

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON | HISTORY

NEWSLETTER Issue 5 (September 2019)



Dr. Philip Howard, Chair

Hello,

I would like to welcome everyone back to campus. I hope that this year will be just as exciting and productive as the last. In our quest to enhance the academic and university experiences of our students, we will continue to offer new undergraduate and graduate programs. Our faculty continues to contribute to their fields of study, publishing books and articles as well as by presenting their scholarship at national and international conferences. We have sponsored

sponsored conferences and lectures and will invite some of our esteemed colleagues from across the country and internationally to come to the University of Houston in order to present their research.

In March 2019, our juniors and seniors came together to learn about the career options they could have from majoring in history. The Department's annual "History Day" allowed our students to meet representatives from the University's Career Services, several deans and faculty from the Law Center, the College of Education, and the M.D. Anderson Library. A number of History faculty also shared their expertise and research interests in Women's history, the importance of Public History, Digital History, Food and History, publishing opportunities for undergraduates, as well as employing the History degree in non-traditional ways. Last spring, we had over 350 majors and 120 minors in history.

To prepare our students to participate in the global economy, I am happy to announce that our new Professional Studies Concentration within the major will assist in our endeavors to attract more students to our major. The nine-hour concentration provides our history majors with the opportunity to focus their coursework on career areas such as energy and environment, law, medicine and health or public history (museums, archives and libraries, govern-

ment and non-governmental organizations). Our Director of the Undergraduate Program, Dr. Cihan Yüksel, will administer the undergraduate program with the help of the members of the Undergraduate Committee. Ms. Aarti Sharma, our new Undergraduate Academic Adviser, will assist Professor Yüksel in the daily operations of the program.

We are excited that next year our Graduate Program will offer new fellowships to in-coming Ph.D. candidates. The John Nau Fellowships in Texas History will be awarded to the best students who arrive to study Texas History. The fellowships are the central pieces to a \$1,000,000 gift given by Mr. John Nau of Houston, Texas. Dr. Richard Mizelle, and Dr. Kelly Hopkins, the Director and the Associate Director of the Graduate Program in History will continue to recruit, fund and grow our Graduate Program. The success of our Ph.D. program and our students is evinced by the fact that one of our students, Alberto Wilson III, received a Fulbright to complete his dissertation in Mexican History. Two of our recent Ph.D.s were awarded postdoctoral positions at Columbia University and New York University. Meanwhile several of our former doctoral candidates obtained teaching positions in American, European and Latin American history at UH Clear Lake, Houston Community College, Lone Star Community College as well as Texas Southern University.

The faculty continues to publish their research. Dr. Horne had the NYU Press publish *Facing the Rising Sun: African Americans, and the Rise of Afro-Asian Solidarity*. This summer, Dr. Young's *Two Suns of the Southwest: Lyndon Johnson, Barry Goldwater, and the 1964 Battle between Liberalism and Conservatism*, was published by

Kansas University Press. Dr. Clavin will have his book, *The Battle of Negro Fort: The rise and Fall of a Fugitive Slave Community* appear with NYU Press this fall. Later this academic year, Pittsburgh University Press will publish Dr. Milanese's monograph entitled *¡Destape! Sex, Democracy and Freedom in Post-Dictatorial Argentina*, Harvard University Press will publish Dr. Zarnow's *Battling Bella: The Protest Politics of Bella Abzug*, an Arabic translation of Dr. Takriti's *Monsoon Revolution* will come out in Beirut (Lebanon), and a Russian translation of Dr. Golubev's *The Search for a Socialist El Dorado* — in St. Petersburg (Russia).



Dr. Cihan Yüksel and PhD Candidate Derek Ide received the 2019 University of Houston Teaching Excellence Awards.

We had to say goodbye to another esteemed senior professors who retired last spring. Dr. John Mason Hart had provided the University of Houston, the College of Liberal and Social Sciences and the History Department with invaluable work since his arrival in 1973. His reputation as a scholar of Modern and Revolutionary Mexican History is both

national and international in scope. As the author of seven monographs, and fifty-three journal articles and essays, the University of Houston awarded Dr. Hart with the John and Rebecca Moores Distinguished Professor of History in 2006. His first book, *Anarchism and the Mexican Working Class, 1860-1931*, appeared in 1978 and remains a seminar study used by historians of Modern Latin America to train their students in labor history. Dr. Hart would go on to write two more award-winning monographs on the economic and revolutionary history of Mexico in the 2000s. To recognize Dr. Hart's significant contributions to the University and our understanding of Mexican history, later this year we will host a symposium on Revolutionary Mexican History.

