James Alex Garza

Department of History and Ethnic Studies

Oldfather 639

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0327

E-mail: [jgarza2@unl.edu](mailto:jgarza2@unl.edu)

# Education

2001 Ph.D. Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas, 2001

Dissertation: “Tales from the Mexican Underworld: Sex, Crime, and Vice in Porfirian Mexico City, 1876-1911.”

1996 M.A. Texas A&M International University, Laredo, Texas.

1986-1990 B.A. Texas A&M International University, Laredo, Texas.

# Publications

*Re-Engineering the Waters: Environment, Progress, and Community in the Valley of Mexico, 1876-1911*” – Book Under Contract to the University of Nebraska Press.

*Mexico On and Off the World Stage: New Directions in Transnational Mexican History*. Matthew Esposito and James A. Garza, co-editors. (Lexington Books, 2023)

Introduction – “New Directions in Transnational Mexican History” (Co-authored with Matthew Esposito

Chapter – “For Wealth and Progress: Spanish Immigrants, Mexican Communities and the Conquest of the Environment in Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Mexico”

*Technocratic Visions: Engineers, Technology, and Society in Mexico, 1876-1946.* James Garza and Justin Castro, co-editors. (Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Press, 2022).

Chapter – “Engineering the Porfirian Landscape: Technology and Social Change in the Basin of Mexico, 1890-1910”

“Foreign Travelers in Mexico: Chronicles and Stories.” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Latin American History.*  Online Publication October 2017. <http://latinamericanhistory.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199366439.001.0001/acrefore-9780199366439-e-525>.

Foreign Travelers in Mexico (Print Version of Encyclopeia Article) in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Mexican History and Culture* . 1st edition. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.

“Dominance and Submission in Don Porfirio’s Belle Époque: The Case of Luis and Piedad” in *Masculinity and Sexuality in Modern Mexico*. Victor M. Macías-González and Anne Rubenstein, editors. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2012.

“Conquering the Environment and Surviving Natural Disasters” in *A Companion to Mexican History and Culture*, William H. Beezley, Editor. Wiley-Blackwell: May 2011.

*The Imagined Underworld: Sex, Crime and Vice in Porfirian Mexico City.* Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press (2008).

*El Lado Oscuro del Porfiriato: Sexo, crìmenes, y vicios en la Ciudad de México*. Trans. Gerardo Piña. Mexico, D.F.: Editorial Aguilar, 2008.

“The Long History of Mexican Immigration to the Rural Midwest.” *Journal of the West,* 45: 4 (Fall 2006).

# Professional and Administrative Experience

## Teaching

2007 to Associate Professor, History and Ethnic Studies, University of Nebraska-

Present Lincoln

2001 to Assistant Professor, History and Ethnic Studies, University of Nebraska- 2007 Lincoln.

2000-2001 Visiting Assistant Professor, History and Chicano Studies, The University

of Texas at El Paso.

Summer Visiting Professor, University of Seville, Spain

2008

2000-2001 Visiting Assistant Professor, History and Chicano Studies, The University

of Texas at El Paso

1999 Instructor, *Tarrant County College*, Fort Worth, Texas.

## Administrative

2017 to Director, Institute for Ethnic Studies

2020

2013 to Associate Director, Institute for Ethnic Studies

2017

2011 to Program Director, Nineteenth Century Studies

2013

2011 to Associate Director, Latino Research Initiative

2020

2010 to LLAS Liaison, Ethnic Studies

2013

## Advising

2010 to Chief Adviser, Ethnic Studies

2011

2008 to Coordinator – Latino and Latin American Studies, University of

2009 Nebraska-Lincoln

2008 to Undergraduate Chair, Department of History, University of

2009 Nebraska-Lincoln

## Internships

Summer— Editorial Intern, *The Americas: A Quarterly Review of Inter-American* 1998 *Cultural History*, Washington, D.C.

