

Annual Newsletter

A Message from our Chair



On behalf of the History Department at CSUN, it is my pleasure to welcome students to the 2020-2021 academic year! While we miss the buzz of campus, we are excited to be able to engage with our students intellectually during this challenging time and grateful that we can help our students achieve their goal of earning a degree in history.

This year promises to be a great year in the Department. We have thoughtful and engaging programs planned. To get the year off to a good start, we want to share with you some of the great accomplishments of our students, faculty and staff. Please read on and join me in celebrating all that is history!

Dr. Susan Fitzpatrick Behrens
Chair and Professor of History

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Stay connected with us!

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- [Visit the CSUN Department of History Website](#)
- Instagram: @historycsun
- For currently enrolled students: join the HISTORY STUDENT CANVAS PAGE by emailing pepper.starobin@csun.edu

Historical Research in the Age of COVID-19

By Dr. John Paul Nuño

This past year has been unlike any other. I had a unique vantage point since I spent the majority of it in Washington, D.C. I arrived in the city just in time for President Trump's extravagant Fourth of July celebration, which turned out to be underwhelming and resulted in the occasional helicopter flyover near my apartment. I started my fellowship in the John W. Kluge Center in the Library of Congress and had access to the library's extensive collection of secondary works and manuscripts. The library's impressive collection of British newspapers from the late eighteenth century enabled me to finish an article and make progress on my book. During the course of my fellowship I encountered scholars not only from around the country, but also from Germany, Italy, Scotland, Holland, and England. The center hosted various events and brought in speakers like Walter Isaacson, David Axelrod, and Karl Rove. Unfortunately, my time at the library came to an abrupt end in early March with the first reports of Covid-19 cases around Capitol Hill. Many of the center's U.K. scholars hastily returned home after the Trump Administration announced a travel ban to their country. Later, I gained special permission to retrieve my belongings and found that many of the center's cubicles were still untouched, which was a testament to the sudden departure of the other fellows. The center and the Library of Congress continue to remain closed. As is the case in life, there are always unexpected twists and turns, and historical research is no different!



Dr. John Paul Nuño

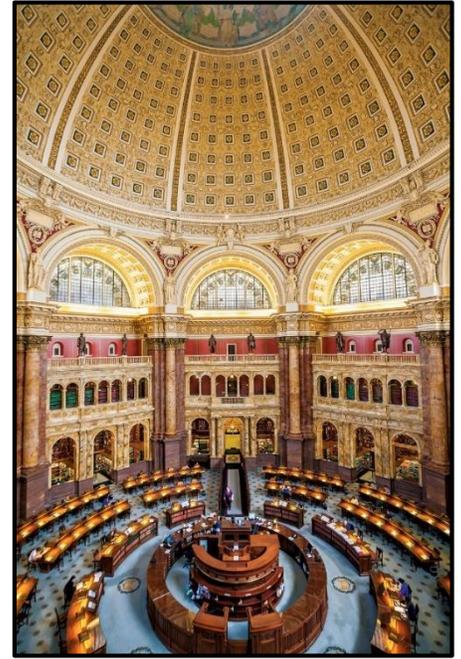


Photo of the main reading room at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

Dr. Nuño was received the Kluge fellowship from the Library of Congress for his research project titled "The Wild Ones: Contesting and Negotiating Power in the Florida Borderlands, 1763-1842."

The Michael Patterson Writing Center

The 6th floor of Sierra Tower always feels a little livelier when our dedicated History Writing Tutors are meeting with students at the last office on the southwest corner of the hall, the home of the Michael Patterson Writing Center. The tutors find themselves increasingly popular come the third or fourth week of the semester, and often undergraduates will park themselves at the desk outside, eagerly awaiting a brainstorming session for that looming paper deadline, or much needed help with proofreading and formatting citations for a research paper. All these invaluable face-to-face tutoring interactions came to a screeching halt in mid-March, when the pandemic required CSUN to move classes online and shut the campus to students. Our three indispensable writing tutors, Kelly Clark, David Garcia, and Vanessa Sanz pivoted at a moment's notice to meeting with

students on Zoom. Their goal remained the same, to get undergraduate papers across the finish line, but there were new challenges looming. Covid-19 had a direct impact on our tutors' lives, on the lives of their loved ones, and on the lives of students. By the first week of April, there was a new level of anxiety, sadness, loss, grief, and a need for mutual support. Moving online was intimidating, but as Vanessa Sanz describes the experience, "The Writing Center aided in keeping the CSUN History Department community connected during this time of great uncertainty." Kelly Clark reflects on the importance of contact with students over Zoom, "As tutors, we sometimes got to hear about how supportive the professors in the department have been/continue to be, what challenges or worries students faced during the pandemic while still trying to focus on their school work, and we even had to get technologically creative about how to help people from afar." Clark adds, "While it may not be the same, I think that our team at the writing center (past and future) has been and will continue to be committed to helping and supporting each other and our fellow history students. We are facing our own challenges at home, and that just makes us even more determined to help others however we can – one paper at a time."



