News from Director Andrew Graybill

We at the Clements Center hope that this finds you and yours safe and healthy amidst this awful pandemic. Our doors have been effectively shuttered since mid-March, although we plan to carefully resume operations this summer and into the fall in accordance with the best practices stipulated by SMU and of course the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

COVID-19 has led to a number of firsts for us, starting with our inaugural manuscript workshop conducted via Zoom on April 25, 2020 for Eric Schlereth, one of last year’s fellows. We expect that all such colloquia will be managed online this coming year. (See pp. 2-3 for more about our incoming fellows.) We have our fingers crossed that we can return to the regular in-person format in fall 2021.

Another first for us is the cancellation of our annual symposium, which we have hosted every year for more than two decades, usually with the help of a co-sponsoring institution. This postponement has produced a domino effect, such that all of the other symposia we have planned will be pushed back by one year. (See p. 3 for the new lineup.) We are gratified that the next two conferences—“Campuses and Colonialism” (2021-22) and “Monuments & Memory in the South and West” (2022-23)—speak directly to issues of contemporary salience as we confront our nation’s troubled racial past.

Likewise, we have made the decision to reschedule all of our public events for the fall, save for one on which we are partnering with our friends at SMU’s Center for Presidential History. At 5:30PM on Wednesday, September 2, former fellow Gregg Cantrell will speak via Zoom about his new book, *The People’s Revolt: Texas Populists and the Roots of American Liberalism* (Yale, 2020). If we can safely gather in spring 2020 we will announce any events on our website.

Fortunately, I have some good news to report as well. As some of you may know, we have made a pair of key changes to our fellowship program. First, we will now support work on California in any period (and not only to 1850, as in years past). Second, our senior fellowship—which is earmarked for a scholar working on a second, or seventh, book project—is now open to applicants (and no longer awarded by invitation, as was the case since its formal inception in 2012). Please help us spread the word to prospective applicants, who can learn more about our fellowships by consulting our website or the advertisement we have recently posted to H-Net.

Finally, I am pleased to report that in January we received a very generous gift from an anonymous donor that will underwrite one of our fellowship lines for the next two years. While broadly supportive of our work at the Center, the donor is especially interested in environmental history, among other fields related to Texas, the Southwest, and the wider U.S.-Mexico borderlands. We will thus be particularly keen to consider applications in which the natural world is featured as a key historical actor.

Masthead illustration: Jerry Bywaters, *Where the Mountains Meet the Plains*, 1939. The University Art Collection at Meadows Museum, SMU, Dallas. Gift of Senior Classes of 1939 and 1940, UAC.1940.01. Photography by Kevin Todora
Amy Kohout is this year’s David J. Weber Fellow for the Study of Southwestern America, and an assistant professor of history at Colorado College. Amy earned her Ph.D. in history from Cornell University in 2015. She works on American cultural and environmental history, and her research and teaching interests include the U.S. West, the history of natural history, American empire, museum studies, world’s fairs, and the history of technology. Amy’s book manuscript, “Taking the Field: Soldiers, Nature, and Empire on American Frontiers,” is under contract with the University of Nebraska Press, and is slated for inclusion in its new “Many Wests” series. The book examines the intersection of ideas about nature and empire through an examination of the experiences of American soldiers in the U.S. West and the Philippines in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The soldiers she follows in “Taking the Field” moved back and forth across territorial boundaries that often divide contemporary fields of historical inquiry, and their complex interests encourage scholars to pursue the connections between sub-disciplines such as imperial and borderlands history, environmental history, museum studies, and the history of science. Soldiers guide the project from the West, to the Philippines, and home again, to the 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair—and through their writing, their labor, and all they collected, demonstrate the critical role they played in shaping American ideas about both nature and empire. Amy plans to use her fellowship to complete her manuscript. Amy’s work has been published in Museum History, Rethinking History, Sustainability Science, and in A Companion to the History of American Science. Amy has worked on public-facing, collaborative projects centering historical research and writing; she was a co-founder of Backlist, a digital site where historians recommend books they love; and before that she served as an editor at The Appendix, a journal of narrative and experimental history.