# Presentations and Conferences

October 30-November 2, 2022 – XVI Meeting of International Historians of Mexico, Austin, Texas – “Argumentando por el progreso en el México de finales del siglo XIX: los conflictos por el agua y la vida cotidiana / Arguing for Progress in Late Nineteenth Century Mexico: Conflict over Water and Daily Life”

January 6-9, 2022 – American Historical Association 135th Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA – Chair, Mexico on and off the World’s Stage: Labor, Theater, and Sports from the Porfiriato to Echeverria’s Sexenio

March 18-20, 2021 – Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies

68th Annual Conference, Virtual

Paper – “The Second Conquest: Indianos, Indigenous Communities and Resistance in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Mexico”

Panel Commentator – Activistas, Mojados, and Alambristas: Transnational Representations of Mexican American Identity in 20th Century Film, Television, and Autobiographical Narratives

September 21, 2020 – Moderator for Scholars Panel on Hostile Terrain 94, UNL

June 10, 2020 – Adiós Nafta: 3 Historians Talk Mexico Trade, the USMCA, and NAFTA Presentation for Forager Group

<https://foragerscs.com/adios-nafta-3-historians-talk-mexico-trade-the-usmca-and-naftas-legacy/>

January 7-10, 2020 – American Historical Association, Seattle, Washington, Chair of Panel “Promoters, Braceros, and Divas: Mexican Labor, Economic Development, and Public Health in Mexico and the United States” – **Cancelled Due to Covid-19**

April 3-6, 2019 – Santa Fe, New Mexico, Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies – Paper - “Honor and Steam (Punk) Capitalism in Rural Mexico: The Noriega Brothers and the Destruction of Lake Chalco”

Chair Comment on Panel “Performing Identity on Stage and in the Studio: Mexico City Divas, Carrascolendas and Elena of Avalor”

January 3-6, 2019 – Chicago, Illinois – American Historical Association – Paper – “Colonial Imprints, State Projects, and Indigenous Communities at the End of the Long Nineteenth Century in the Basin of Mexico”

October 18-21, 2018 Guadalajara, Mexico XV Reunión Internacional de Historiadores de México – Paper – “Transformando el paisaje del Porfiriato: Tecnocracia internacional, colonialismo, y el Gran Canal a fines del siglo XIX”

April 14-18, 2018 Riverside, California – American Society Environmental History – Paper “Climate, Development, and Adaptation in Late 19th Century Mexico: The Porfirian Desagüe”

March 2-4, 2017 – Houston, Texas - Texas State Historical Association – Paper “The 1910 Revolution in Laredo’s Memory and History”

January 5-8, 2017 – Denver, Colorado – American Historical Association – Paper: “The Shrine of Progress: Pan-American Civilization, Community Rights, and Environmental Conflict in Mexico City, 1980-1900”

Panel Commentary: “Run-Ins with the Law: Judicializing Everyday Life in 20th Century Mexico”

June 1-3, 2016 – Calgary Canada - Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies – Paper: “The Technologies of the Desagüe: Land Conflict, Negotiation, and Social Change in the Valley of Mexico, 1890-1900”

March 30-April 2, 2016 – Santa Fe, New Mexico - Rocky Mountain Conference for Latin American Studies – Paper: “Engineering the Gran Canal: Land Conflict, Negotiation, and Social Change in the Valley of Mexico, 1890-1900”

January 7-10, 2016 – Atlanta, GA, American Historical Association Annual Meeting / Conference on Latin American History – Panel Commentary: “Crafting Order and Progress: Revisionist Perspectives of the Porfirian Era in Mexican History.”

April 8-11, 2015 – Tucson, AZ, Rocky Mountain Conference for Latin American Studies Annual Conference – Panel Commentary: “Personal Narratives on Social, Military, or Civil Insurrections or Conflicts in Mexico.”

September 18-21, 2014 – Chicago, Illinois, XIV, Reunión Internacional de Historiadores de México “Poder, negociación e imperio durante el porfiriato: el proyecto del desagüe al norte de la ciudad de México.”

October 25-28, 2012 – New York City, Urban History Association Bi-Annual Meeting – Presentation “El Mundo se va a volver toditito a Chicharron: Earthquakes, Floods, and Perceptions of Disaster in Porfirian Mexico City.”

January 5-8, 2011 – Chicago, Illinois, American Historical Association Annual Meeting – Presentation “Saints Days’ Temblors, Deadly Floods, and Portents of Doom: Progress, Community, and Disaster in Porfirian Mexico”

April 6-9, 2011 – Santa Fe, New Mexico, Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies 58th Annual Conference – Presentation “Investigating Environment, Culture and Race in Porfirian Mexico”

April 7-11, 2010 – Boulder, Colorado, Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies 57th Annual Conference – Commentator on Panel “Voicing Resistance: Artistic and Literary Representations of National Dialectics of Difference

March 4-7, 2009 – Santa Fe, New Mexico, Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies 56th Annual Conference- Chair and Commentator on Panel “Satire, Civilizing Agency and Space: Interpretations of Mexican American Self

April 23-26, 2008 – Denver, Colorado, Western Social Science Association – Presentation – “Omaha Bound: Mexican and African-American Migrations to Nebraska during the WW1 Era.”