Our Spring 2020 Writing Center Tutors, pictured left to right: Vanessa Sanz, David Garcia, Kelly Clark.

The Michael Patterson Writing Center continues to operate virtually in Fall 2020. We are thankful to have Kelly Clark continue as one of our writing center tutors, and we welcome two new tutors to our team: John Ecklund and Kristen Javier.

Welcome Dr. Natale Zappia



Dr. Natale Zappia

Dr. Natale Zappia joined the department in 2019 as the incoming Director for the Institute for Sustainability. He will be teaching environmental, food, and sustainability history. His work touches on a wide range of topics, from food systems to Indigenous cultures to digital history. His new co-authored book (with documentary filmmaker Ashkan Soltani) *Rez Metal: Inside the Navajo Heavy Metal Scene* (University of Nebraska Press, 2020) captures the creative energy of indigenous youth culture in the twenty-first century. Other upcoming publications include 2021 "Early California Cultural Atlas: Digital History and Indigenous Spaces" (w/Steven Hackel and Jeannette Zerneck), in Janet Hess, ed., *Location, the Sacred, and Indigeneity: Digital and Spiritual Understandings of Native America* (Routledge Press); "Before the Horse: Food Systems in the Early

American Great Plains," in Kathleen Brosnan and Brian Frehner, eds., *Environmental History of the Great Plains* (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press); and "In the Land of the Head Hunters: Edward Curtis, Settler Colonialism, and the 'Documentary'," in Rebecca Weaver-Hightower and Janne Lahti, eds., *Cinematic Settlers: The Settler Colonial World in Film* (Routledge Press, 2020). [Read more here about Dr. Zappia's work at CSUN.](#)

Alumni Donations to the Department

We want to thank each of our generous donors. These funds help to support our programs and majors, as well as our Scholarship and Awards program.

Thank
You

- **Earl Adams** made a planned gift to CSUN to establish endowed scholarships in the Department of History and the Department of Theatre. [Read more here about Mr. Adams here.](#)
- **Brenda & David Anderson** in support of special programs for students in the History Department.
- **Della Coulter** in support of the Michael Patterson Scholarship Endowment. The History

Department's Michael Patterson Writing Center provides support for students in History classes who want to improve their writing skills.

- **Jackie & Dr. Ted Eckberg** funded a gift annuity to establish the Jackie Eckberg Scholarship Endowment in History, ensuring a continuum of academic excellence and student success.
- **Fayde Macune** in support of The Charles Macune Award which is awarded to an outstanding History student each year.
- **William "Bill" Shepard** in support of the History Department's Scholarship Endowment which supports scholarships for history students.
- **Leslie and Bill Waldman** in support of the History Department's Michael Patterson Writing Center.
- **Mary Anne Wolfson and Kim Wolfson** in support of the History Department's Michael Patterson Writing Center.
- **Dave Zoraster** in support of The Christine and Albert Zoraster Fellowship which is awarded to an outstanding undergraduate History major each year.



*Alumnus Earl Adams
B.A. '69, M.A. '79 (History)*

2020 Scholarship and Award Recipients

Through the generosity of our donors, we are pleased to announce that the department awarded over \$70,000 in scholarships and awards this past Spring. Congratulations to all our award winners! [Watch the YouTube video of the 2020 Scholarships and Awards Presentation.](#)

Tina R. Ahmadi
Katelyn Bauer
Francisco V. Bello
La Dawn Butler
Kelly Carey Clark
Wesley Colter
Juan Evan De La Cruz
John Ecklund
Ashley Michelle Esquivel
Gavin Evans
David Farsaad

Ethan P. Gauthier
XinYi Huang
Kristen Maile Javier
Joseph Robert Leo
Vicken Mouradian
Julio J. Olivares
Vahe Oksazian
Biljana Pavlovic
Anthony Peña
Pedro Puentes
Luis Ramirez