Sean Parulian Harvey is the Summerlee Fellow for the Study of Texas History. He earned an M.A. from Utah State University (USU) in 2013 and his Ph.D. from Northwestern University in summer 2020. During his time at USU, Sean served as the S. George Ellsworth Editorial Fellow for the Western Historical Quarterly, which he credits as the foundation for his interests in environmental, borderlands, and Texas history. His book manuscript, “Assembly Lines: Maquiladoras, Poverty, and the Environment in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands,” examines how U.S. bureaucrats attached to a bilateral planning agency used South Texas as a laboratory to test a host of anti-poverty measures during the 1960s. In particular, it focuses on how U.S. planners hoped to build American maquiladoras as part of a larger set of policies aimed at raising the standard of living in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. Sean’s research has been supported by the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library and Museum, the Organization of American Historians, the American Society for Environmental History, BYU’s Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, and the graduate school at Northwestern University. He, his wife, and their two boys are excited and grateful to be spending a year at the Clements Center.

Brennan Gardner Rivas is a Clements Fellow for the Study of Southwestern America. She earned her B.A. with honors from Oklahoma State University in 2010, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in American history from Texas Christian University in 2013 and 2019. Brennan specializes in political history, particularly the rise of the regulatory state in Texas and the wider United States during the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. While at the Clements Center, Brennan will finish a book manuscript that explores the regulation of guns and other deadly weapons during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Brennan has already published extensively on this subject. Her article “An Unequal Right to Bear Arms: State Weapons Laws and White Supremacy in Texas, 1836-1900” appeared in the Southwestern Historical Quarterly in 2018 and examined the state’s early gun control efforts and the extent to which racial concerns influenced their passage. In 2019 she published a piece on Texas’s once-robust gun control program for “Made by History,” a blog hosted by the Washington Post. And she has a forthcoming essay in an edited collection organized by the Center for Firearms Law at Duke University Law School. “Strange Bedfellows: Racism and Gun Rights in American History and Current Scholarship” assesses the validity of the argument—gaining traction in some circles—that gun control measures have their origins in racism. Brennan’s work has received numerous awards from TCU, including the history department’s prestigious Benjamin W. Schmidt Memorial Scholarship.

This year’s Bill and Rita Clements Senior Fellow for the Study of Southwestern America is Tatiana Seijas, associate professor of history at Rutgers University. She received her Ph.D. in history from Yale in 2009 and subsequently served on the faculty at Miami University and Penn
Seijas will work on her manuscript, “First Routes: Indigenous Trade and Travel in North America,” which recovers the history of Native merchants who forged routes of exchange between the Rio Grande Valley and the Mesoamerican highlands from c. 1400 to the late 1800s, with a focus on the so-called Spanish colonial period. The ambitious temporal and geographic scope of this interdisciplinary study seeks to demonstrate the social and economic significance of intra-Native commerce via short and long-distance networks. The book joins together the histories of Zunis, Nahuas, Hopis, and Guachachiles, among other Indigenous peoples (often told in isolation from one another) in order to underscore the unity of this region. Indigenous trade routes had a north-south orientation that complicates our rendering of North American history to include Mesoamerica.

UPDATES TO OUR ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

Since 1996, the Clements Center has hosted an annual symposium focusing on the borderlands of the U.S. Southwest or broader themes and trends exemplified by the region. Selected participants prepare chapters related to this question and convene in the fall—usually at SMU’s satellite campus in Taos, NM to discuss their first drafts and the volume in general. In the spring, scholars typically meet at the co-sponsoring institution to analyze revised drafts and discuss how, in a book of essays, each chapter will engage the others while sustaining a coherent conversation throughout the volume. The end product, published by an academic press, is a cohesive collection, featuring a scholarly introduction by the organizers/editors.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Clements Center—along with our institutional partners—has postponed our annual symposium by one year, resulting in the following schedule:

2020-21: No symposium

2021-22: Campuses and Colonialism, Steve Kantrowitz, Malinda Maynor Lowery, and Alyssa Mt. Pleasant, eds; co-sponsored with the Center for the American South at UNC-Chapel Hill

2022-23: Monuments & Memory in the South and West, Ari Kelman and Thavolia Glymph, eds; co-sponsored with Duke University

2023-24: Religion in the West, Brandi Denison and Brett Hendrickson, eds; institutional partner TBA

2024-25: Rethinking the “Indian Wars,” Lance R. Blyth, Maurice Crandall, and Catharine R. Franklin, eds; institutional partner TBA

Please check our website at www.smu.edu/swcenter and follow the links to “Symposia” for updates and calls for papers.

