reveals the ways that a multinational corporation linked its fate to and through Black America. The book will be seen as a model for making racial capitalism's complex workings tangible.

**Willi Paul Adams Award**

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

Award Committee:

Georg M. Schild, University of Tübingen, Chair

Melissa Daggett, San Jacinto College

Daniel R. Ernst, Georgetown University

Hongyan Lyu, Northeast Normal University

Kazuyo Tsuchiya, University of Tokyo

João José Reis, Universidade Federal da Bahia



**Elsa Devienne**, Northumbria University, *La ruée vers le sable: Une histoire environnementale des plages de Los Angeles au XXe siècle* [*The Sand Rush: An Environmental History of Los Angeles Beaches in the 20th Century*] (Éditions de la Sorbonne). Elsa Devienne's study of Los Angeles combines environmental and cultural aspects in forming California's beach culture. When did people start enjoying beaches? Who went there? What did they do there? What did they wear? Calling the book a "remarkable history of Los Angeles's beaches," one reviewer noted that Dr. Devienne paid close attention to the production of the beaches as public space and the ways the beaches and the people who frequent them construct their bodies. "The author makes

a good case for the significance of her topic, noting that the Los Angeles beaches are one of the largest public spaces in any city in the United States—approximately four times the size of Central Park." Those vast public beaches make Los Angeles unique. Another reviewer remarked: "I was very favorably impressed by the range of her sources: newspapers, government reports, movies. ... And she compares American historians' approaches to those by historians in her native France. I particularly appreciated that she brought in the serious way French historians have dealt with the issue of beach-centered hedonism, for example, unlike their American colleagues." The reviewer concludes: "The book contributes to our understanding of how California wound up having so many beaches with generous public access. I'm unaware of another volume that synthesizes material across academic disciplines to present so complete a picture of the development of a megalopolis, while using the lens of its coastline to help explain that development. In so doing Devienne makes a substantial contribution not only to California history, but also to urban history and environmental history."

**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:

Eric S. Yellin, University of Richmond, Chair

Marisa Chappell, Oregon State University

Beth Lew-Williams, Princeton University

George Derek Musgrove, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Daniel K. Williams, University of West Georgia



**Lila Corwin Berman**, Temple University. ***The American Jewish Philanthropic Complex: The History of a Multibillion-Dollar Institution*** (Princeton University Press) reveals how modern philanthropists have used structures and policies of the American state to maximize their private power in American capitalism and democracy. Abstruse regulations and intricate tax policies become, in this pathbreaking book, generators of tremendous wealth as well as inequality. The book is focused on influential Jewish philanthropic institutions with deep research and new insights into the political economy of post–World War II Jewish American history. Nevertheless, it offers broader lessons, provoking new thinking about the relationship

between the state and wealthy private institutions across the landscape of U.S. history. It shows the investments state policy has made in private wealth and the ways those investments can be used to undermine democracy and efforts to serve the public good. Brave and original, *The American Jewish Philanthropic Complex* calls our attention to a unique form of political power in modern America that we cannot afford to ignore.

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

Award Committee:

Kristin Hass, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Chair

Monica Muñoz Martinez, University of Texas at Austin

Katrina Thompson Moore, St. Louis University

Dana Weiner, Wilfrid Laurier University

Natalie Zacek, University of Manchester



**Marcia Chatelain**, Georgetown University. *Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America* (Liveright Publishing Corporation, W.W. Norton & Company) is a deeply researched exploration of the role of McDonald's in post-1960s urban Black America. Rigorous and empathetic, this beautifully written book is a model for the future of Levine-style cultural history. It takes seriously the complex interrelationships of civil rights history, food studies, racialization, business history, urban history, suburban history, Black studies, policy studies, and histories of the body, capitalism, and advertising. Chatelain tracks the sometimes surprising connections between fast food and the civil rights movement, exploring the franchise as both

an effective strategy of Black capitalism and a means to extract wealth from Black communities. Looking at its material benefits and limitations, she tells a nuanced story of remarkable successes, of predation, of health disparities and of the power of Black consumers in this period. *Franchise* is, in the end, about the construction of potent and ubiquitous elements of systemic racism in the American landscape and the push back against them. Chatelain masterfully reveals the culture of the franchise as, in the words she gives us from Ella Baker, “something much bigger than a hamburger.”