Oscar Spitz Rivera
Jaime Roth
Aileen Nicole Ruiz
Vanessa Giovanna Sanz
Spencer Douglas Scher
Lauren Michele Stealey
Anthony Simmonds
Ivaylo Danielov Todorov
Arnoldo Toral
Jennifer N. Valdez
Alaine Watson

Faculty & Staff Awards

We are pleased to acknowledge the following faculty awards:

Dr. Jeffrey Auerbach

- The Hakluyt Society
- Palestine Exploration Fund

Dr. Jessica Kim

- California State Parks, “Relevancy and History Pilot Project” [cut due to COVID-19]

Dr. Josh Sides

- College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Student Success Impact Award
- 2019 Media Award, Conference of California Historical Societies
- 2020 Haynes Foundation Faculty Fellow

Dr. Nat Zappia

- TUC Learning-Centered Instructional Project Grant proposal entitled Incorporating Sustainability Principles Applicable in Every Student: Redesigning HIST 496
- 2020 Faculty Research Fellowship, Haynes Foundation
- 2019 Community Engagement Grant

Pepper Starobin

- Member of the [CSUN Shine From Within](#) 2019-2020 Cohort that researched and reported on “Elucidating the CSUN Budget”

Alumni and Student Accomplishments

- **Daniel Aburto**, B.A. '17 (History) was accepted to the CSUN Teaching Credential Program.
- **Maria Bonilla**, M.A. '08 (History) was hired by the Los Angeles Public Library (downtown branch).
- **Nicholas Bonneau**, M.A. '11 (History) completed his Ph.D at Notre Dame by defending his thesis, “Epidemic Disease in Colonial America.” Dr. Bonneau accepted a position at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, as lecturer in History of Science, Medicine, and Disease.
- **Julia Bricklin**, M.A. '10 (History) published her fourth book, [The Notorious Life of Ned Buntline: A Tale of Murder, Betrayal, and the Creation of Buffalo Bill](#), and wrote the “[Ned Buntline](#)” podcast that aired on Legends of the Old West.
- **Eduardo Estrada**, B.A. '19 (History and Chicano/a Studies) was admitted to UCLA to earn his M.A. and teaching credential in Ethnic Studies.
- **Susan Falck**, M.A. '03 (History) published her first book, [Remembering Dixie: The Battle to Control Historical Memory in Natchez, Mississippi, 1865–1941](#).
- **Romeo Guzman**, M.A. '08 (History) moved from a tenure-track position at Fresno State University, where he founded and directed The Valley Public History Initiative: Preserving our Stories, to a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of transnational Chicano history at Claremont Graduate school.
- **Denise Hernandez**, B.A. '17 (History) graduated with a Master of Management in Library and Information Science (M.M.L.I.S.) from the Marshall School of Business at USC.



Professor Jorge Leal



Kathryn Noonan (right)



Esperanza Sanchez

- **Hanni Jalil**, B.A. '04 (History) accepted a tenure-track position at CSU, Channel Islands as Assistant Professor Latin American History.
- **Sierra Jenkins**, (B.A. '20 (History) was admitted to the Master's program CSU, San Marcos with a New Student Fellowship Grant.
- **Jorge Leal**, B.A. '07, M.A. '11 (History) accepted a tenure-track position at UC Riverside as Assistant Professor of Mexican American and Chicano History.
- **Kathryn Noonan**, B.A. '15 (History), M.A. in progress (History) won an [Emmy as AD on KCET Lost LA](#).
- **Oswin Orellana**, B.A. '15 (History), M.A. '18 (History) was admitted to UC San Diego's Doctoral program.
- **Kevin Ramirez** B.A. '20 (History) was admitted to the NYU, Doctoral Program.
- **Esperanza Sanchez**, B.A. '12, M.A. '16 (History), Assistant Curator at LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes, was profiled in [Perspectives on History](#).
- **Arnoldo Toral**, B.A. '19 (History; minor in Creative Writing), M.A. in progress (History) served as an intern at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as part of its Academy Gold program.
- **Sabdiel Uribe**, B.A '20 (History) was recognized by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences as a student who has shown a significant improvement in GPA over the last year and graduated in 4 years.



Kevin Ramirez

New Course Offerings

The Department introduced several new courses this past year:

History of the Holocaust (HIST 357) introduced by Dr. Jeffrey Auerbach, in conjunction with Jewish Studies. This course examines the Jewish experience under Hitler from its historical genesis to its final catastrophe.