November 14, 2007 – Guest presentation, Seminar on Mexican Cultural History, El Colegio de México, Mexico City.

October 31-November 3, 2007 – Richmond, Virginia – Southern Historical Association – Panel Chair - “Revolutionary and Post-Revolutionary Change in Mexico.”

November 29-30, 2006 – Reynosa, México – I Simposio – Historia del Noreste Mexicano y Sur de Texas – “La Revolución Mexicana en La Frontera Laredo – Nuevo Laredo.”

October 4-8, 2006 – Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada - XII Reunion de Historiadores Mexicanos, Estadounidenses y Canadienses - “Evoking Joseph Conrad’s *Hearts of Darkness*: Colonial Imaginings, Lucid Fantasies and the Evolution of the Porfirian Marginal City.”

October 13-15, 2005 – Laredo, TX – Laredo: 250 Years of History Conference –

“Revolutionary Movements in Porfirian Mexico: The Assassination of Dr. Ignacio Martinez.”

March 30 - April 2, 2005 – Tucson, AZ - Rocky Mountain Council for Latin

American Studies - “‘Pan o (Mucho) Palo:’ Organized Crime and Urban Control in Porfirian Mexico City, 1890-1910.”

March 10-13, 2004 – Santa Fe, New Mexico - Rocky Mountain Council for Latin

American Studies – Panel Chair, “Dens of Dangerous Delight: Performance, Gender, and Travel in Mexico, 1876-1960.”

Paper “Building a Nation, Remembering an Empire: Crime, Travel, and Danger in Mexico, 1876-1938.”

March 4-6, 2004 – Omaha, Nebraska-Missouri Valley History Conference – “Exotic Pleasures, Dangerous Places: Crime, Travel, and the Invention of the Porfirian State, 1976-1911.”

November 12, 2003 – Torrington, Wyoming, Eastern Wyoming College, Hispanic Heritage Festival -“The Spanish-Mexican Borderlands: A Journey Through Space and Time.”

November 5, 2003 – Columbus, Nebraska-Partnership for American History Education, “An Introduction to the Spanish-Mexican Borderlands.”

October 1-4, 2003 – Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico – XI Reunion de Historiadores Mexicanos, Estadounidenses y Canadienses: “From the one who is forever yours: Love, Suicide, and Murder in Fin-de-Siécle Mexico City.”

July 25, 2003 – Oaxaca, Mexico – Oaxaca Summer Institute 2003, “The Creation of the Porfirian Underworld.”

March 13-15, 2003 – New Orleans, LA – Tulane Conference on Popular Memory and Official History, “En Tiempos de Don Porfirio: Remembering Sordid Tales and Evil Deeds from Late Nineteenth Century Mexico.”

February 19-22, 2003 – Tempe, Arizona- Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies, Panel Chair “En Tiempos de Don Porfirio: Consumerism, Medicine, Masculinity, Crime, Diversion, and Death in Porfirian Mexico.

Paper “Le encargo su Alma a Dios: Illness, Abortion, and the Body in late Porfirian Mexico City.”

April 10-14, 2002 – Portland, Oregon-50th Annual Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies, Panel Chair “Drinking in Mexico: Society, Danger, Description, and Revolution from the Colonial Era to the 1920s.”

Paper “Blood on the Streets: Pulque and Murder in Don Porfirio’s Mexico City.”

March 7-9, 2002 – Omaha, Nebraska-45th Annual Missouri Valley History Conference,

Panel Chair, “Urban Neighborhoods and Rural Networks: Latinos in the United States.”

March 1-3, 2001 – Tucson, AZ—Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies Annual Conference, “To Love and Die in Porfirian Mexico” The Case of Luis and Piedad.”

January 4-7, 2001 – Boston, M.A.—American Historical Association Annual Meeting—Conference on Latin American History, “Infection, Evil, and Infamy: Sex, Morality, and the Criminal Underworld of Porfirian Mexico City, 1881-1908.”

June 19-21, 2000 – Mexico City—Annual Oaxaca Seminar Presentation, Archivo General de la Nación, “Research at the AGN.”