### 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:

David Roediger, University of Kansas, Chair

Dorothy Sue Cobble, Rutgers University–New Brunswick

Laurie B. Green, University of Texas at Austin



**Verónica Martínez-Matsuda**, Cornell University. *Migrant Citizenship: Race, Rights, and Reform in the U.S. Farm Labor Camp Program* (University of Pennsylvania Press)

is a stunningly original study of the history of working people. Martínez-Matsuda offers intimate stories of life inside farm labor camps that spread across the United States. She recovers the demands for full citizenship voiced by the Japanese, Mexican, and African American migrant families. She uses oral histories, camp blueprints and maps, photos, medical records, songbooks, and newsletters to read the community of the camps that workers sought and created. Her meticulous research reveals the limits of Farm Security Administration policy and describes conservative

efforts opposing this New Deal experiment. Martínez-Matsuda analyzes the role of the state fully in this masterful blending of labor, cultural, and political history. *Migrant Citizenship* consistently attends to how race and nationality shaped activism and aspirations and uses gender in provocative ways while underscoring the centrality of the family economy. We see workers as intellectuals and community leaders, learning how they conceived governance and rights. Martínez-Matsuda upends conventional views of the New Deal, finding progressive reform stretching into the 1940s in a continuing, if uphill, battle for the flourishing of migrant families.

**Lerner-Scott Prize***for the best doctoral dissertation in U.S. women's history*

Prize Committee:

Lauren Rebecca Sklaroff, University of South Carolina, Chair

Brandi C. Brimmer, Spelman College

Sara Brooks Sundberg, University of Central Missouri



**Michaela Kleber**, Northwestern University (dissertation completed at the College of William & Mary under the direction of Dr. Joshua Piker with Dr. Brett Rushforth, Dr. Leisa Meyer, Dr. Hannah Rosen, and Dr. Guillaume Aubert). **“Gendered Societies, Sexual Empires: French Colonization among the Illinois”** argues that marriage between French colonists and the Illinois serves as an effective conceptual framework, as well as a lived reality, for understanding broader political and economic dynamics in the 17th and 18th centuries. Kleber’s aim of “centering marriage so as to understand the sexual politics of European colonization,” presents a nuanced analysis of gender systems, with both the Illinois and the French adapting to each

other’s conceptualizations about kinship, family, and sexuality. The dissertation presents a multilayered analysis demonstrating the agency of the French and the Illinois, who both stood to benefit from unions in various instances. In paying careful attention to the ways these relationships disrupted a traditional gender binary, Kleber contributes to the literature on gender and empire by challenging long-standing historical categorizations. A well-written, imaginative, and meticulously researched dissertation, its attention to language and terminology particularly impressed the committee. Kleber’s commitment to reading her sources in their original languages, with careful attention to the power dynamics of particular terminologies to most accurately represent Native ideologies, is quite an achievement. This dissertation will make a tremendous contribution not only in early American history but also for all who strive to study gender as the primary lens of imperial designs, diplomatic exchanges, and the distribution of power in emerging societies.

## Louis Pelzer Memorial Award

*for the best essay in American history by a graduate student*

Award Committee:

Benjamin H. Irvin, Executive Editor, OAH/Editor, *Journal of American History*, Chair

Carmen Whalen, Williams College

Katherine Grandjean, Wellesley College

Quincy Mills, University of Maryland, College Park



**Esther Cyna**, Columbia University. “**Schooling the Kleptocracy: Racism and School Finance in Rural North Carolina, 1900–2018**” examines the racially discriminatory finance policies by which officials in three rural school districts redistributed tax dollars for education in twentieth-century North Carolina. Cyna provocatively, but persuasively, reconceptualizes the misallocation of resources as an act of dispossession or plunder rather than the mere perpetuation of inequality. Drawing on quantitative data, oral histories, and archival sources, Cyna traces continuities between Jim Crow and public school funding. In the committee’s assessment, Cyna provides “hard evidence about how Southern counties stole critical resources from

Black citizens.” The committee members particularly admired how Cyna centered the manuscript on theft, “a bold conceptual entry point,” and treated civil rights “as something owned, not to be earned.” The committee reported that Cyna’s manuscript struck a nice balance “between systemic processes and Black resistance.” Cyna’s prose is “quietly authoritative,” “quite inviting and clear.” The committee concluded that Cyna’s focus on county-level political and financial decisions makes “a significant contribution to the scholarship.”