Gavin Benke (2014-15) presented a paper last January on corporate futurism in the 1970s at the Newberry Library in Chicago as part of its Seminar Series in the History of Capitalism. This paper is part of his current book project on corporate visions of the future in the last third of the twentieth century. Gavin is currently under contract with Routledge to write a supplemental textbook titled *Capitalism and Individualism in America* as part of the press’s Seminar Studies in History series. In April, he was promoted to Senior Lecturer in the College of Arts and Sciences Writing Program at Boston University. Congratulations, Gavin!

Gregg Cantrell (1996-97) writes that his book *The People’s Revolt: Texas Populists and the Roots of American Liberalism* was published in March 2020 by Yale University Press. It received a glowing review in the April issue of *Texas Monthly*. Despite the pandemic, Gregg and his wife Stephanie Cole (on the history faculty at UT-Arlington) are finishing extensive renovations on the 95-year-old house they bought two blocks from TCU; they hope to occupy the Money Pit this summer.


Paul Conrad (2012-13) reports that the book he developed during his time as a fellow is complete and forthcoming from the University of Pennsylvania Press in spring 2021. *The Apache Diaspora: Four Centuries of Displacement and Survival* will appear in the America in the Nineteenth Century Series.

Maurice Crandall (2016-17) writes that he has been busy with book talks and various speaking engagements since the publication of his monograph, *These People Have Always Been a Republic: Indigenous Electorates in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands, 1598-1912* (David J. Weber Series in the New Borderlands History, University of North Carolina Press, 2019). Mo has begun work on his next project, a history of Yavapai and Western Apache Scouts after the so-called Apache Wars. He is also involved in several projects in conjunction with his community, the Yavapai-Apache Nation. Mo has also joined the editorial board of the David J. Weber Series in the New Borderlands History at UNC Press.

Bill deBuys (1999-2000; 2014) along with Murat Eyuboglu, visited SMU last February to screen their documentary, *The Colorado*, and afterwards led a fascinating panel discussion. Bill writes that his latest effort, “Discovering Earth: Beauty and Loss in the High Himalaya,” is due out next year from Seven Stories Press, a small publishing house in New York City. The book is largely based on medical expeditions he accompanied in the remote, roadless, and ethnically Tibetan district of Upper Dolpo, Nepal, in 2016 and 2018. Besides chronicling the expeditions and their associated clinics, the book provides a layperson’s history of how the theories of natural selection and plate tectonics came about and offers some thoughts on how to coexist with the planet’s current environmental crises without losing heart. He promises it will be a good read.

Brian Delay (2005-06), along with Steven Hahn and Amy Dru Stanley, co-edit the America in the Nineteenth Century Series at the University of Pennsylvania Press. The series aims to expand the scope of nineteenth-century historiography by bringing classic questions into dialogue with innovative perspectives, approaches, and methodologies.

Darren Dochuk (2013) gave a talk at SMU last February to a packed house about his book, *Anointed with Oil: How Christianity and Crude Made Modern America* (Basic, 2019). Darren also received promotion to full professor at Notre Dame, and hopes at some point to retire and ride off into the sunset, preferably one setting over the British Columbia coast.

Bryant Etheridge (2015-16) writes that he and Gavin Benke meet for semi-regular convenings of the Boston Area Clements Center Alumni Club to reminisce about the good old days in Dallas Hall.

Benjamin Francis-Fallon (2013-14) published *The Rise of the Latino Vote: A History* (Harvard University Press, 2019). The book has since received honorable mention from the Immigration and Ethnic History Society for its Theodore Saloutos Book Award, and been favorably reviewed in the *Nation*. Ben has also been awarded tenure and promotion to associate professor at Western Carolina University. Congratulations, Ben!