Although we had to say goodbye to our esteemed colleague, Professor Hart, in August of this year, we welcomed Drs. Tshepo Masango Chéry, Norah L. Gharala, Debbie Harwell, and Josiah Rector. Dr. Chery received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in African history. Her fields of interests are twentieth-century Southern African history, African religion, and social and political movements. Dr. Gharala received her Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins and is a scholar of Habsburg Spain, Colonial Mexico, and African slavery in the Caribbean and West Africa before 1900. Dr. Debbie Harwell earned her Ph.D. here at the University of Houston. She is a twentieth-century American historian who researches and writes on the U.S. Civil Rights movement, Houston history, and public history. Dr. Rector was awarded his Ph.D. from Wayne State University. His fields of interests included U.S. history since 1877 and comparative urban history with a focus on the environment.

Best of luck and have a wonderful and productive academic year.

\$1 MILLION ENDOWMENT GIFT FOR ARAB STUDIES

Dr. Abdel Razzaq Takriti's efforts were instrumental in securing a \$1 million gift from the Arab-American Educational Foundation (AAEF) to support the creation of the Arab-American Educational Foundation Colloquium, Graduate Seminar in Arab Studies, and Center for Arab Studies. Dr. Takriti also became the founding director of the center.



In October 2018, Department of History, Department of English, and Arab-American Educational Foundation Chair co-hosted the celebration of Dr. Hosam Aboul-Ela's new book *Domestications: American Empire, Literary Culture, and the Postcolonial Lens* (Northwestern University Press, 2018).

MEET OUR NEW COLLEAGUES!



Dr. Tshepo Masango Chéry joins the Department of History as an Assistant Professor of African history. She is a South African scholar who earned her Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. Her work traces the history of liberation struggles in southern Africa, with an emphasis on racial formation and religious expression within the liberation movements. Her current book project uncovers the ways early-twentieth-century African Christians built their own religious institutions in response to the changing racial landscape of segregationist South Africa. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Houston, Dr. Chéry was an assistant professor at the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Norah L. A. Gharala has a PhD in Latin American history from The Johns Hopkins University and studies colonialism, race, and gender. This fall, Dr. Gharala is offering undergraduate courses on colonial Mexico and Latin America. Her first book, *Taxing Blackness: Free Afromexican Tribute in Bourbon New Spain*, was published earlier this year by the University of Alabama Press. In 2019, Dr. Gharala's new project linking colonial Mexico to Spanish and Portuguese colonies in Asia was awarded several grants, including a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend and long-term fellowships in the U.S. and Europe.

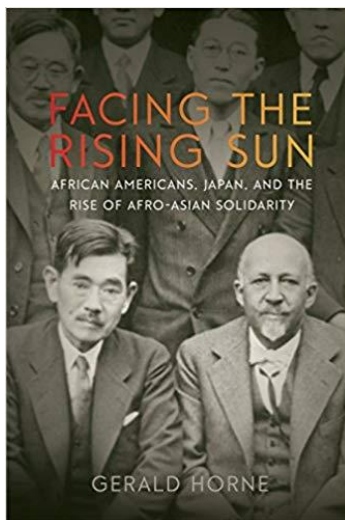


Dr. Debbie Z. Harwell joins the Department of History as instructional assistant faculty. Harwell received a Ph.D. in U.S. history from the University of Houston. She has served as managing editor and editor of the Center for Public History's *Houston History* magazine since 2009. Her classes examine Houston's social, cultural, economic, and political history, as well as the ways in which migration and immigration have contributed to the city's diversity. She is the author of *Wednesday in Mississippi: Proper Ladies Working for Radical Change, Freedom Summer 1964*, which won the 2015 SAWH Julia Cherry Spruill Prize for the best book in southern women's history.

Dr. Josiah Rector is an urban historian specializing in the environmental history of cities in the 20th-century United States. His research interests intersect with environmental justice studies, public history, and the history of capitalism. From 2017–2019, he was a Visiting Assistant Professor of U.S. and Environmental History at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin. He is currently working on a book manuscript, under contract with University of North Carolina Press, entitled *Toxic Debt: Racial Capitalism and the Making of the Environmental Justice Movement in Detroit*.