**Binkley-Stephenson Award**

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

Award Committee:

Meredith Oda, University of Nevada, Reno, Chair

Verónica Martínez-Matsuda, Cornell University

Traci Parker, University of Massachusetts Amherst



**Kornel Chang**, Rutgers University–Newark.

**“Independence without Liberation: Democratization as Decolonization Management in U.S.-Occupied Korea, 1945–1948”** (June 2020) is a robustly researched and ambitious examination of the U.S. occupation of Korea between 1945 and 1948. Chang carefully views the period as a capacious, uncertain moment when Koreans celebrated the end of Japanese colonization as self-determination and revolution while Americans negotiated Korean expectations, U.S. assumptions, and Soviet competition. Delicately balancing a nuanced, careful view of the top-level decision making of occupation officials—comfortably ill-informed about Korean conditions—with the ground-level struggles

and innovations of ordinary Koreans, Chang ultimately helps us better understand the trajectory of a U.S. postwar imperium amassed through an accretion of politically sovereign nations. This groundbreaking study complicates a number of historiographies, speaking to diplomatic, labor, and Cold War literatures while imaginatively bringing the U.S. occupation to the study of decolonization, and decolonization to the scholarship of U.S. empire. Chang’s article brilliantly illuminates “how an empire without colonies was built upon the foundation of decolonization without liberation.”



**David Thelen Award**

*for the best article on American history written in a language other than English*

Award Committee:

Benjamin H. Irvin, Executive Editor, OAH/Editor, *Journal of American History*, Chair

Avital H. Bloch, University of Colima

Nathalie Dessens, Université de Toulouse

Max Paul Friedman, American University

Penny Lewis, City University of New York



**Wang Yu**, Sichuan University, **“‘Boss’ La Follette and the Paradox of the Progressive Movement”** (*Journal of Sichuan University, Philosophy and Social Science Edition*). The Republican congressman and governor of Wisconsin Robert M. La Follette was widely recognized as a reformer who challenged political machines and bosses. But in the eyes of many of his political opponents, and in the writings of many scholars of party politics, he also became a political party boss, controlling what was, through and through, a political machine. Drawing from La Follette’s personal writings and speeches, as well as contemporary newspaper coverage and a rich body of secondary literature, Wang Yu wrestles with this seeming paradox, endeavoring in the process to

better illuminate the broader Progressive movement. The committee characterized the manuscript, first published in the *Journal of Sichuan University, Philosophy and Social Science Edition*, as “cogently argued,” “an insightful and careful piece . . . deserving of recognition.”

### 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:

Irvin Ibarguén, New York University, Chair

Michael Witgen, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Mekala Audain, The College of New Jersey

Genevieve Clutario, Wellesley College

Abigail Rosas, California State University, Long Beach

Françoise Hamlin, Brown University



**Briana Adline Royster**, New York University. “**Of Our Stock and Blood: Empire, Religion, and Afro-Diasporic Identity, 1838–1945**” is situated at the intersection of gender and Africana studies. It centers Black missionaries and their audiences in the former British and Dutch Guianas, and the way race and empire shaped their world views. Her work argues that as the United States established itself as a global imperial power in the 19th century, missionaries of African descent who worked out of African American institutions drew upon their understandings of race and empire to generate power for both themselves and others in the United States and the Guianas. In particular, Black church women saw in British and Dutch Guiana a

site where they could develop their own notions of an Afro-Christian modernity. The Guianas were multiracial colonial societies composed of people of African, European, Amerindian, and East Indian descent that prompted Black missionaries to expand their intellectual visions beyond a U.S.-centric Black-white dyad. In this way, the project synergizes literatures on diaspora, activism, religiosity, gender, race, and empire, in a dynamic transnational frame, that promises to shake not just what we know but also how the topic of Black spirituality is approached.