Ruben Flores (2012) accepted a position as associate professor of history at the University of Rochester last fall, after thirteen years at the University of Kansas. Ruben visited SMU in
December, offering a colloquium for graduate students and participating in the manuscript workshop for fellow Natalie Mendoza.

Miguel Ángel González Quiroga (2008-09) is pleased to announce that his book, *War and Peace on the Rio Grande Frontier, 1830-1880*, which he furthered during his fellowship year, was recently published by the University of Oklahoma Press in the New Directions in Tejana/o History Series edited by Tim Bowman, an alum of the SMU history Ph.D. program.


Pekka Hämäläinen (2001-02) published *Lakota America: A New History of Indigenous Power* (Lamar Series in Western History, Yale University Press) last fall. It has been widely and favorably reviewed in publications such as the *Economist* and the *New York Times*, and has won several prizes, including the Western Heritage Book Award for Nonfiction sponsored by the Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

Daniel Herman (2007-08) writes that his novel, *The Feudist: A Novel of the Pleasant Valley War* was published by TCU Press this summer. The novel is both a traditional Western— tense, authentic, fast-paced—and an anti-Western that tells the story of what was perhaps the bloodiest range war in U.S. history, Arizona’s 1880s Pleasant Valley War.

Katrina Jagodinsky (2011-12) received a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation for her project, “Petitioning for Freedom: *Habeas Corpus* in the American West” on which she will partner with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Center for Digital Research in the Humanities. The project focuses on Black, Indigenous, immigrant, female, and institutionalized petitioners in Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, and New Mexico. She continues to serve as the graduate chair for the history department.

Susan Lee Johnson (2011) is pleased to announce that the book she furthered during her fellowship term, *Writing Kit Carson: Fallen Heroes in a Changing West*, is due out from the University of North Carolina Press in late fall 2020. Susan was nominated as President-Elect of the Western History Association, and will serve as president during 2022, when the WHA returns to San Antonio.

S. Deborah Kang (2006-07) has returned to Texas as the Anne Stark and Chester Watson Associate Professor of History at the University of Texas-Dallas. Welcome back, Debbie!


Max Krochmal (2013-14) won a Fulbright to Mexico for next year and received final approval for the publication of his next book, co-edited with Todd Moye, “Civil Rights in Black and Brown: Oral Histories of the Liberation Struggles in Texas” (University of Texas Press, forthcoming 2021). This is a collaborative book with interpretive essays on different research sites around the state. The research was supported by the Summerlee Foundation and the NEH, among other sources. And the University of North Carolina Press will release his award-winning volume, *Blue Texas*, in paperback this fall.

K. Tsianina Lomawaima (2018-19) is co-editor of *NAIS*, the journal of Native American & Indigenous Studies, with Kelly McDonough of the University of Texas-Austin.

Eric Meeks (2005; 2016-17) is pleased to announce that his revised edition of *Border Citizens: The Making of Indians, Mexicans, and Anglos in Arizona* was published in February 2020 by the University of Texas Press. The new, chapter-length afterword contextualizes Arizona’s aggressive response to undocumented immigration and ethnic studies in the decade after *Border Citizens* was first published in 2007, demonstrating that the broad-based movement against these measures had ramifications well beyond Arizona. He also revisits the Yaqui and Tohono O’odham nations on both sides of the Sonora-Arizona border, focusing on their efforts to retain, extend, and enrich their connections to one another in the face of increasingly stringent border enforcement.

Jason Mellard (2010-11) and the Center for Texas Music History hosted events for two country music icons at Texas State in recent months: the original country music historian Bill Malone, fresh from his star turn in the Ken Burns documentary series, (continued)
Celeste Menchaca (2018-19) has accepted a position as assistant professor of history at the University of Southern California, returning to Los Angeles after four years at Texas Christian University. Congratulations, Celeste!

Andrew Offenburger (2014-15) has three pieces forthcoming: an article on American investment in Baja California during the Mexican Revolution (Pacific Historical Review), a chapter on the emergence of the term “Middle West” and the region’s conceptualization (The Oxford Handbook of Midwestern History), and an edited and annotated memoir—The Aimless Life—written by Leonard Worcester, Jr., a borderlands miner from the 1880s to 1939 (University of Nebraska Press, forthcoming) and supported by the Clements Center.


