DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY



Spring 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT

Heartiest Congratulations to the Class of 2021



It is a privilege and a pleasure to compile our students and faculty's many activities, initiatives, and achievements at the history department. In 2020-21, faculty members inaugurated three sets of thoughtfully designed workshops to enhance our students' success and alert them to the educational and employment opportunities that await them once they graduate. These include workshops on research presentations, doctoral

applications, and employment opportunities. The fruits of our faculty labor are listed in the student news section.

Message from Professor Kittiya Lee: Research Presentation Workshops

In the Fall of 2020 and Spring of 2021, I offered a series of research presentation workshops to prepare advanced undergraduate and graduate students to present their research at Cal State LA and other regional, national, and international conferences. The first workshop introduced students to consider participation at conference events as a core part of their educational experience. The second workshop helped students with the process of applying for research conferences, writing abstracts, and seeking funding for conference participation. A third workshop targeted successful applicants and offered them professional training in addressing the structure and formats for conference presentations, and adding audio and visual aids. In the final workshop, participants practiced delivering their talks, learned how to manage audio/video aids, and acquired the art of responding to questions from the audience. I also held numerous individual sessions with our students to help prepare them for conferences.



Message from Professor Enrique Ochoa: Doctoral Application Working Group

In the Summer and Fall of 2020, we established the Doctoral Application Working Group for history, Latin American studies, and other students planning to apply for doctoral study. As years of research demonstrates, working-class and students of color often have little experience and knowledge of the opportunities involved in graduate study. Through our working group, students learn about doctoral study, hear from alumni currently in doctoral programs and professors at Ph.D. granting institutions. In addition, we collectively work through the application process and provide workshops on CV writing, reaching out to potential mentors, conference presentations, statement of purpose writing, and preparing writing samples. Convened and organized by Enrique Ochoa with the collaboration of Professor Afshin Matin-asgari, weekly sessions were attended by approximately 12 students and alumni. Each workshop session focused on a particular theme and provided space for students to brainstorm together, read each other's work, and build community.



Message from Professor Birte Pfleger: Employment and Internship Workshops

Sponsored by ASI, Phi Alpha Theta has hosted four virtual career workshops in the Spring 2021 semester. Sixteen history alumni shared their pathways towards exciting careers at archives and local museums, community colleges, private and public high schools, libraries, as well as non-profits and international corporations. The takeaways from all presenters were to seek out volunteer opportunities, internships, and to stay in touch with fellow students and faculty. They urged students to get involved in the department beyond the traditional classroom: join Phi Alpha Theta, become a peer mentor, look for graduate assistantships, enroll in HIST 4970 to edit *Perspectives*, submit your research paper to the journal, and find out how to present your work at conferences. We are thrilled to draw on the successes of our alumni who transformed their history degrees into marketable skills.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Graduate Students

Brittani Alberto published a book review of John Putnam, *Boosting a New West: Pacific Coast Expositions, 1905-1916*. Pullman: Washington State University Press, 2020.

Nicole Aros is the co-creator of the digital art exhibition "A Hundred Years of Earthquakes in Los Angeles."

Mikayla Aron received the Monica Taylor Memorial Scholarship that is awarded to an outstanding history department undergraduate or graduate student who has overcome significant obstacles in their pursuit of a college education and has excelled academically. Aron presented at Significations 2021 Narrative Webs: Reclamation, Restoration, Access & Healing, Cal State LA, March 20, 2021. Her conference paper abstract will be published.

Diane Buendia received the Eugene Fingerhut Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in the history department.

Christopher Empett received the Nels Andrew Cleven Founder's Prize by the American Historical Association for his essay, "Presidential Manhood: Roosevelt, Hoover, and Gendered Language in the 1932 Presidential Election" published in *Perspectives: A Journal of Historical* Inquiry, vol. 47 (2020).

Chris Fennessy received the Department of History Outstanding Graduate Student Award for 2020-2021. He was also awarded the Outstanding Oral Presentation at the 29th Annual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities at Cal State LA on March 12, 2021. He was selected as a Cal State LA delegate to the state-wide competition, CSU Student Research Competition (CSU SRC) on May 1, 2021, and competed in the CSU Grand Slam 2021 in May 2021. Fennessy will also present his research at the upcoming meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, August 2021. He received a scholarship from the Los Angeles City Historical Society for his research paper entitled, "The Most Amazing Chapter in the Southland's History": Mythmaking and Boosterism in the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics." Finally, he has been employed as an adjunct faculty member at Occidental College since Spring 2021.

