CAL STATE LA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

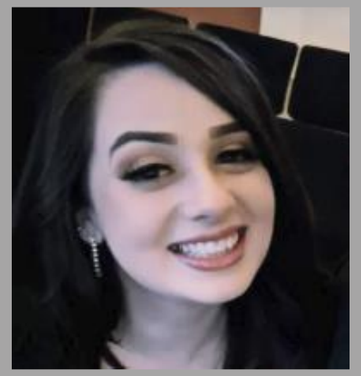
SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT:

On May 21, 2022, we held the History Department Banquet to celebrate our outstanding students, graduates, and welcome new initiates into the Phi Alpha Theta Honors Society. We were very grateful to be back together in person in the beautiful courtyard of the JFK Library Community Room after a long hiatus of two years. Dr. Birte Pfleger used the occasion to launch the 49th issue of Perspectives. A Journal of Historical Inquiry. Students enrolled in History 4970 with Dr. Birte Pfleger in the spring of 2022 produced and published Perspectives. The journal 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-49



DEPARTMENT NEWS:



We welcome Priscilla Segura as the new Administrative Support Assistant II in the History Department. Priscilla received her BA in history from CSU. San Bernadino in 2021.



Melody Singleton History, Department Coordinator

The Department has been very busy during the spring semester, and we have hosted a variety of scholarly events.

Dr. Bruce Grant (Chair, Department of Anthropology, NYU) visited Cal State LA and gave a talk entitled, Humor, Satire, and subversion in the Russian Empire on 14 April 2022. The event was co-sponsored by the American Communities Program.

Dr. Dawn Dennis convened an online symposium on 3 March 2022, “Identity, Contested Boundaries, and the Legacy of the Cold War in Ukraine with speakers Dr. Chris Endy, Dr. Timothy Paynich, and Dr. Choi Chatterjee. The event can be viewed on the department’s YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZM4MXxHeWM&t=4s

Dr. Afshin Matin-Asgari gave a talk to the History Department in commemoration of International Women’s Day, 8 March 2022. The talk was entitled “Fatemeh Sayyah in Twentieth-Century Iran “Scholar, Public Intellectual, and Women’s Rights Advocate.”

Dr. Kittiya Lee and Dr. Juily Phun (Asian and Asian-American Studies) organized an online celebration on 5 April 2022 of Dr. Ping Yao’s most recent book, Women, Gender, and Sexuality in China: A Brief History (Routledge, 2021). The event can be viewed on the department’s YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWPtOqX-dvE&t=21s

Dr. Tim Doran hosted a zoom event on 20 May 2022 where emeritus faculty Dr. Stan Burstein gave a talk entitled “Africa Meets Greece: The Case of Kush”

Phi Alpha Theta and Team Perspectives organized a virtual conference in April 2022 with student presenters Ana Galvan, Chris Gurrola, and Tyler Lyon, entitled, Love, Land, and Leisure https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5U3IoqNQdg&list=UU-_rLr2xkVGx5XfZf6u-usQ



Dr. Bruce Grant with MA students Andrea Mansoorian and Chris Gurrola

STUDENT NEWS:

Graduate Students:

Maria Esters Ivy has been recognized as the Outstanding Graduate Student in the College of Natural and Social Sciences for the academic year 2021-2022.

Jerry Cisneros has received the Los Angeles County Historical Society scholarship for his essay, “Shared Experiences and Regional Kinship Webs: Mid-Twentieth Century New Mexico, México, and Los Angeles.”

Christopher Empett has received the Los Angeles County Historical Society scholarship for his essay: "It's Complicated: Cross Purpose Politics and Reassessing Community in New Deal Era Whittier."

Tyler Lyon received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the History Department for the academic year of 2021-2022 for his scholarly achievements and his generosity of spirit.

Andrea Mansoorian received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the History Department for the academic year of 2021-2022. She served as the President of the Phi Alpha Theta Honors Society for the same year. Andrea is currently completing an internship at the Wende Museum, Los Angeles.

Undergraduates:

Hazel Urbina-Carias was recognized as the Outstanding Undergraduate Student of the History Department for the academic year 2021-2022. She appeared on the Grad School Femtoring Podcast available at this link. https://gradschoolfemtoring.com/episodes/131/

Martin Marquez Canela was recognized as the Outstanding Undergraduate Student of the History Department for the academic year 2021-2022.