Monica Perales (2006-07) is pleased to announce that, last February, she won the Ruth A. Allen Pioneer in Working Class Studies Award from the Texas Center for Working Class Studies at the University of Texas-Austin for her work on Mexican-American women, labor, and foodways in the U.S. Southwest.

Allison Powers-Useche (2019-20) has accepted a position in the history department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison after two years on the faculty at Texas Tech. Her book manuscript, “Settlement Colonialism: Compensatory Justice in United States Expansion, 1868-1964,” which she furthered during her fellowship year, is under contract with Oxford University Press.

Uzma Quraishi (2016-17) is pleased to announce that she has been approved for tenure and promotion to associate professor at Sam Houston State University. The book that she developed during her fellowship year, Redefining the Immigrant South: Indian and Pakistadi Immigration to Houston During the Cold War, was published by UNC Press in its New Directions in Southern Studies Series in May 2020. Uzma was also an invited panelist at “Relations and Divides in a Diverse City,” the inaugural BRIDGE (Building Research on Inequality and Diversity to Grow Equity) Symposium at Rice University, her graduate alma mater. Uzma is excited about serving on the Program Committee for the 2022 TSHA Annual Meeting.

Cynthia Radding (2006-07) co-edited The Oxford Handbook of Borderlands of the Iberian World, published by Oxford University Press in 2019. She organized two panels drawn from the book at the American Historical Association’s 2020 annual meeting in Chicago. In addition, she published four peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, and she is a contributing member of three international research seminars dedicated to environmental history, history of science, and the history of Indigenous peoples in the Americas. She is president of the Board of The Americas Research Network; in that capacity she coordinated an international multidisciplinary workshop, “Indigenous and Minority Languages: Living History and Opportunities for the Future.” Cynthia was honored with her nomination to the Mexican Academy of History and the award of the Atanasio G. Saravia Prize in the Regional History of Mexico. She gave invited lectures and professional papers at the Universidad Autónoma Nacional de Mexico in Mexico City, and the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. The book manuscript that she developed during her fellowship year, “Bountiful Deserts and Corridors of Knowledge in Northern New Spain: Sustaining the Boundaries of Yoreme Worlds,” is forthcoming from the University of Arizona Press.


**Julia María Schiavone** (2007-08) continues her scholarly research as an associate professor of history at Antioch College while finding time to write historical fiction and short stories.

**Aimee Villarreal** (2017-18) was awarded tenure and is now associate professor of Mexican American Studies at Our Lady of the Lake University. Her chapter, “Anthropolocuera as Homelace Ethnography” will be published in an edited volume, *Ethnographic Refusals, Unruly Latinidades* with SAR Press in spring 2021.


**Nancy Beck Young** (1996-97) writes that in 2019 the University Press of Kansas published her book, *Two Suns of the Southwest: Lyndon Johnson, Barry Goldwater, and the 1964 Battle between Liberalism and Conservatism*. In January, she was awarded the CLASS Distinguished Faculty Award at the University of Houston. In spring 2020, Nancy served as a talking head in the “Slow Burn” documentary about Watergate on EPIX. She was in the second episode, which was all about Wright Patman, so even twenty years after her Clements Center book project was published the work remains relevant! She was recently named the John and Rebecca Moores Professor of History. Finally, she’s continuing to plug away on several projects, including a biography of John Nance Garner as well as a digital humanities project about the 1977 National Women’s Conference.

**THE CLEMENTS CENTER AND COVID-19**

The Clements Center held its last public event on March 11, 2019, when fellow **Eric Schlereth** gave a noon talk, “Insurgents’ Rights and Borderland Rebellions.” Along with the rest of the university, we abruptly shut down two days later because of the pandemic. All remaining spring events were cancelled, including our annual Weber-Clements Book Prize Award Lecture honoring **Matthew Sakiestewa Gilbert**; the Clements Senior Fellow Lecture by **Sam Haynes**; our spring symposium meeting at Stanford University, “Global Environmental Borderlands in the Age of Empire”; and our participation at the Organization of American Historians annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Still, we carried on the good work of the Clements Center through Zoom meetings and workshops, email, and the old-fashioned telephone.