Dana Gibson received the Woessner Award for students who have overcome both financial and additional hardships and achieved academic distinction in the history department.

Ariel Xochitl Hernandez received a scholarship from the Los Angeles City Historical Society for her forthcoming MA thesis entitled "We Walk the Streets as Skeletons: Chicanx Death and Dia de los Muertos in Los Angeles."

Fernando Jauregui received the Eugene Fingerhut Award for the Outstanding Graduate Student in the history department. Jauregui presented at the 29th Annual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities, Zoom Meeting hosted by Cal State LA, on March 12, 2021. He presented at the 33rd Annual Graduate History Forum, Zoom Meeting hosted by the University of North Carolina-Charlotte on March 20, 2021. He also presented at Significations 2021 Conference, Narrative Webs: Reclamation, Restoration, Access &

Healing, Zoom Meeting on March 20, 2021. His conference paper abstract will be published. His other presentations include at the SSRIC 46th Annual Social Science Student Symposium on Thursday, May 6, 2021, and at the Gender, Sexuality, and Power Student Research Conference in May 2021. Jauregui will present his research at the upcoming meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association in August 2021.

Tyler Lyon received the Mike Kimmel Award for Outstanding Returning Student in the history department.

Jewelyn Mims will present her research at the upcoming meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association in August 2021. She is a co-creator of the digital art exhibition"A Hundred Years of Earthquakes in Los Angeles."

Jan Olsar received the Mike Kimmel Award for Outstanding Returning Student in the history department. Olsar was awarded the Outstanding Oral Presentation at the 29th Annual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities at Cal State LA on March 12, 2021. Olsar represented Cal State LA at the state-wide CSU Student Research Competition (CSU SRC) onMay 1, 2021.

Moises Ponce-Zepeda received the Eugene Fingerhut Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in the history department. Ponce-Zepeda presented his talk, "Unapologetically Left: Temple-Beaudry Community Activism 1970-1990" at the Los Angeles Historical Society webinar - LACHS – Scholarship Presentations – Part 1. He will be joining the doctoral program in history at the University of Southern California in the Fall of 2021.

Cristian Ramirez presented his research at the 29th Annual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities at Cal State LA on March 12, 2021. Ramirez was the alternate delegate to the CSU Student Research Competition (CSU RSC) in 2021. Ramirez was presented at the 19th Annual International Conference on History & Archaeology: From Ancient to Modern, and was the Cal State LA alternate delegate to the CSU RSCA in 2021. Ramirez will be joining the doctoral program in anthropology at Indiana University, Bloomington.

Sania Shahid presented her research at the Gender, Sexuality, and Power Student Research Conference at Cal State LA in May 2021.

Daniel Wurangian received the Woessner Award for students who have overcome both financial and additional hardships and achieved academic distinction in the history department.

Undergraduates

Meagan Amaral presented her talk at the Gender, Sexuality, and Power Student Research Conference at Cal State LA in May 2021.

Abigail Calderon presented her talk, "Eradicating History or Embracing Change: The Debate About Renaming Streets to Cesar E. Chavez Ave. in East Los Angeles in the 1990s" at the Los Angeles Historical Society webinar - LACHS – Scholarship Presentations – Part 1. Calderon will be joining the doctoral program in history at Yale in the fall.

Gloria Cheung presented her talk, "Pleistocene Park: The Return of the Ice Age" at a special session of the annual meeting of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies in November 2020.

Belyn Peters presented her talk, “The Writers of the Afro-Asian Writers’ Association” at a special session of the annual meeting of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies in November 2020.

Steven Reyes was awarded the Outstanding Oral Presentation at the 29th Annual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities at Cal State LA on March 12, 2021. Reyes was the Cal State LA alternate delegate to the CSU Student Research Competition (CSU RSC) in 2021.

In addition**, Meagan Amaral**, **Abigail Calderon**, **Katherine Lainez**, and **Steve Reyes** have been recognized as the Outstanding Undergraduate Students of the history department in 2020-21.