The following students received the History Department Awards for the academic year 2021-2022.

Eugene Fingerhut Award
Chris Gurrola
Maria Ivy Esters

Mike Kimmel Award
Dylan Williams
Grikor Geysimonian

David Woessner Award
Eric Bagramyan
Ashley Gregory

Monica Taylor Award
Esmeralda Del Rio
Maria Nolasco
Leslie Perez

Howard Starrett Memorial Fellowship
Jeanette Calderón
Joshua Valadez
Carla Perez
Yarisel Ocampo
Kazzandra Gallegos
Valeria Parada
Jaqueline Gonzalez

Butrus Abd al-Malik Scholarship
Henry Barrera Perez

Hugh Bonar Scholarship
Diana Buendía

David and Mrs. David Miller Scholarship
Ricardo García
Cristina Esquivel

STUDENT RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS:

The following students presented their research at conferences this year. A big shout out to Dr. Kittiya Lee for mentoring the students and offering workshops where students hone their skills of elocution and public presentation.

Diana Buendia, MA, History

- "Ecological Grandeza: Guayaquil and Entangled Knowledge Systems" 30th Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities, CSULA, Zoom Meetings, March 3, 2022.
- "Ecological Grandeza: Guayaquil and the Entangled Systems of Development," *Significations* (Cal State Department of English Conference), Zoom Meetings, April 2, 2022.
- "Many Men: The Appeal of Brockhampton," Museum of Pop: Pop Conference, September 2020.

Michelle Carballo, MA, LAS

- "An early modern American story: Is there only one way to be a winner?" 30th Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities, Zoom/CSULA, March 3, 2022
- "An early modern American story: Is there only one way to be a winner?" state delegate to the CSU Student Research Competition, April 30, 2022.

Esmeralda Del Rio, MA, History

- "18th Century Spanish Travelogues: Miguel Costanso." 30th Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities, Zoom/CSULA, March 3, 2022
- "18th Century Spanish Travelogues: Miguel Costanso." Southern California Agroecology and Sustainable Urban Food Systems Education and Research Conference, CSU Fullerton, April 7, 2022.

Christopher Gurrola, MA, History

- Indigenous Encounters in 18th Century California: Spanish Travel Literature of Pedro Fages. 30th Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities, Zoom/CSULA, March 3, 2022
- "Non-Hegemonic Gender and Sexuality Activism in Modern China" at the Perspectives Conference, Phi Alpha Theta/History, Zoom, April 2022 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5U3IoqNQdg&list=UU-_rLr2xkVGx5XfZf6u-usQ
- Indigenous Encounters in 18th Century California: Spanish Travel Literature of Pedro Fages. Southern California Agroecology and Sustainable Urban Food Systems Education and Research Conference, CSU Fullerton, April 7, 2022.

Fernando Jauregui, MA, History

- "The Tears of the Last Frontier: Cauim, Gender, Tupinambá Burials and Funerals in Sixteenth-Century Brazil," Panel: "Humanities and Letters," 30th Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity, Zoom/ CSULA, March 18, 2022.
- "The Liquid of Transformation: Cauim, Shamans, Tupinambá in Sixteenth-Century Brazil," Panel: "FLUX," Significations, Zoom/CSULA, April 2, 2022.
- "The Agent of Transformation: Cauim and Tupinambá Women in Sixteenth-Century Brazil," Panel 3: Women's Spaces and Places, Zoom/Women's and Gender History Symposium University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, April 9, 2022.
- "The Agent of Transformation: Tupinambá Women and Cauim in Sixteenth-Century Brazil," Zoom/47th Annual CSU, SSRIC Social Science Student Symposium, May 5, 2022.
- Conference paper submitted to Center for Studies in Genders and Sexualities, CSULA, May 2022.

Tyler Lyon, MA, History

- "California Agriculture and Mining," Perspectives Conference, Phi Alpha Theta/History, Zoom, April 2022 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5U3IoqNQdg&list=UU-_rLr2xkVGx5XfZf6u-usQ

Jerry Sisneros, MA, History

- "Shared Experiences and Regional Kinship Webs: Mid-Twentieth Century New Mexico, México, and Los Angeles," presented at the 30th Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities, Zoom/CSULA, March 3, 2022
- Panel on "Moving Bodies: Placement, Replacement, and Displacement," History Graduate Association's Conference for Graduate Scholarship on Power, Adversity, and Networks at the University of Arizona, April 9, 2022
- Perspectives Conference, Phi Alpha Theta/History, Zoom/CSULA, April 27, 2022
- University of California, Irvine, April 29, 2022

Sania Shahid, MA, History

"Green Spaces in Los Angeles" at the NSS symposium, *Geospatial Dialogue: Big Data In Our Natural and Human Environments*, 21-22 April 2022.