**John D’Emilio LGBTQ History Dissertation Award***for the best Ph.D. dissertation in U.S. LGBTQ history*

Award Committee:

Don Romesburg, Sonoma State University, Chair

Jen Manion, Amherst College

Amy Sueyoshi, San Francisco State University



**Elisabeth Frances George**, K-12 educator, curriculum developer, and guidance counselor, “**Lesbian and Gay Life in the Queen City and Beyond: Resistance, Space, and Community Mobilization in the Southwest Missouri Ozarks**” (dissertation completed at SUNY Buffalo under the direction of Dr. Susan Cahn). George has crafted a strong local study that adds regional diversity to the field of LGBTQ U.S. history. By focusing on the southern Ozarks, the dissertation sheds light on activists whose efforts, mostly unseen by national and international LGBTQ rights movements, transformed life for locals. Building on a tradition in queer community and regional studies, George draws on oral histories to craft a multidimensional

story of discrimination, community, and struggle. She engagingly analyzes how lesbian and gay community evolution occurred in the context of deepening antigay evangelical Christian cultural and political contexts. Particularly interesting are the ways that queer life and evangelical culture intersected with the region’s expanding Branson-style tourist economy. George compellingly documents hard-won change over time from informal gathering spaces into the building of institutions that forged intracommunity relations in the context of AIDS, then into organized community mobilization. Her chapter on lesbian separatism makes a compelling case for its own rural alternative to visibility politics that has its own porous and interconnected relationship to regional community formation. Finally, George’s work helps build a nascent regional LGBTQ archive project, which is a vital achievement in itself.

## John Higham Research Fellowship

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

Fellowship Committee:

Julian Lim, Arizona State University, Chair

Patrick Chung, University of Maryland, College Park

Andrew Jewett, Independent Scholar



**Bobby Cervantes**, University of Kansas. “**Las Colonias: The Housing of Poverty in Modern Americas**” sheds new light on the everyday lives of workers along the U.S.-Mexico border. Studying the landscape of rural and unincorporated towns (“las colonias”) that have emerged on the Texas side of the border since the 1950s and now house over half a million impoverished workers, Cervantes documents the mechanisms that have ensured the exploitation of labor and undergird today’s globalized economy. “Las Colonias” uncovers important points of agreement between the U.S. and Mexican governments, which joined landowners and employers in constructing “a transnational territory of poverty.” As Cervantes deftly puts it, his project highlights

the “broader collaborative, binational junctures” that have made “contemporary inequality persistently intractable.” The Higham Fellowship will facilitate the completion of research for the study, which puts the histories of immigration and ethnicity in fruitful dialogue with the development of new forms of capitalism and poverty.



**David Helps**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. “**Securing the World City: Policing, Migration, and the Struggle for Global Los Angeles, 1973–94**” explores how Los Angeles became the world’s “carceral capital” in the late twentieth century. Focusing on encounters between LA’s many communities of color and local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, Helps uses the city to unpack the intertwined histories of policing, migration, and globalization. The project draws on a wide range of sources, both archival and printed, and integrates several bodies of literature that too often remain separate. Helps also considers how various groups of migrants were “differentially

racialized” as policing tactics evolved, while connecting local patterns in disparate neighborhoods to broad, transnational dynamics. The Higham Fellowship will support the collection of interviews with local activists involved in the Black freedom struggle/ police reform and immigrant justice/sanctuary movements. Helps plans to make these oral histories available to the public, thereby furthering John Higham’s commitment to the study of immigration and ethnic history.

### 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:

Kevin Yeager, The Bryn Mawr School, Chair

Robin Morris, Agnes Scott College

Charles Yarborough, The Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science



**Sergio de Alba**, R.M. Miano Elementary School. Sergio de Alba has worked tirelessly to inspire a sense of the importance of history and government not only among his students at R.M. Miano Elementary School in Los Banos, California, but also within the local community. He has singlehandedly spearheaded efforts to build programs and literal monuments, such as the Patriot Plaza and Veterans Memorial Stage, on the school’s campus to make history come alive for his students and their families. Surrounded by an economically disadvantaged community, Mr. de Alba has often paid for these programs out of his own pocket and led the campaigns to raise funds from outside sources. Both his students and the local community praise de Alba for his ability not only to make history relevant to everyone but also to provide a sense of hope and faith in the future.

**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:

Vivian Kleiman, Compadre Media Group, Chair

Karen Johnson, GoodMovies Entertainment, Inc.