ALUMNI NEWS

*Note from alum, **Eric Barnett** (M.A., 2019)**,** about his digital history initiative for educators and students.*

History Behind the Games Youtube Channel



I love to play video games and I found that many of my peers and students enjoy them as well. But I noticed that many games use historical inspiration to develop their stories and characters. I began to create videos that took the games and explored the history behind their inspiration, hence the name of the channel. I intended this to help teach people about the

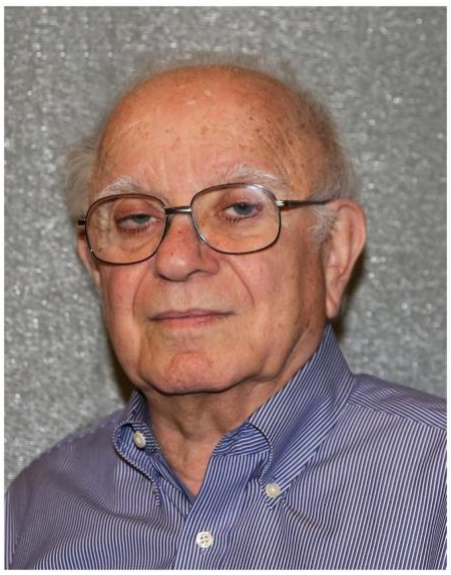
historical references they experienced in popular games. But it has changed over the years. I went from speaking about specific games to general history using video games to help express the information. Along with game footage, I use historical pictures or create my own. It is a niche audience, but growing. All videos have a historical focus and are a wonderful resource for educators.

Made Simple Series Youtube Channel

Many people want to learn more about the world around them, but sometimes complex information can lose people who are just beginners. My idea for the channel was inspired by Bill Nye the Science Guy series when I was a child, taking complex information and breaking it down into simple, and easy-to-understand explanations. My first two areas of focus are climate science and economics, and hoping to expand in the future. I use short, simple videos to explain individual parts and concepts of these subjects. This is a great resource for teachers or anyone looking to expand their understanding of economics and climate change.

FACULTY NEWS

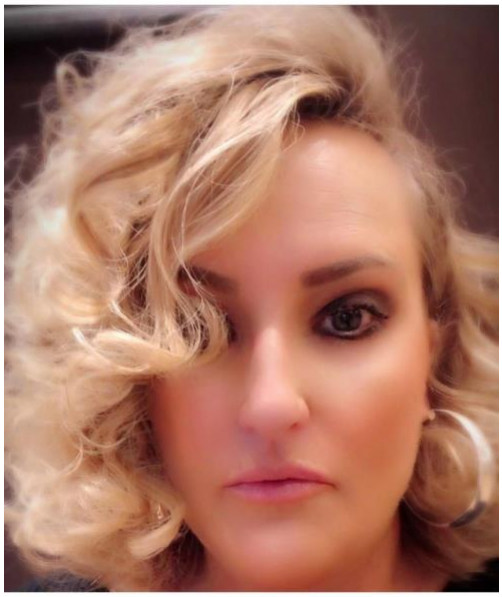
World History Connected recently published an interview with **Stanley Burstein** about his prodigious scholarship. To see the full transcript of the interview, click here.



Lani Cupchoy will be creating a Special Collections Digital Exhibition and archive entitled "Digital Testimonios - Oral History Project" featuring micro-documentaries created-published by our students. The collection will be permanently housed in the Special Collections repository at the JFK Library. Cupchoy will be working on this project throughout the summer of 2020 in archiving the Testimonios collected from her classes in the spring semester. The archive will be augmented by new micro-docs that students will generate in her courses each semester.



Dawn Dennis organized a virtual event in connection with the important work that she has been doing in processing the Mervyn Dymally archives. According to Dennis "the virtual exhibit that opened in March 2021 highlighted Mervyn Dymally's deep commitment to human rights and advocacy for marginalized people; and we focused on a couple of major themes, including education, healthcare, and mass incarceration. The letters written to Dymally from incarcerated people that appeared in this exhibit revealed the necessity to preserve stories of our most marginalized community behind bars. Working with Project Rebound and the college archives, we are now building an oral history archive that will preserve these stories of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated men and women. This project was made possible with the support of California Humanities, a nonprofit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Chris Endy and **Ping Yao** have been awarded a Teagle Grant to introduce principles and methodologies of Digital History into the history undergraduate curriculum.



Eileen Ford was interviewed about her recent monograph, *Childhood and Modernity in Cold War Mexico City*: New York: Bloomsbury, 2019, by Antoinette Burton, esteemed historian of the British Empire, and the Maybelle Leland Swanlund Endowed Chair in the history department at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign. Please visit the history department YouTube channel to listen to the podcast.



Jorge Munoz (Religious Studies) was interviewed by the CSU Chancellor's Office about the big data program and NSS 1001. Munoz was also selected as a Community Scholar for the NSS Big Data course redesign cohort in Spring 2021 that was led by Dawn Dennis.