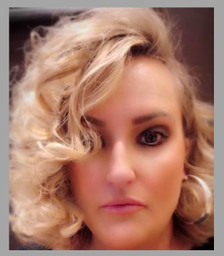
Ana Galvan, BA, History

"American Feminist Fashion in the Twentieth Century," Perspectives Conference, Phi Alpha Theta/History, Zoom, April 2022

FACULTY NEWS:



Dr. Francisco Balderama, emeritus faculty, received the 2021 James V Mink Award from the Southwest Oral History Association “For Outstanding Oral History Contributions to Mexican American History: Advocate, Researcher, Writer, Educator." A synopsis of his acceptance speech appeared in the Southwest Oral History Newsletter of Fall/Winter 2021. Dr. Balderrama continues to share his research on the Mexican Community in the United States during the Great Depression with various organizations and institutions. His recent presentations have been delivered at the National Holocaust Memorial Museum of Washington, D.C., and the Fromm Institute at the University of San Francisco. Dr. Balderrama was interviewed about his views on President Herbert Hoover for the forthcoming History Channel Presidential Series sponsored by the Clinton Foundation.





Dr. Dawn Dennis and colleague, Dr. Jorge Munoz provided virtual space for faculty and students in the master's program to discuss post covid pedagogy and necessary changes at a Dead Hour dialogue on 19 April 2022. Dr. Dennis also collaborated with Dr. Sara Pugach, Azalea Camacho, and Kendall Faulkner from the college library to facilitate an impactful community-centered dialogue on the work of Mervyn M. Dymally. Sponsored by the American Communities Program, and building from the Cal Humanities grant-funded exhibition, Resistance & Empowerment Through the Work of Mervyn M. Dymally focused on student work in the archives, the creation of a K-12 lesson plan with the Education Department at the Autry Museum, and a new installation created by project archivist Jocelyn Acosta. Three students, Eric Bagramyan, Rigoberto Garcia, and Daniel Andalon spoke about their work as student curators for the virtual exhibition, Mervyn M. Dymally Bridgebuilder of Los Angeles. Rigoberto and Daniel were recently accepted into the MA program in Latin American Studies. On a personal note, Daniel's father and I were on campus at Cal State Northridge in September 1996 when a debate between former Ku Klux Klan grand wizard David Duke and Joe Hicks, of the Southern Poverty Law Center, was disrupted by student and community protests.



Dr. Eileen Ford received the Provost’s Faculty Fellow award for 2022-2022 for her research on labor and leisure in Southern California in the early twentieth century.



Dr. Enrique Ochoa received the Faculty Mentor Award for College of the Natural and Social Sciences, Division on Graduate Studies, Cal State LA (2021-2022) and was a Cal State LA Nominee for the Wang Family Excellence Award for Outstanding Faculty Teaching during the same year. He gave several presentations and talks including “Una Nueva Consciencia libertaria:” Arnaldo Orfila Reynal, Radical Publishing, and Liberation Struggles in Latin Americas during the 1960s,” at The Latin American Studies Association’s Annual Meeting (May 5, 2022), and “Gente de Maíz, People of Tortillas: Food, Gender, and Resistance,” Sacramento State University Festival of the Arts (April 19, 2022).



Dr. Sara Pugach received the DAAD Re-invitation Grant for Summer 2022, to be used for research in Germany. She will be presenting a talk entitled, “Negotiating solidarity:

Cameroonian students as mediators between the German Democratic Republic and the Union des Populations du Cameroun, 1958-1967’ at the “Comparing cultures of solidarity: socialist internationalism and solidarity across the Eastern Bloc and beyond” Workshop at the University of Cambridge, June 20-21, 2022.

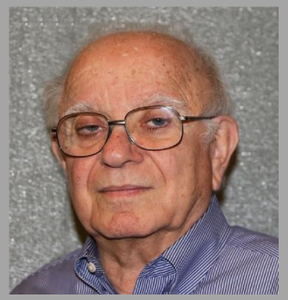


Dr. Pfleger has received a university sabbatical for the fall semester of 2022. She presented a talk “Forgive or Forget? The Case of Kurt Molzahn, a German Pastor and Convicted Nazi Spy at the American Communities Program Symposium at Cal State LA in April 2022.