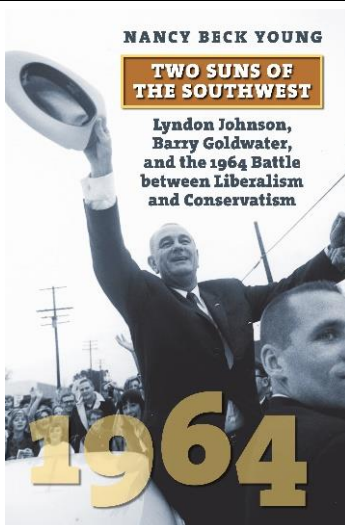


NEW BOOKS



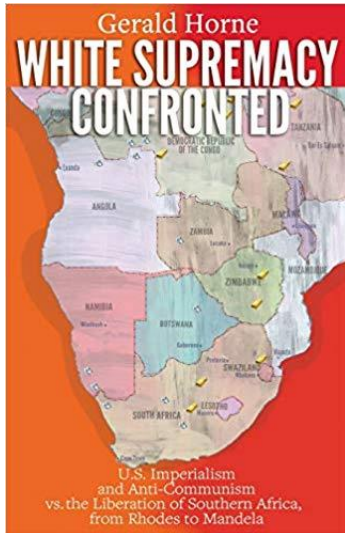
Gerald Horne, *Facing the Rising Sun: African Americans, Japan, and the Rise of Afro-Asian Solidarity* (NYU Press, 2018).

Facing the Rising Sun tells the story of the widespread pro-Tokyo sentiment among African Americans during World War II, arguing that the solidarity between the two groups was significantly corrosive to the U.S. war effort. Gerald Horne demonstrates that Black Nationalists of various stripes were the vanguard of this trend—including followers of Garvey and the precursor of the Nation of Islam. Indeed, many of them called themselves “Asiatic”, not African. Following World War II, Japanese-influenced “Afro-Asian” solidarity did not die, but rather foreshadowed Dr. Martin Luther King’s tie to Gandhi’s India and Black Nationalists’ post-1970s fascination with Maoist China and Ho’s Vietnam.



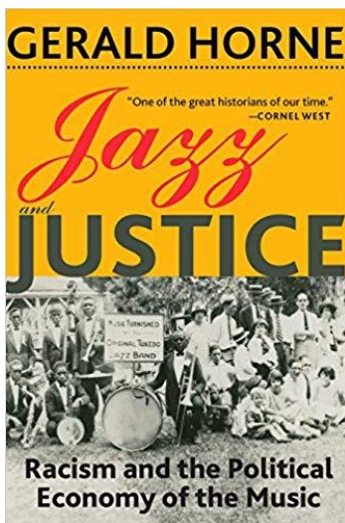
Nancy Beck Young, *Two Suns of the Southwest: Lyndon Johnson, Barry Goldwater, and the 1964 Battle between Liberalism and Conservatism* (University of Kansas Press, 2019).

The 1964 presidential election, in Nancy Beck Young’s telling, was a contest between two men of the Southwest, each with a very different idea of what the Southwest was and what America should be. Barry Goldwater, the Republican senator from Arizona, came to represent a nostalgic, idealized past, a preservation of traditional order, while Lyndon B. Johnson, the Democratic incumbent from Texas, looked boldly and hopefully toward an expansive, liberal future of increased opportunity. Thus, as we see in *Two Suns of the Southwest*, the election was also a showdown between liberalism and conservatism, an election whose outcome would echo throughout the rest of the century.



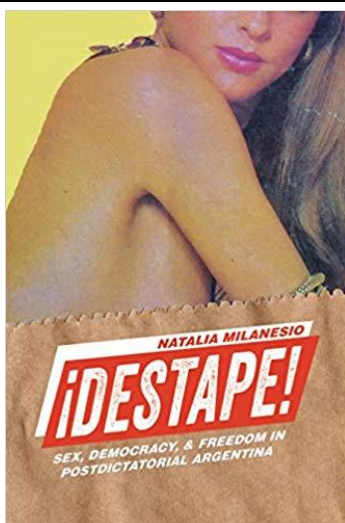
Gerald Horne, *White Supremacy Confronted: U.S. Imperialism and Anti-Communism vs. the Liberation of Southern Africa from Rhodes to Mandela* (International Publishers Co, 2019).

