DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

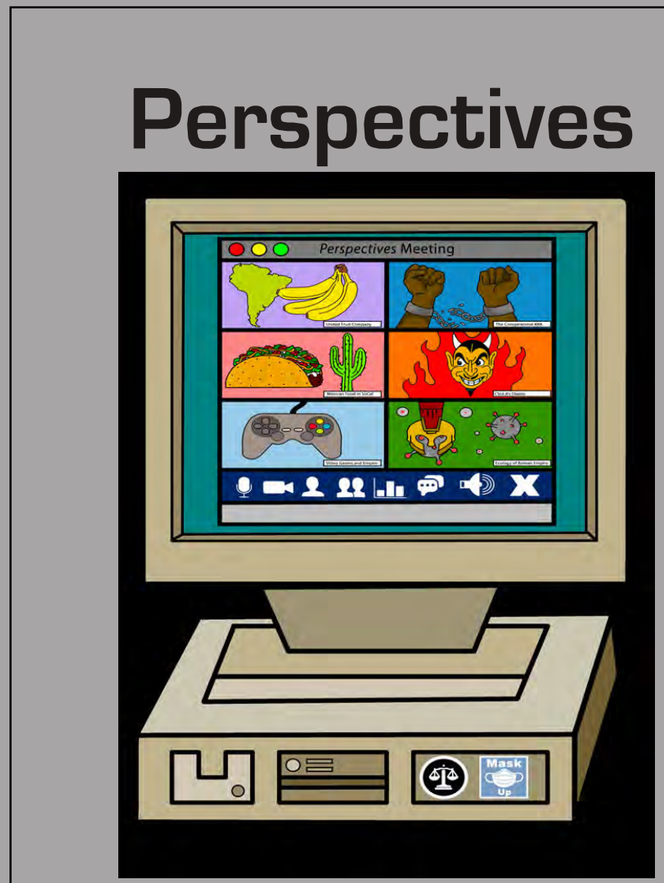
FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

Message from the Department:

After an abnormally dry November, it is finally raining in Los Angeles. The rain seems to be a good omen and I hope that 2022 will bring happiness, fulfillment, and good health to the Cal State LA family. As usual, Fall semester of 2021 went by too fast filled as it was with student workshops, presentations, and digital initiatives. It gives me great pleasure to recount the achievements of our students, faculty, and alumni. My special gratitude to all who make the History Department a very special place. I would like to thank our Department Coordinator, Melody Singleton, for attending to the millions of administrative tasks that need to be completed each semester so that students can complete their degree programs in a timely manner. I also want to acknowledge Pedro Escobar, our former Administrative Staff Assistant for his many contributions to the History Department. Pedro is now a member of the Department of Social Work in Los Angeles County and we wish him much success in his new career. Finally, big thanks to Daniel Bjorklund, our student assistant, who has stepped in to help us out in Pedro's absence.







Perspectives

A Journal of Historical Inquiry

California State University, Los Angeles
Department of History

Volume 48
2021



Students enrolled in History 4970 with Dr. Pfleger in the spring of 2021 have produced and published the 48th issue of ***Perspectives. A Journal of Historical Inquiry. Perspectives*** that is written and edited by students in the History Department and members of the Eta Xi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta at California State University, Los Angeles.
The current issue is available at https://www.calstatela.edu/centers/perspectives/volume-48

We are also very proud that the 47th issue of ***Perspectives. A Journal of Historical Inquiry*** (edited and produced by **Birte Pfleger** and her students in HIST 4970 in the spring of 2020) has been awarded First Place in the 2021 Gerald D. Nash History Graduate Journal competition.

STUDENT NEWS:

Dr. Pfleger convened The Fall 2021 Teaching Symposium on October 28 for students enrolled in HIST 4960, HIST 3085, and members of the Phi Alpha Theta Honors Society. Guest speakers included alumni, Danny Barocio (Woodrow Wilson Middle School (Glendale-GUSD), Diana Hernández (Principal, Cerritos Elementary Computer Science Immersion Magnet), and William Taylor – (Assistant Principal, Hemet High School).
All career workshops are recorded and available on the Perspectives website
https://www.calstatela.edu/centers/perspectives/what-can-history-degree-do-you-21st-century

Graduate Students

Students enrolled in Dr. Kittiya Lee's HIST 5600 (Colonial Latin America) attended the Southwest Seminar, a professional consortium of scholars dedicated to the study of colonial Latin America, with particular interests in innovative research on identity, labor, power, knowledge production, and violence. The seminar aims to foster collegial and convivial interactions among scholars of all levels generating new research and innovative approaches. The annual seminar meetings rotate each year among institutions in the American Southwest.