Dr. Angela Vergara received a Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Award as the Provost’s Faculty Fellow award for 2022-2022 for her research on comparative welfare systems in the twentieth century.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS:



Dr. Stan Burstein, emeritus faculty, has published The Essential Greek Historians (Hackett 2022). Also, a German translation of his book The World from 1000 BCE to 300 CE has appeared under the title: Antike Global: Die Welt von 1000 v. Chr. bis 300 n. Chr. (Wissenschaftliche Buchgesllschaft 2022).



Choi Chatterjee has published, Russia in World History: A Transnational Approach (London: Bloomsbury Press, 2022)



G. L. Ochoa and E. C. Ochoa has published, “Framing and Containing Ethnic Studies in Southern California Schools: Between Add-on, Power-Evasive Programs and Transformational Intersectional Ethnic Studies” in Race Frames in Education: Structuring Inequality and Opportunity in a Changing Society, S. Rodríguez and G. Conchas eds. (Teacher’s College Press, 2022).



Ángela Vergara has published, “Trabajadores Pobres e informales”: Economistas, Organismos Internacionales y El Mundo Del Trabajo en América Latina (1960-1980)». Revista Latinoamericana De Trabajo Y Trabajadores, no. 4 (2022):1-25. https://revista.redlatt.org/revlatt/article/view/57. Also, Ángela Vergara’s first monograph has been translated into Spanish: Por la dignidad nacional. La lucha entre trabajadores, capital extranjero, y Estado en la Gran Minería del Cobre (Potrerillos y El Salvador 1945-1973) (Valparaíso, Chile: America en Movimiento, 2021)

ALUMNI NEWS:



Ryan Allen (M.A., History, 2014, Ph.D., University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2021) has accepted a position as an Assistant Instructional Professor in the Social Sciences Core at the University of Chicago. Beginning in September, he will teach seminar-style courses on the history of social and political theory from the seventeenth century onward. Through the study of thinkers such as Jean-Jacques Rousseau, W. E. B. Du Bois and Simone de Beauvoir, his courses will help students think creatively about matters of freedom and equality in modern life.



Citlalli Citlalmina Anahuac (M.A., History, 2019) recently published Don't Call Me Latina: Notes from a Decolonizing Mexicana: Reclaiming everything that is ours (2022), a compilation of photos, poetry, and historical research.



Katie Literte (M.A., History, 2020) has been accepted into the doctoral program in History at UC, Irvine and UC, Riverside.



Jafet Rodriguez (M.A., History, 2020) has been accepted into the doctoral program in History at UC, Irvine.

Courtenay Raia (M.A., History, 1997, and Ph.D., UCLA, has published a historical monograph The New Prometheans: Faith, Science, and the Supernatural Mind in the Victorian Fin de Siècle (University of Chicago Press, 2019).

Jimmy Del Río Cabral defended his Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Oklahoma. Hi, area of research is the regional/environmental history of the impact of the 1960 earthquake on Valdivia, Chile.



Miguel Arriola (MA History, 2020) authored this perceptive essay on the Russian-Ukrainian War.

The origins and conduct of the Russian war in Ukraine are being hotly disputed as people die amid a miasma of multi-directional propaganda. The two major opposing camps are the liberal interventionist/humanitarian group composed primarily of the United States and the European Union focusing on socio-political values, and the realist view of international power politics exemplified in *realpolitik*. The former relies on an ideological understanding of what the world is and should be. The latter is based on geopolitical facts on the ground, diplomatic agreements, official statements, and a chronological record of international relations.

The liberal view is readily available in all manner of discourse primarily in the US and Europe. Speeches and statements by officials including Under Secretary of State, Victoria Nuland, Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, National Security Advisor, Jake Sullivan, and Hillary Clinton, posit that Vladimir Putin is directly culpable for the war and intends to recreate the Soviet Union or interchangeably Imperial Russia as a greater Russia. Notably, there is an orientalist axiom that Putin is untrustworthy and insane in the manner of stereotypical eastern despots. The war is an unjustifiable and aggressive imperialist move that has nothing to do with Russian military/nuclear security and is a precursor to the conquest of Europe. In this view, Vladimir Putin and Russia are illegitimate actors in a global society. While America's wars of the past twenty-one years can be rationalized in the name of security, human rights, and the spreading of democracy, liberal critics see Russia's assault on Ukraine as naked imperialism.