November 19-22, 1999 – Fort Worth, Texas—Organizing Committee, “X Reunión de Historiadores mexicanos y norteamericanos.”

# Fellowships and Awards

UNL – Climate Resilience Conference Grant, 2023 - Funded (Member of Planning Team CO-PI)

UNL – Climate Resilience Collaborative Catalyst Proposal- $8,229,705 – Not Funded

(Co-Investigator)-2022

UNL – Layman Award New Directions “The Second Conquest: Environment, Technology and Community in Latin America, 1850-1930” 2021-2022 - $8,409.00

UNL – Contributor to Convocations Committee Award for Hostile Terrain 94 Presentation for visit of Dr. Everard Meade 2020

Nebraska Humanities – Contributor to Nebraska Humanities Mini- Grant for Hostile Terrain 94 Presentation 2020

UNL – College of Arts and Sciences International Travel Grant – 2018: $1,500

UNL – College of Arts and Sciences Research Enhancement Grant – 2017: $5,000

UNL – College of Arts and Sciences International Travel Grant- 2016: $1,500

UNL History Department Undergraduate Committee Course Development Award, 2017- History of Modern Crime

Graduate Student Association of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Outstanding Service to Graduate Students Award 2013

Clay Thomas Award grant in American History, Department of History, April 2012

Charles Henry Oldfather grant in non-American history, Department of History, April 2011

*Journal of the West* Article of the Year, 2006, “The Long History of Mexican Immigration to the Rural Midwest.”

Layman Award, May 1, 2002 – April 30, 2003, University of Nebraska Foundation, The University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

“Certificate of Recognition for Contributions to Students” Teaching Award, 2001-2002, The University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Teaching Council.

Grant-In-Aid Award, January 1, 2002 – December 31, 2002, Office of the Research Council, The University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

# Courses Taught

History of Latin America Global Environmental Studies

Colonial Mexico History of Modern Crime

Modern Mexico Latin American Studies Honors Seminars

Ethnic Studies Seminar in Latin American Studies

Introduction to Latina/o Studies Seminar, History 950

# Committees and Service to the University

Member, Chancellor’s Commission on the Status of People of Color 2017 - Present

Member and Co-PI, Climate Resilience Grand Challenge Project, 2023-Present

Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee 2017-2023

Member, Search Committee, Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion 2018

Member, Planning Committee For Hostile Terrain 94 Exhibit 2019-2020

Freedom of Speech Committee, Fall 2017 to April 2020

IDEA Committee (Inclusion, Diversity Equity, Access Committee) 2017-2019

Honors Faculty Staff Advisory Board 2019

Department of History Research Committee- Chair – 2019

Member, Search Committee for Editor-in-Chief, University of Nebraska Press, 2015

Member, Search Committee – Latino Studies – Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Fall 2015

# Service to the Community and the Profession

National Endowment for the Humanities Panelist - Humanities Initiative at Hispanic Serving Institutions – Summer 2023

Member, Department of History Advisory Committee, Fall 2022 to Present

Community Instructor, OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) Aztecs and Mayas, September 2021, University of Nebraska-East Campus

Panel Reviewer- National Endowment for the Humanities Initiatives at Community Colleges – August 2021

Member, Executive Committee, Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies 2008 to the present

Member of Program Committee, Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies, April 2014 Meeting, Durango, Colorado; I organized all the panels that focused on Modern Latin America.

Panel Reviewer – National Endowment for the Humanities Initiatives at Hispanic Service Colleges and Universities – August 2017

Nebraska Humanities – Discussion Leader for *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History* (Scottsbluff, NE) – Fall 2015

Community Instructor, OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) Spanish Exploration and Colonization in the Western Hemisphere, May 2014, Southeast Community College Branch Campus

Guest Speaker, MASA Youth Latino Leadership Conference, UNL, October 17, 2014

Guest Speaker, MASA Youth Latino Leadership Conference, UNL, October 23, 2015

Guest Speaker, Latino Leadership Symposium, UNL, November 12, 2014 Guest Speaker, Latino Leadership Symposium, UNL, November 18, 2015

Recent Reviewer for Western Historical Quarterly, Journal Illinois History, University of Nebraska Press, Oxford University Press, Mexican Studies- Estudios Mexicanos, Hispanic American Historical Review, University Press of Florida

# Professional Affiliations

Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies

The Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska

American Historical Association

Conference for Latin American History

American Society for Environmental History

Member, Press Advisory Board, University of Nebraska Press