Mikayla Aron was awarded a scholarship from the CSULA Emeriti Association

Esmeralda Del Rio received a Research Assistantship from the College of Natural and Social Sciences for 2021-2022 for the project: Historical Database of Climate Adapted Agriculture.
https://sites.google.com/view/historical-database-of-climate/home?authuser=0

Christopher Gurrola received a Research Assistantship from the College of Natural and Social Sciences for 2021-2022 for the project: Historical Database of Climate Adapted Agriculture.
https://sites.google.com/view/historical-database-of-climate/home?authuser=0

Fernando Jauregui was awarded a scholarship from the CSULA Emeriti Association

Ariel Xochitl Hernandez defended her MA thesis entitled "We Walk the Streets as Skeletons: Chicanx Death and Dia de los Muertos in Los Angeles." Hearty congratulations to Ariel and her thesis advisor, Dr. Enrique Ochoa.



FACULTY NEWS:

Choi Chatterjee was the recipient of the Cal State LA, President Distinguished Professor Award for 2021-2022. She presented a talk entitled, “Santha Rama Rau’s ‘My Russian Journey’: A Footnote to History?” at the Institute of World Literature (Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia in November 2021).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8OBh9o3rDY&list=PLHh-tsZYpcD--Qo6wyqop4w_0FxsMLGqx&index=24



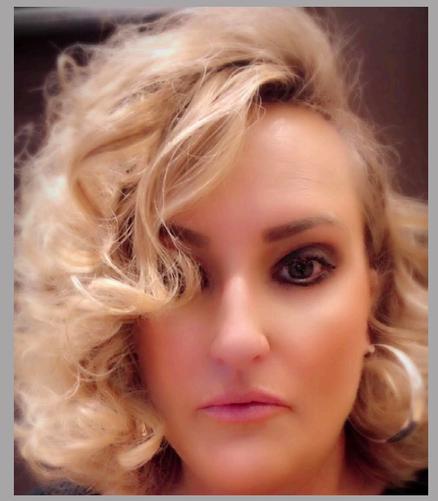
Lani Cupchoy convened a panel Ostros Saberes & the re-imagining of our academic archives featuring student scholarship. She received an award from U.S. Representative Jimmy Gomez in recognition of her project, “Digital Testimonios” Micro-Documentary-Oral History Archive CSULA Special Collections Exhibition that she created in partnership with the JFK Library archivist, Azalea Camacho. Lani was also a panelist for Collecting Testimonios: A Platica with the University Special Collections archivist, Azalea Camacho, and Jorge M. Lea. The event was hosted by the Historical Society of Southern California.



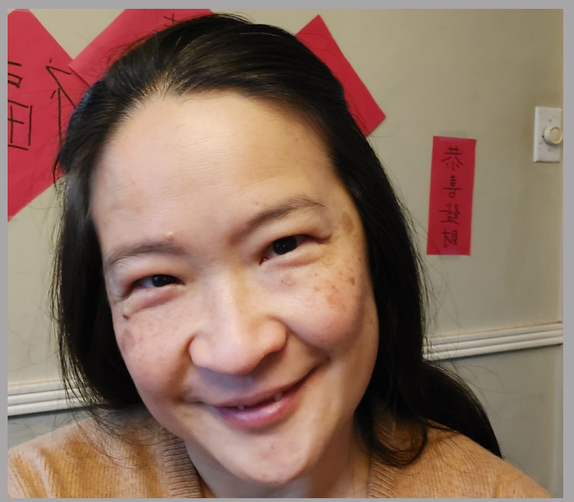
Dan Crecelius, emeritus faculty, was recently inducted into the Hall of Honor at Lutheran High School North in St. Louis in recognition of his distinguished academic career.



Dawn A. Dennis has collaborated with the Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership, Cal State LA Project Rebound, and the Special Collections at the college library to build The Public Memory Project, an online archive that amplifies the voices of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated men and women. This project serves as a foundation for an oral history collection that is focused on the lived experiences of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated men and women through the collection of letters, artwork, and ephemera. Additionally, Dr. Dennis has continued her archival work with the Mervyn M. Dymally collection.



Kittiya Lee was awarded a Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities grant for Spring 2022. She was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Southwest Seminar (2022). Dr. Lee presented a talk entitled, “The Promise of Christianity in Brasílica Devotional Lyrics for the Tupi of Brazil, 1549-1600,” at the 2021 American Society of Ethnohistory, November 10, 2021.



Jorge Munoz has been selected to serve as a peer-resource Big Data mentor by the Dean’s Office and is redesigning an upper-division course for the NSF Big Data grant in Spring 2022. Additionally, Jorge begins his three-year term as a new board member with the Historical Society of Southern California, the oldest historical society in the state.



Sara Pugach was awarded The American Communities Program Bailey Fellowship (spring 2022); the Provost's Fellowship (2021-2022); and the Research Scholarship and Creative Activities grant (spring 2022). She gave a talk entitled "Decolonization of an Academic Heritage: An Exploratory Examination of Berlin's Asian and African Studies," at the Institute for African and Asian Studies and the Humboldt University in Berlin.



Angela Vergara gave a talk entitled "Social and Labor Struggles in Neoliberal Chile" at the University of Richmond, International Education Week, November 2021. She was also invited to present talks on her recently published book, Fighting Unemployment in Twentieth-Century (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2021) at the Labor and Working Class History Association, in Chile, September 2021, the Institute of Historical Research, University of London, October 2021, and the York University, Toronto, November 2021.