Based upon exhaustive research in all presidential libraries from Hoover to Clinton, the voluminous archives of the African National Congress [ANC] at Fort Hare University in South Africa, along with allied archives of the NAACP, the Ford and Rockefeller fortunes, etc., this is the most comprehensive account to date of the entangled histories of apartheid and Jim Crow that culminated in 1994 with the election of Nelson Mandela as president in Pretoria. The author traces in detail the close ties between e.g. Mandela, Robeson, and Du Bois—among others—and how their working in tandem with the socialist camp (particularly the Soviet Union and Cuba) was the deciding factor (along with the struggles of Africans and their allies on both sides of the Atlantic) in compelling the reluctant retreat of the comrades-in-arms: apartheid and Jim Crow.



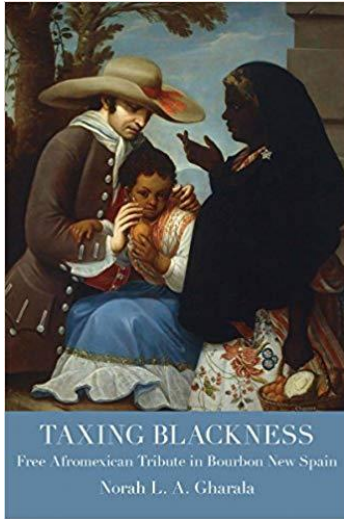
Gerald Horne, *Jazz and Justice: Racism and the Political Economy of the Music* (Monthly Review Press, 2019).

The music we call “jazz” arose in late nineteenth century North America—most likely in New Orleans—based on the musical traditions of Africans, newly freed from slavery. Grounded in the music known as the “blues,” which expressed the pain, sufferings, and hopes of Black folk then pulverized by Jim Crow, this new music entered the world via the instruments that had been abandoned by departing military bands after the Civil War. *Jazz and Justice* examines the economic, social, and political forces that shaped this music into a phenomenal US—and Black American—contribution to global arts and culture. Horne assembles a galvanic story depicting what may have been the era’s most virulent economic—and racist—exploitation, as jazz musicians battled organized crime, the Ku Klux Klan, and other variously malignant forces dominating the nightclub scene.



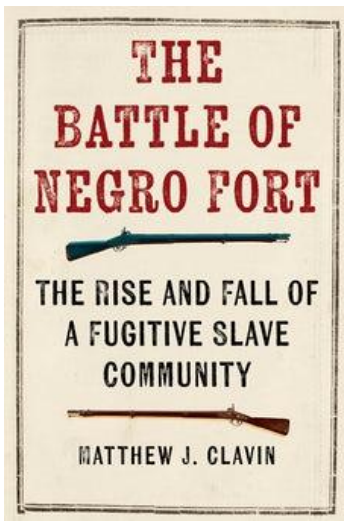
Natalia Milanesio, *Destape: Sex, Democracy, and Freedom in Postdictatorial Argentina* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2019).

With the return to democracy in 1983, Argentines experienced new freedoms, including sexual freedoms. The explosion of the availability and ubiquity of sexual material became known as the *destape*, and it uncovered sexuality in provocative ways. This was a mass-media phenomenon, but it went beyond this. It was, in effect, a deeper process of change in sexual ideologies and practices. By exploring the boom of sex therapy and sexology; the fight for the implementation of sex education in schools; the expansion of family planning services and of organizations dedicated to sexual health care; and the centrality of discussions on sexuality in feminist and gay organizations, Milanesio shows that the *destape* was a profound transformation of the way Argentines talked, understood, and experienced sexuality, a change in manners, morals, and personal freedoms.



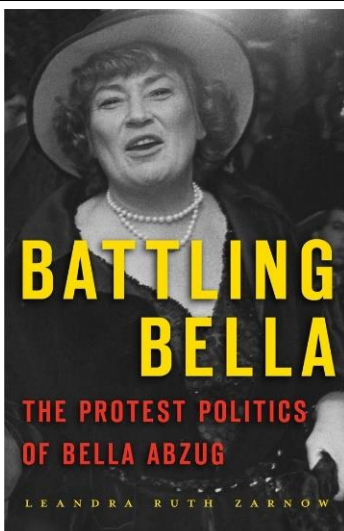
Norah L. A. Gharala, *Taxing Blackness: Free Afromexican Tribute in Bourbon New Spain* (University of Alabama Press, 2019).