Game of Thrones (HIST 395G) introduced by Dr. Clementine Oliver. This course examines Pre-Modern History through the lens of George R. R. Martin's Song of Ice and Fire, and the seven seasons of the HBO series "Game of Thrones."

Game of Thrones students gather to view the GOT series.



U.S. Environmental History (HIST 496E) introduced by Dr. Natale Zappia. This course introduces students to a new methodological approach to the past that incorporates the non-natural world as an important actor in human history.

The History of Chocolate (HIST 497) introduced by Dr. Patricia Juarez-Dappe. From the Mexicas to Hershey kisses, students learn about how chocolate conquered the world. Study its evolution from a bitter beverage to an aphrodisiac concoction to one of the most globalized commodities in the world. The course focuses on the production, distribution, and consumption of cacao and chocolate as a means to uncover larger historical issues such as pre-Columbian societies, the Columbian exchange, the expansion of global capitalism, slavery, industrialization, and post-colonialism.



Imperialism, Narcotics and Capitalism: The Opium War, 1839-1842 (HIST 497) introduced by Dr. Richard Horowitz. Commissioner Lin Zexu arrived in Canton (Guangzhou) tasked with ending the illegal but incredibly lucrative trade in opium. When he destroyed the opium stocks held by merchants – both Chinese and foreign - - the British government went to war. Victory in the three-year long conflict established British dominance in East and Southeast Asia and transformed China’s relationship with the rest of the world.

Featured Faculty Article

[“It is much myche lesse harme to bylle thane to kylle:’ Bill-posting and the Destruction of the Duke of Suffolk in 1450.”](#) Studies in Medieval and Renaissance History, 3rd Series, Vol. 14, 2017, by Dr. Clementine Oliver.

This essay examines the media campaign surrounding the sensational murder of the most powerful political figure in mid fifteenth-century England, William de la Pole, duke of Suffolk. Once a great war hero, Suffolk became unpopular when the English suffered military defeat in France and lost Normandy in 1449, a disaster for which Suffolk was singularly blamed by the public at large. He was impeached by parliament only to be saved and sent into exile by King Henry VI. On his journey to the continent his ship was intercepted by another called Nicholas of the Tower, and he was beheaded by the ship’s sailors in the name of vigilante justice. This essay considers the political verses or bills put in circulation prior to Suffolk’s murder which satirized and lambasted the duke’s role in Henry VI’s faltering government on the eve of the Wars of the Roses. The billposting campaign deliberately encouraged the duke’s downfall and eventual murder, and so Suffolk might be considered the first great victim of proto-tabloid journalism in England, signaling the importance of both publicity and public opinion during the ensuing Wars of the Roses.

History Student Ambassador Program



*Pictured from top:
Jesse Hendler, Vahe
Oksazian, Kiana Riles,
Vanessa Sanz*

The Department of History launched a “Student Ambassador” program in Fall 2018. The Ambassador team is comprised of a select group of History majors (undergraduate and graduates) tasked with an orientation for incoming freshmen and transfer students in fall and with student outreach throughout the year. Their goal is to introduce students to the historians’ craft, to create and implement activities that engage our students, and to build camaraderie within the department.

Our first year was a tremendous success thanks to the leadership of our Ambassador team: Jesse Hendler, Vahe Oksazian, Kiana Riles, and Vanessa Sanz. Our Ambassadors planned several events including our “Welcome Workshop,” “The History Bazaar: Is History Bizarre?,” “History Hangout,” and weekly “Study ‘Seshes.”

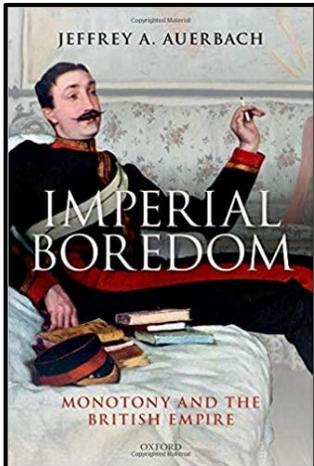
We just welcomed our third team of Student Ambassadors: Gina Alessi, Francisco Bello, La Dawn Butler, Jazz Piatt, and Neal Savage. They are already hard at work planning programs Fall 2020 and Spring 2021.

[Watch YouTube "Fall 2020 Ambassadors Passing the Torch"](#)
to learn more about the accomplishments of our
2019-2020 Ambassadors, and meet this year's Ambassador team!