Birte Pfleger and **Camille Suarez**, who were part of the 2021-2022 cohort for the Critical Course Redesign for Equity, offered a faculty workshop in the Fall of 2021 on how to redesign the introductory course, HIST 2010 (American History) as an online offering.

Enrique Ochoa has been appointed as the Equity and Diversity Officer for the College of the Natural and the Social Sciences, Cal State LA.

Mark Wild is the faculty coordinator for the Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program for the College of Natural and Social Sciences, Cal State LA.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS:

Ping Yao published a book, Women, Gender, and Sexuality in China: A Brief History (Routledge, 2021), and an article entitled, “Coping with the Loss of a Child: Evidence from Tang Funerary Writing,” Journal of Chinese History, December 2021.

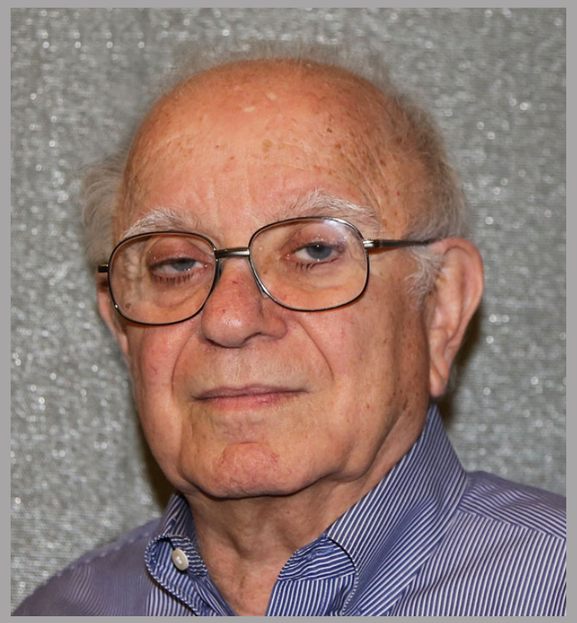


Dan Crecelius’ tribute to the famous Georgian historian and diplomat Gocha Japaridze, with whom he co-authored several articles on Georgian mamluks in Egypt, was published in his memorial edition of Historical Collections 8 (Tiblisi, Georgia, 2021), 31-33.

Kittiya Lee published an article “A tradução de teologias canibais: índios cristãos e comunicantes nas missões jesuíticas da Amazônia setecentista,” Espaços coloniais: domínios, poderes e representações, edited by Carmen Alveal and Thiago Dias (São Paulo: Alameda, 2019).

Angela Vergara published an article, “Georgia Whitaker and Ángela Vergara, “‘To work more, produce more and defend the revolution’: Copper workers from socialism to neoliberalism.” Radical Americas, June 2021.

Stanley Burstein has published two articles, “The African Encounter with Greece,” Acta Classica, 64 (2021): 48-71, and “The Black Sea: An Achaemenid Frontier Zone” in Iran and its Histories: From the Beginnings through the Achaemenid Empire (2021), 169-178.



ALUMNI NEWS:

My community college teaching career began far from where I thought it would; not in a classroom, but in an office as a secretary to an administrator. Eventually, I was offered opportunities to teach, but only in non-credit and grant-funded programs. These courses taught me perhaps more than I taught others, about meeting students at their point of need and interest, being prepared, and being willing. While I learned everything I could about creating an effective syllabus, creating courses in an online platform, and recruiting students to build a program, I also enrolled in and completed the Community College Teaching Certificate offered through Cal State Dominguez Hills. While working as an instructional aide, I returned to school – this time at Cal State LA to complete my MA in history. The summer I completed the program I was hired as a full-time, tenure-track faculty member in the history department at Santa Ana College. After over ten years of winding my way towards this career goal, I am thrilled to be a tenured member of the SAC History Department, where I put into practice all of the skills I've gained over the years. My experience at Cal State LA readied me and made me eligible and competitive in my chosen career teaching history. Thank you Cal State LA History Department!



Megan Lange

In 1997, I returned to CSULA and completed a BS in Criminal Justice (99) and then an MA in History (2004). In 2017, after twenty nine-years, I retired from the Los Angeles Police Department as a Detective III (detective supervisor). I attribute the skills I learned in graduate school to a successful career with the LAPD. I could not have learned such outstanding organizational, analytical, and oratory skills in any other academic field. After retirement, I moved to the high desert where I serve on the board of directors for two historical societies (Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association, and the 29 Palms Historical Society). I am also the Chairperson for the Morongo Basin, Municipal Advisory Council, which is a community advisory group to the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors. I have fond memories of working with and am forever grateful to professors, Dr. Choi Chatterjee and Dr. Eugene Fingerhut. They taught me how to conduct insightful and meaningful historical research.



Steve Reyes

Pedro Quijada (MA, History, 2010) defended his PhD dissertation, "The Forgotten El Salvador: A Study of the Emergence and Downfall of the "Bright Spot" of Central America, 1948-1978," at the University of Minnesota in May 2021.