Taxing Blackness: Free Afromexican Tribute in Bourbon New Spain examines the experiences of Afromexicans and this tribute to explore the meanings of race, political loyalty, and legal privileges within the Spanish colonial regime. Norah L. A. Gharala focuses on both the mechanisms officials used to define the status of free people of African descent and the responses of free Afromexicans to these categories and strategies. This study spans the eighteenth century and focuses on a single institution to offer readers a closer look at the place of Afromexican individuals in Bourbon New Spain, which was the most profitable and populous colony of the Spanish Atlantic.



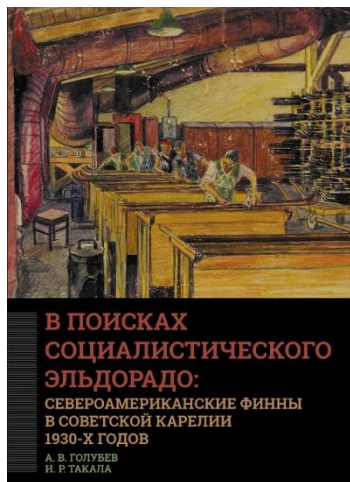
Matthew J. Clavin, *The Battle of Negro Fort: The Rise and Fall of a Fugitive Slave Community* (NYU Press, 2019).

In the aftermath of the War of 1812, Major General Andrew Jackson ordered a joint United States army-navy expedition into Spanish Florida to destroy a free and independent community of fugitive slaves. The result was the Battle of Negro Fort, a brutal conflict among hundreds of American troops, Indian warriors, and black rebels that culminated in the death or re-enslavement of nearly all of the fort's inhabitants. By eliminating this refuge for fugitive slaves, the United States government closed an escape valve that African Americans had utilized for generations. At the same time, it intensified the subjugation of southern Native Americans, including the Creeks, Choctaws, and Seminoles. Still, the battle was significant for another reason as well.



Leandra Ruth Zarnow, *Battling Bella: The Protest Politics of Bella Abzug* (Harvard University Press, 2019).

Before Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Elizabeth Warren, or Hillary Clinton, there was New York's Bella Abzug. With a fiery rhetorical style forged in the 1960s antiwar movement, Abzug vigorously promoted gender parity, economic justice, and the need to "bring Congress back to the people." The 1970 congressional election season saw Abzug, in her trademark broad-brimmed hats, campaigning on the slogan "This Woman's Place Is in the House—the House of Representatives." Having won her seat, she advanced the feminist agenda in ways big and small, from gaining full access for congresswomen to the House swimming pool to cofounding the National Women's Political Caucus to putting the title "Ms." into the political lexicon. Beyond women's rights, "Sister Bella" promoted gay rights, privacy rights, and human rights, and pushed legislation relating to urban, environmental, and foreign affairs.



Alexey Golubev and Irina Takala, *V poiskakh sotsialisticheskogo Eldorado: Finskaia immigratsiia iz SShA i Kanady v SSSR v 1930-e gg.* [The Search for a Socialist El Dorado: Finnish Immigration to the USSR from the United States and Canada in the 1930s] (Nestor-Istoriia, 2019).

In the 1930s, more than six thousand Finns emigrated from the United States and Canada to Soviet Karelia, a region in the Soviet Union where Finnish Communist émigrés were building a society to implement their ideals of a just socialist society. This book is a Russian translation of the English-language monograph originally published by the Michigan State University Press in 2014, which was the first comprehensive account in English of this fascinating story based on a vast body of sources from archives in Petrozavodsk and Moscow, Russian- and Finnish-language press coverage, and oral history interviews.



Abdel Razzaq Takriti, *Zufar: Thawrat al-Riyah al-Mawsiymya* [Dhufar: The Monsoon Revolution] (Jadawel, 2019).

The book is based on an expanded and substantially revised translation of Professor Takriti’s widely acclaimed English-language volume *Monsoon Revolution: Republicans, Sultans, and Empires in Oman* (Oxford University Press, 2013; revised paperback edition 2016). Grounded in extensive archival and oral history research, the book offers a new model for studying Arab revolutions, globalizing the history of the Dhufar revolution in Oman (1965–76), which was the longest running major armed struggle in the history of the Arabian Peninsula, Britain’s last classic colonial war in the region, and one of the highlights of the Cold War in the Middle East.