*Photos from the Department's
History Bazaar, described as a
“speed-dating roundtable of
information, resources, and
opportunities that are at the
disposal of CSUN history students.”*



Faculty Publications

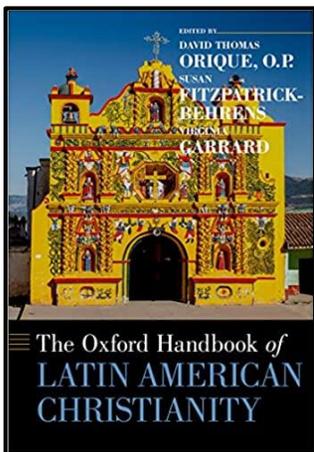


Dr. Jeffrey Auerbach

[Imperial Boredom: Monotony and the British Empire](#) (2018)

Oxford University Press

From Amazon: *Imperial Boredom offers a radical reconsideration of the British Empire during its heyday in the nineteenth century. Challenging the long-established view that the empire was about adventure and excitement, with heroic men and intrepid women eagerly spreading commerce and civilization around the globe, this thoroughly researched, engagingly written, and lavishly illustrated account suggests instead that boredom was central to the experience of empire.*



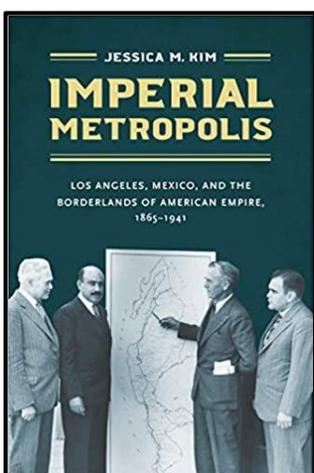
Dr. Susan Fitzpatrick-Behrens (co-editor)

[The Oxford Handbook of Latin American Christianity](#) (2020)

Oxford University Press

From Amazon: *By 2025, Latin America's population of observant Christians will be the largest in the world. Nonetheless, studies examining the exponential growth of global Christianity tend to overlook this region, focusing instead on Africa and Asia. Research on Christianity in Latin America provides a core point of departure for understanding the growth and development of Christianity in the "Global South."*

In The Oxford Handbook of Latin American Christianity an interdisciplinary contingent of scholars examines Latin American Christianity in all of its manifestations from the colonial to the contemporary period. The essays here provide an accessible background to understanding Christianity in Latin America. Spanning the era from indigenous and African-descendant people's conversion to and transformation of Catholicism during the colonial period through the advent of Liberation Theology in the 1960s and conversion to Pentecostalism and Charismatic Catholicism, The Oxford Handbook of Latin American Christianity is the most complete introduction to the history and trajectory of this important area of modern Christianity.



Dr. Jessica Kim

[Imperial Metropolis: Los Angeles, Mexico, and the Borderlands of American Empire, 1865-1941](#) (2019)

University of North Carolina Press

From Amazon: *In this compelling narrative of capitalist development and revolutionary response, Jessica M. Kim reexamines the rise of Los Angeles from a small town to a global city against the backdrop of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands, Gilded Age economics, and American empire. It is a far-reaching transnational history, chronicling how Los Angeles boosters transformed the borderlands through urban and imperial capitalism at the end of the nineteenth century and how the Mexican Revolution redefined those same capitalist networks into the twentieth.*



Dr. Joyce L. Broussard
(1951-2020)

The Department of History, California State University is deeply saddened to announce the death of Dr. Joyce L. Broussard, Professor of History on June 13, 2020. A scholar of the history of US women and Southern history, Dr. Broussard took an indirect route into academia. After working as a film editor, Dr. Broussard returned to school to pursue a more formal education. She received a BA and MA in History from CSUN, and went on to get a Ph.D. from USC. She returned to CSUN as a faculty member, where she taught courses in American history and historical methods for two decades. She was the recipient of the University's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2008. Dr. Broussard was known to her students and colleagues for her clarity of analysis, attention to detail, and sense of humor. Her much-praised 2016 book *Stepping Lively in Place: The Not-Married, Free Women of Civil-War-Era Natchez, Mississippi* was the product of decades of meticulous archival research. She worked with Dr. Ronald L.F. Davis on the Natchez Courthouse Records Project, and on numerous occasions led groups of CSUN students to Natchez to undertake research and learn about the complex history of the American South. A brilliant scholar, committed teacher, caring colleague, and a proud mother and grandmother, Joyce Broussard will be missed by students, faculty, and staff across the University.