Realists view the war through the lens of history and analyses of imperial and post-imperial geopolitics. The statements and essays of scholars and journalists such as John Mearsheimer, Noam Chomsky, Rajan Menon, and Anatol Lieven have received less attention but are also worthy of our consideration. Where those advocating for global Western liberal hegemony led by the United States via NATO and other Cold War institutions see unprovoked imperial aggression, realists see the current situation in Ukraine as resulting from NATO's expansion eastward towards the borders of Russia. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, fourteen countries in Eastern Europe have joined NATO, carrying the anti-Soviet alliance to the Russian border.

While prosecuting its global War on Terror, at the Bucharest summit in 2008, the United States encouraged Georgia and Ukraine to join NATO. This led to Russia's war with Georgia and the secession of two border communities. In 2014 the United States encouraged the overthrow of the pro-Russian government in Ukraine. A popular revolt split Ukraine, leading to civil war and Russian intervention in Eastern Ukraine, and the outright annexation of the Crimean Peninsula. Since then, Ukraine has moved toward de -facto NATO membership, hosting military exercises, troops, weapon systems, and infrastructure. Russia in turn sees the arming of Ukraine as a real threat to its borders and sovereignty. Its primary concern is the placement of nuclear weapons and anti-ballistic systems in Ukraine to negate Russian nuclear deterrents. Realists such as Mearsheimer view the American proxy war against Russia as fundamental to its military assault on Ukraine.

Various trip wire issues are also linked to this war. The ongoing civil war in Donbas, in eastern Ukraine, fought by Russian and Ukrainian citizens who claim the primacy of their language and culture. Although these are intertwined and interrelated, the lines have hardened between these linguistically allied communities**.** Beyond NATO, nukes, and accusations of sheltering Nazis, Ukrainians are also being caught up in an east/west struggle that pits identity and geography against each other in an ideological conflict between democracy and dictatorship. Ukraine's wartime suffering since February 2022 appears on European and American media as an unforgivable transgression against a democratic Europe that has not suffered so since Hitler scourged the world in World War II. Cities such as Kyiv, Mariupol, and Severodonetsk have been forced to endure brutal regimes of bombardment, and the war has produced millions of new refugees. Various locations around the country have seen store shelves emptied of food and crucial supplies. Notably, electricity and internet services have not been severed, and oil continues to flow into Europe. In the east, where the war began in 2014 with less international scrutiny, the bulk of the fighting continues.

An end to the war in Ukraine is certainly possible in the near term if the West does not attempt to create another Afghanistan for Russia in Ukraine. Should this take place and the carnage continues, Ukraine will face a bleak future. As it stands, Ukraine may lose territory more territory beyond the Russian-occupied Donbass region and the Crimean Peninsula, it might become a federation of states. But if Russia is satisfied with the removal of nationalist and neo-Nazi elements from the military and government in this area, a zealously anti-Russian nationalism is still likely to exist in Ukraine. This will be affected by the degree of good faith and amicability, or "brotherhood" shared in any future treaty. Regardless, Ukrainians will need to continue the process of negotiating their imagined communities to reconcile the issues of their identity as members of geographical Europe, a desire and need to deal constructively with all of Europe, and a need for peace with Russia through its tortured recent past.

The post-World War II and post-Soviet order are shifting at a freshly accelerated rate. The West may have little recourse but to accept that Russia is likely to achieve its minimum goals in Ukraine, meaning that they drop their application for NATO membership and remain as a neutral buffer state between Russia and NATO. While economic sanctions have hurt the Russian economy, they have also exacerbated inflation and high energy costs in the West. The economic sanctions have also hastened Russia's turn eastward towards China, and close cooperation with other important states such as India. China has recently replaced Europe as the biggest importer of Russian oil. These and other developments form the basis for a long-forecasted Russian-Asian economic corridor that will shape our world from the east. United States' policies will evolve as it faces both China and Russia in the so called "Thucydides' Trap." Ideally, this would entail a negotiated end to the wars in Ukraine or a revival of the Minsk Accords. In short, along with the support for Ukraine, the West should commence the real diplomacy of the Cold War era for which it is duly credited.