FACULTY NEWS

In 2019, **Dr. José Angel Hernández** was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of San Carlos-Talamban, Cebu City, Philippines, where he worked on his new research project. As part of the fellowship, he gave an invited lecture on “La descolonización de los descolonizados: Comparative Contacts, Conquests, and Colonizations in Mesoamerica and Maharlika” (right) to the Philippine-American Educational Foundation and Fulbright Commission (Makati City, Philippines).



Dr. Frank Holt spent much of the past year doing research funded by an NEH Public Scholar Grant. He has a contract from Oxford University Press to publish the resulting book, which

examines the history of coinage and money. His research was featured in various UH media, such as <http://stories.uh.edu/07012019frankholt/index.html>.

Dr. Monica Perales received a \$15,000 grant from the Cougar Initiative to Engage (CITE) in the office of the Provost for “Teaching Hurricane Harvey,” which brings together faculty teaching publically-engaged courses supporting the Center for Public History’s Resilient Houston: Documenting Hurricane Harvey oral history project. **Dr. Debbie Harwell**, **Dr. Todd Romero**, and **Dr. Kristin Wintersteen** from History and Dr. Keith McNeal in Comparative Cultural Studies will teach classes in 2019–2020 in which students will engage in documenting and preserving the experiences of survivors, volunteers and first responders of the catastrophic flooding caused by Harvey in 2017. A separate \$5,500 grant from CITE was awarded to **Dr. Alexey Golubev** in collaboration with Dr. David Rainbow of the Honors College to organize short-term internships on the basis of the Czech Center Museum and Russian Cultural Center of Houston as part of their courses on Russian and European history in 2019–2020. Students will gain valuable historical research skills, and produce oral histories, digital projects, and articles for *Houston History Magazine*, the biannual magazine published by the Center for Public History.

Dr. Cathy Patterson was selected as one of twelve scholars to participate in a scholarly seminar at the Research Institute of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC (*left*), entitled “The Corporation in Early Modern Political Thought.” Seminar participants met on nine Fridays during the Spring 2019 semester, reading extensively in primary sources and secondary literature, engaging in scholarly dialog, and developing and presenting their own research related to the subject.

Dr. José Angel Hernández received a prestigious award *Premio artículo ciencias sociales* from the Mexico Section of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) for his article “The Decree of 19 August 1848: The First Repatriation Commissions and Postwar Settlements Along the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands,” *Maryland Journal of International Law*, Vol. 33, iss. 1 (2018).

The Arab-American Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Arab History, **Dr. Abdel Razzaq Takriti**, hosted the Nijad and Zeina Fares Annual Distinguished Lecture in Arab Studies on February 19, 2019, at the Hilton University of Houston. The lecture was titled “The Early History of the Arab-American Community” and was delivered by Professor Akram Khater (North Carolina State University). Together with Dr. Ussama Makdisi (Rice University), Dr. Takriti also co-hosted a Discussion & Wine and Cheese Reception featuring Dr. Nimer Sul tany (SOAS, University of London) on the topic of “Law and Revolution in the Arab Spring”



Dr. McNally speaking on slave plantations at his co-sponsored conference “Towards a Global History of Primitive Accumulation” (Amsterdam, May 2019).

(November 13, 2018). On November 18, 2018, **Dr. Takriti** convened and chaired the Presidential Panel at the Middle East Studies Association of North America under the title “Protecting Academia in an Era of Change.” The Cullen Chair in History and Business, **Dr. David McNally**, participated in the panel as a presenter.

Dr. McNally sponsored a number of events, including: “Slavery by Another Name: A Discussion on Convict Leasing and the Sugar Land 95” (UH campus, February 27, 2019), “From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation,” featuring Dr. Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, Princeton University (UH campus, March 20, 2019), and co-sponsored an international conference on “Toward a Global History of Primitive Accumulation” (International Institute for Social History, Amsterdam, May 9–11, 2019).

Dr. Nancy Young and **Dr. Leandra Zarnow** received a digital research commons grant to launch a digital humanities project “Sharing Stories from 1977: The National Women’s Conference as a Window into Recent American History.” This is a national digital public history project with oral history, archival, curricular, and scholarship components documenting the experience of over 150,000 participants at lead-up state meetings and the National Women’s Conference held in Houston, Texas in 1977. It is expected that this project will be multi-institutional and fully completed by the 50th anniversary in 2027.