Tim Paynich is the Campus Coordinator for a major national initiative to improve the participation of historically underrepresented groups in the field of Russian Studies. In Paynich's own words, "Last fall the U.S. Russia Foundation-Howard University Mentorship Program sponsored the creation of a "Think Tank" and Cybersecurity simulation for undergraduate students. Guided in their research by scholars throughout the country, the 40 select participants were joined by two Cal State LA history department students, Belyn Peters and Gloria Cheung. Peters and Cheung presented their projects at the annual meeting of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies in November and their research will be uploaded onto a permanent digital platform at Howard University. The program will continue in 2021, with students further developing skills in the digital humanities and expanding their professional networks."



Sara Pugach gave a talk at a panel about German Colonialism and its Aftermaths, held by the Wiener Holocaust Library in London, May 6, 2020.





Camille Suarez gave a talk entitled "What is Environmental History: The Colombian Exchange," to the History Department Environmental Reading Group of which she is a co-coordinator.



Eileen Ford and **Enrique Ochoa** organized a virtual panel to commemorate the publication of **Angela Vergara's** new book, *Fighting Unemployment in Twentieth Century Chile*. Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh University Press, 2021.



Lamont Yeakey organized a panel for Black History Month on 24th February 2021 entitled "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr: Lessons Learned and Not Learned," for the College of the Natural and Social Sciences. The speakers included Reverend James Lawson, Paraska Tolan, Ph.D., and Lamont Yeakey, Ph.D.

Eileen Ford and **Choi Chatterjee** organized the launch of a digital art exhibition "A Hundred Years of Earthquakes in Los Angeles," in the fall semester of 2020.

The history department journal, ***Perspectives. A Journal of Historical Inquiry*** (edited and produced by **Birte Pfleger** and her students in HIST 4970) has been awarded Third Place in the 2020 Gerald D. Nash History Graduate Journal competition.

Birte Pfleger and Camille Suarez have been selected to be a part of the 2021-2022 cohort for the Critical Course Redesign for Equity - one component of Cal State LA's *Éxito! Building Student Support and Faculty Quality* program.

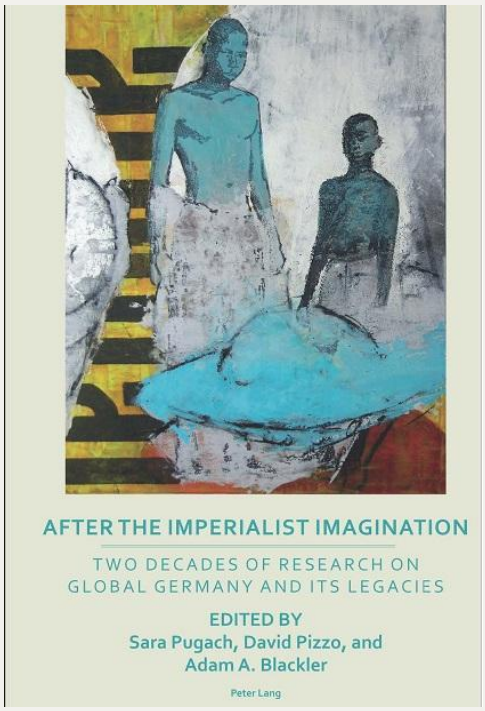
Angela Vergara has been elected to the Executive Council of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA)

Publications

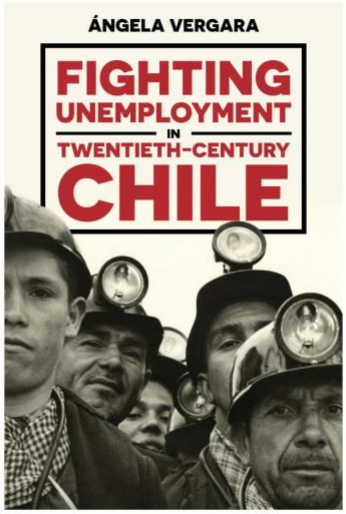


Afshin Matin-asgari, "Intellectual Statesmen and the Making of Iran's Illiberal Nation-State (1921–1926)," in Ramin Jahanbegloo, ed. *Mapping the Role of Intellectuals in Iranian Modern and Contemporary History* (New York: Lexington Books, 2020): 191-216.

Sara Pugach, David Pizzo, and Adam A. Blackler edited, *After the Imperialist Imagination. Two Decades of Research on Global Germany and its Legacies.* New York: Peter Lang, 2020.