Daniel Blake Smith, DBS Films



***The People vs. Agent Orange.*** Directors: Alan Adelson, Kate Taverna; Producers: Alan Adelson, Kate Taverna, Véronique Bernard; Editor: Kate Taverna; Executive Producers: Abigail E. Disney, Maxyne Franklin, Sally Jo Fifer, Gini Reticker, Lois Vossen; Supervising Producer: David Eisenberg; Commissioning Editor: Mark Edwards; a Films for Humanity co-production with Independent Television Service (ITVS) for Independent Lens, and ARTE, France. The Barnouw Award committee was quite taken with the truly heroic—and ongoing—story of this film’s two brave women, one Vietnamese, the other American, who relentlessly fought against the toxic chemical spray industry, from the early 1960s until the present. It’s a powerful and meaningful film that details in clear and persuasive ways how, as Tran To Nga, the Vietnamese heroine in the story argues, “Agent Orange spared no one.” Dioxin, as revealed in the film, was a known toxic element in the spray, and yet the chemical manufacturers did their best to bury all the evidence of dioxins that have shown up in thousands of Vietnam vets. As one of our committee members noted, this is “an extremely well-made film about an official subject that should have been the subject of a documentary long ago,” offering “a complicated weaving of the nightmare of Agent Orange from





Vietnam to the Oregon coast.” We all felt the film showcased fascinating storytellers with superb pacing, evocative music, and immersive cinematography and editing. *The People vs. Agent Orange* is an important and well-told story that deftly explores compelling personal narratives to uncover and interpret a valuable historical subject.



Kate Taverna, Alan Adelson



Véronique Bernard

### 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:

Douglas W. Dodd, California State University, Bakersfield, Chair

April Antonellis, National Park Service

David Osborn, St. Paul's Church National Historic Site



The committee awards the Stanton-Horton Award for Excellence in National Park Service History to **“The Illinois Freedom Project”** led by Timothy P. Townsend, Chief of Interpretation and Historian, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, with partners:

Old State Capitol State Historic Site

Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area

Other organizations that have been involved through the development:

Association for the Study of African American Life and History  
A.S.C.E.N.D.

Boys and Girls Club of Central Illinois

Greening Youth Foundation

Illinois Bureau of Tourism

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

National Park Foundation

National Park Service

Organization of American Historians

The Outlet

Sangamon County Metro 4H

Sigma Beta Club

Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum

Springfield Frontiers



The youth-focused project consists of three components, which promote historical thinking and public understanding. First, the project developed a website, combining video and primary-source documents surrounding the history of slavery, freedom, and civil rights in Illinois. The project also brought an interpretive exploration of those themes to the public through a traveling exhibit, which visited nine communities and reached more than 130,000 people. Finally, the project's Illinois Freedom Journeys program—multiday field trips serving a predominately African American audience of junior high and high school students—immerses students in active learning and historical problem solving as they explore historic sites and museums throughout 28 communities in the 43-county Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. The project represents an impressive cooperative effort between several partner organizations associated with the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition and the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area to explore a topic that is often neglected—slavery and its aftermath in a northern state—which the committee hopes might inspire public historians to undertake similar investigations.

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# FUTURE OAH ANNUAL MEETINGS



2022

## **Boston, Massachusetts**

March 31 to April 3  
*Workshop Day, April 3*  
Sheraton Boston Hotel

2023

## **Los Angeles, California**

March 30 to April 2  
*Workshop Day, April 2*  
Westin Bonaventure Hotel and Suites

2024

## **New Location and Dates, TBA**

2025

## **Chicago, Illinois**

April 3 to April 6  
*Workshop Day, April 6*  
Sheraton Grand Chicago

2026

## **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

April 16 to April 19  
*Workshop Day, April 19*  
Philadelphia Marriott Downtown

[oah.org/future-meetings](https://oah.org/future-meetings)



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Bedford continues to be fully dedicated to students and instructors of history. At Bedford/St. Martin's website ([macmillanlearning.com/history](https://macmillanlearning.com/history)), you'll find detailed information about our history books and media, including complete tables of contents, author bios, reviews, details about supplements and value packages, and more. You can request an exam copy, download free classroom materials, access online instructor resources, and get valuable tools for your first day of class.



### **Oxford University Press**

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## STANTON FOUNDATION

### **Stanton Foundation**

The Stanton Foundation was created by Frank Stanton, widely regarded as one of the greatest executives in the history of electronic communications and one of the television industry's founding fathers. The Foundation's interests include classic and twenty-first century First Amendment issues and the larger challenge of the creation of a better-informed citizenry. The Foundation focuses on cultivating a more informed citizenry through supporting innovation in civics and U.S. history education, and creative ways of delivering information to citizens. The Foundation was an early funder of Wikipedia, has created seven endowed professorships, and awarded fifteen Applied History Course Development Grants.



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