The **Russian and Eastern European Initiative** at UH (a collaboration between the Department of History, Honors College, and Department of Modern and Classical Languages) hosted several events, including guest talks by Dr. Kiril Avramov, Intelligence Studies Project at the UT Austin; Ruta Vanagaite, a Lithuanian journalist and writer; Dr. Sören Urbansky, German Historical Institute DC; and Dr. Daria Gritsenko, Helsinki University.



Dr. Sören Urbansky, German Historical Institute DC, discusses early 20th-century Sino-phobia in Vladivostok and San Francisco.

In November 2018, **Dr. Mark Goldberg** received a Humanities Texas Major Grant for Community Project and partnered with the African American Library at the Gregory School to organize “Black, Brown, and Kosher: Conversations about Food, Culture, and Identity” (also supported by the UH Center for Public History and Jewish Studies Program).

In August 2019, **Dr. Sally Vaughn** was appointed to the Board of Directors of the International Association for Anselm Studies, headquartered at Oxford University and University of Durham.



Dr. Neumann (right) and her collaborator Dr. Peggy Lindor present their digital exhibit on ancient Syrian coins at UH (Source: The Daily Cougar).

Dr. Kristina Neumann was awarded a Sponsored Project grant through the Digital Research Commons of the UH Libraries in support of her project, “Finding Connection in Ancient Syria.” This project consists of a multidisciplinary team from the humanities and STEM working on an interactive, online exhibit which allows both scholars and public audiences to explore the artifacts and histories of Syria’s diverse communities from the Hellenistic to the Late Antique Periods (c. 330 BCE-450 CE). Check out her recently completed 3D, annotated scan of an ancient coin: <http://hnetdev.hnet.uh.edu/3Dcoin/>. Her research was

featured in the Daily Cougar: <http://thedailycougar.com/2019/04/11/digital-coins-exhibit/>.

SELECTED FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Holt, Frank. “Who Were the Indo-Greeks?,” in Anil Singh, ed., *Dialogue of Civilizations: India and Greece* (New Delhi: Aryan Books International, 2019).

Fishman, Sarah. “Jablonka’s History: Literature and the Search for Truth.” *French Politics, Culture & Society*, Vol. 36, No. 3 (2018): 14–31.

Hernández, José A. “‘The Decree of 19 August 1848’: The First Repatriation Commissions and Postwar Settlements Along the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands,” *Maryland Journal of International Law* 33.1 (2018), available at <https://digitalcommons.law.umaryland.edu/mjil/vol33/iss1/3>

Takriti, Abdel Razzaq. “Before BDS: Lineages of Boycott in Palestine.” *Radical History Review*, Iss. 134 (2019): 58–95.

Takriti, Abdel Razzaq. “Colonial Coups and the War on Popular Sovereignty.” *American Historical Review*, Vol. 124, Iss. 3 (2019): 878–909.

Golubev, Alexey. *From Province to State and Back: Russian Northwest and Finland during the Revolutionary Years*, a special issue of *Ab Imperio*, no. 3 (2019).

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Alex LaRotta (Ph.D., Mark Goldberg and Monica Perales) defended his dissertation, “Young, Gifted, and Brown: The History of San Antonio’s West Side Sound,” in the summer of 2019. He is now on a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race at Columbia University.



Allison Sáenz (PhD, Monica Perales) was a 2019 Latino Museum Studies Program Fellow at the Smithsonian Latino Center. She was part of a group of 12 students from universities around the country who convened in Washington, D.C., for a week of professional development experiences followed by a four-week internship at a Smithsonian museum or research center to share, explore and discuss the representation and interpretation of Latino cultures in the context of the American experience.

Alberto Wilson III (PhD, Monica Perales) was awarded a García-Robles Fulbright Fellowship to conduct dissertation research in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico for the 2019–20 academic year. He also authored the following essay that appeared in the Washington Post “Made by History” series following the massacre in El Paso, Texas:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/08/08/why-mourning-el-paso-shootings-will-undermine-trumps-immigration-rhetoric/>.

Alberto Wilson III and **Paula Hoffman** presented their research at the 112th annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, held in Las Vegas, Nevada (August 2019).

Matthew Finnie (PhD, Frank Holt) published a book review of *Trade in the Ancient Sahara and Beyond. Trans-Saharan Archaeology*, ed. by D. J. Mattingly et al (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017) in the *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (<http://bmcr.bryn-mawr.edu/2019/2019-04-13.html>). He also made a conference presentation (Classical Association of the Middle West and South 2019, University of Nebraska, April 3–6, 2019, “Descent from the Earthborn: The Exemplar of Erechtheus within Euripidean Tragedy”) and accepted an adjunct professorship at St. Mary’s to teach *World History* in fall 2019.