Angela Vergara, *Fighting Unemployment in Twentieth-Century Chile*. Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh University Press, 2021



The Chinese edition of **Ping Yao's** coedited book (with Patricia Ebrey and Cong Zhang), *Chinese Funerary Biographies: An Anthology of Remembered Lives,* was published by Shanghai Classics Publishing House in January 2021.



Jorge Munoz and **Dawn Dennis** published an op-ed about the siege at the Capitol on 6 January 2021.

Other News

John M. Allswang died at the age of 84 on April 8, 2021, at the UCLA Medical Center after a brief illness. He received his Ph.D. in 1967 at the University of Pittsburgh, where he studied under the pioneering urban historian, Samuel Hays. He joined the history department at Cal State LA in 1968, where he taught twentieth-century U.S. History until his retirement in 2000 with the exception of visiting professorships at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. He also ably guided the department as chair during the severe recession years of 1992 to 1995.

Allswang was an outstanding scholar, writing numerous articles and eight books. He was a proud Chicagoan, and four of his books were important contributions to scholarship on the complex ethnic and machine politics of his hometown: *A House for All Peoples: Ethnic Politics in Chicago 1890-1936; The Political Behavior of Chicago's Ethnic Groups, 1918-1932; The New Deal and American Politics: A Study in Political Change; Bosses, Machines & Urban Voters,* and *An American Symbiosis*. Late in his career, he turned to the study of the politics of his adopted state of California and produced two studies of its unique Progressive legacy of direct democracy: *California Initiatives and Referendums, 1912-1990: A Survey and Guide to Research;* and *The Initiative and Referendum in California, 1898-1998*. John also early recognized the potential contribution of personal computing to American life and wrote two well-received computer manuals: *Macintosh: The Definitive User's Guide;* and *A Physician's Guide to Computers and Computing*.

"John was a many-sided person. A strong supporter of liberal causes, he frequently contributed vigorous op-ed pieces to the LA Times. He also had a sharp and original

sense of humor as those who had the privilege of being the subject of one of his signature roasts at a department party well knew. Most of all, however, he loved good company, good food, and travel, particularly to France, with Suzanne, his beloved wife of 57 years, and his daughters, Yael and Eden."

Stanley M. Burstein (Emerius, Cal State LA)

"Dr. John Allswang was my teacher. He helped shape my future and my direction as a history major at Cal State LA. I entered the program in the 1980s and he quickly became my favorite professor. I sat in the front, in the middle, and eagerly attended to his lectures and his readings. The day I received the email from John Donovan was one of coincidence or serendipity - I was tutoring a high school student through Zoom in AP European History and my student was asking about Wilson and the Treaty of Versailles – and as I discussed Wilson's 14 Points in detail and elaborated on the various personal and political stories associated with the Conference and President Wilson, the things which make history come alive, professor Allswang was running through my mind the whole time. He taught me what was important about that period in particular but also about history in general, and his wisdom is a source of delight to this day. Besides listening to his wonderful lectures, we had coffee in his office, he told me about his interviews for NPR, and he was unfailingly warm, gracious, and intimidatingly knowledgeable! I have been a history teacher since 1985. I will never forget Dr. Allswang. My heart goes out to his family. He made a difference in this crazy world."

Michael Haussler, (CCOE, Cal State LA)

"I remember John Allswang's Ethnic History lectures from the late 60s. He was always intense and thorough. Over the decades, I made extensive use of his first book on Chicago and used one of his later books several times as class assignments. I hope that he had a fulfilling retirement."

Tom Jablonsky (Marquette University)



Suzanne Ledeboer (1935-2020), one of our master's students, died on November 30, 2021. Like many, her family had the good sense to migrate to California: Ledeboer said she preferred being "poor and warm" in California to being "poor and cold" in Michigan. After taking classes at Pasadena City College (PCC), she transferred to Cal State LA. During her first term, she had classes with professors John Allswang, Hugh Bonar, and Ken Pratt. She came to love the department and served as president of the Phi Alpha Theta chapter. She wrote a paper on the internment of the Japanese-Americans during the Second World War which was printed in *Perspectives*. She took her master's comprehensive exams with Milton Meyer, Marty Schiesl, and Carol Srole. After graduating, she taught at PCC and Woodbury University but then took a job teaching English in Japan. In Japan, she was able to visit with a friend Rebecca Calman, who also taught English after finishing a master's degree in history at Cal State LA. She retired to San Diego and contributed to the *Journal of San Diego History*. She is survived by her son Bill and her daughter Laura.

By John Donovan, history department, Cal State LA

Give today to support the Department of History at Cal State LA