Tara Sewell-Lasater (PhD, Frank Holt) won the UH College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship and received a Murray Miller Dissertation Research Grant. She presented a paper on “Cleopatra as Catharsis: Tragic Motifs in Plutarch’s

Death of Cleopatra” at the 115th Annual Meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, University of Nebraska, April 3–6, 2019.

Darah Vann (PhD, Kristina Neumann and Frank Holt) won two awards for her paper on “Myths and #Metoo: Dealing with Ancient Sexual Assault in the Modern World:” Margaret Hensen Essay Award and Friends of Women's Study Graduate Essay Award. She presented a paper on “Rapit in Livy 1.8-13: A Feminist Perspective on the Rape of the Sabine Women” at the Classical Association of the Middle West and South CAMWS-SS (October 2018).



Gary Girod, UH History.

Gary Girod's (PhD, Sarah Fishman) public history project *The French History Podcast* (<http://thefrenchhistorypodcast.com/>) has expanded rapidly since its inception in January. UH's own Robert Buzzanco and Sarah Fishman have hosted guest episodes, as well as UC Berkeley's Ethan Katz, San Francisco State University's Catherine Kudlick, and Portland State University's Annabelle Dolidon and Joseph Bohling. In addition, UH graduate students Darah Vann Orr and Quentin Adams have each delivered episodes on their specialties. With nearly twenty hours of history, the podcast has grown into a large and highly entertaining public history project.

Timothy Vale (PhD, James Schafer) was awarded the \$500 Wallis Annenberg Research Grant by the University of Southern California Libraries to conduct research at one of their special collections departments in summer 2018. In the Spring of 2019, he was awarded \$1,000 via the University of North Texas Special Collections Research Fellowship to conduct research at UNT's Special Collections department. In addition to working with UNT's extensive collection of Texas LGBT organizations and HIV/AIDS activist groups in Dallas and Houston, he also gave a presentation for the UNT Library System's staff on the historical legacy of HIV/AIDS in Dallas and Houston.

ALUMNI NEWS

Julie Cohn (PhD 2013, Marin Melosi, currently a research historian at the UH Center for Public History) received the 2018 Bernard S. Finn IEEE History Prize (formerly the IEEE Life Members' Prize in Electrical History) for her article “Data, Power, and Conservation: The Early Turn to Information Technologies to Manage Energy Resources,” *Information & Culture* 52.3 (2017): 334-361.

In 2019, **Christopher Haight** (PhD 2016, Nancy Young) received a full-time position teaching history at the Houston Community College.

Juan Manuel Galván Rodríguez (PhD 2016, John Hart) was named an Assistant Professor of History and Humanities at Lone Star College-Kingwood.

Julie Sarpy (PhD 2016, Sally Vaughn) published her first book *Joanna of Flanders: Heroine and Exile* based on her PhD dissertation with the Amberley Press, England.

Daniel Mendiola (PhD 2018, Susan Kellogg) received a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, New York University.

MELLON PROGRAM

The **Mellon Research Scholars Program** at the University of Houston supports underrepresented students (Hispanic, African American, Pacific Islander) and other undergraduates with a demonstrated commitment to the goal of building a diverse academy in the humanities. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is committed to training future scholars and supporting scholarship in the humanities, thereby contributing to culture and society. Each participant receives a total of \$5,000 for conducting a summer research project and participating in developmental academic and mentorship activities from Spring of their junior year through Spring of their Senior year.

Five history students were selected as Mellon scholars in the 2018–19 academic year with the following project topics: **Maria Amador** (“Marta Pérez de Perales’ Historical Footprint”), **Manuel Martinez Alvarenga** (“Finding home in the Sunbelt: A study of the organized Salvadoran diaspora in Houston since 1970”), **Mariah Miller** (“Space, Time, and a Toxic Environment: The Relationship Between Industry and Residents of Pleasantville”), **Jordanna Park** (“Comrade Mother: Gender Inequality in Soviet and Post-Soviet Russia”), and **Lizeth Rivas** (“How Influential Were Mexican-Americans? Mexican-Americans and School Desegregation in The United States During the 20th Century”).



Manuel Martinez Alvarenga and Lizeth Rivas, Mellon Graduate School Boot Camp, May 2019.