**The Clements Center staff continued to meet weekly via Zoom throughout the spring and summer.**

**Neil Foley following safety protocols with his kitty-cat mask while receiving a Clements Center mail delivery in a grocery store parking lot.**
1. After the screening of the documentary “Border Bandits,” historian Richard Ribb, writer producer Kirby Warnock, and historic preservationist Roman McAllen participate in a panel discussion.

2. Author Casey Gerald meets with SMU undergraduates at a reception in his honor after a book talk on his autobiography, There Will Be No Miracles Here.

3. At the Western History Association annual meeting last fall in Las Vegas, graduates of the SMU history Ph.D. program have a mini-reunion: Alicia Dewey, Carla Mendiola, and David Rex Galindo.

4. Author Nathaniel Rich at the podium during his standing-room-only talk on his book, Losing Earth: The Decade We Almost Stopped Climate Change.

5. Yale historian and author Paul Freedman (right) discusses the merits of good barbeque with Director of SMU’s Bridwell Library, Anthony Elia after Freedman’s talk, “BBQ, Potlucks and ’Tex-Mex’: The Regional Roots of American Cuisine.”

6. Former fellows, graduates of the SMU Ph.D. program, and Clements Center staff meet up at the annual meeting of the Western History Association, Joaquin Rivay-Martinez, Alicia Dewey, George Díaz, Tim Bowman, Joel Zapata, Pat Troester, Neil Foley, Sherry Smith, David Adams, Carla Mendiola, Tommy Richards, Ben Francis-Fallon, Anna Banhegyi, Jenna Valadez, Raphael Folsom, Andrew Offenburger and David Rex Galindo.


10. After the screening of the documentary film “The River & The Wall,” filmmakers Ben Masters and Hillary Pierce lead a panel discussion.


12. Former fellows Tyina Steptoe, Sam Truett, and Juliana Barr lead the keynote roundtable, “Considering Texas History in a New Context,” at the Texas State Historical Association’s annual meeting in Austin last February.

13. Julie Reed, Carla Mendiola, and Ben Francis-Fallon catch up at the Clements Center reception at the Western History Association’s annual meeting last fall.
A joint symposium co-sponsored by the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies at SMU and Stanford University, co-organized by Johan Elverskog (SMU) and Ali Yaycioglu (Stanford)

This symposium and the forthcoming volume mark an opportunity to (re)consider the environmental contexts of borderlands and frontiers of different political orders, particularly pluralistic imperial regimes, roughly between the 15th and 19th centuries. While examining how environmentality was negotiated by human actors of bordering (or overlapping) political regimes, the symposium also explored possibilities that go beyond the binaries between nature and culture, and environmental and political orders. Participants first gathered for a two-day workshop in October 2019 at SMU’s satellite campus in Taos, New Mexico, collaborating for two days while also finding time to visit historic sites and share some meals together. The planned meeting for spring 2020 at Stanford was postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Presenters and their paper titles include: Robert Batchelor (Georgia Southern University), Ocean Currents as Borderlands; The Case of the Western Pacific; David Bello (Washington & Lee University), Qing Imperial Pastoralism in Trans-Grassland Practice; Isa Blumi (Stockholm University), Defining Empire: The Commodification of Borderland Nature in Albania and Yemen; Purnima Dhavan (University of Washington), Crafting a New Paradise: Imperial Power and Sufi Mediation in Mughal Kashmir; Blake Earle (Texas A&M-Galveston), Fisheries and Environmental Administration Along the Fringes of Empire: The United States and Great Britain in the North Atlantic; Jarrod Hore (Macquarie University), Underworlds and Borderlands: Colonial Geology in the Pacific World; Ryan Jones (University of Oregon), Whales, Russians, Tungus, and Americans: The Sea of Okhotsk’s Living Oceanic Borderland; Martin Kalb (Bridgewater College), Namibia’s Beaches as a Colonial Environmental Borderland; Nathaniel Millet (Saint Louis University), Native People and the Caribbean Environment: c. 1550-1850; Ruth Morgan (Monash University), Camels in the Australian Desert: A More than Human History of Water and Settler Colonialism; and Kathryn Olivarius (Stanford University), Immunocapitalism: Epidemiology and Empire in the American South.
David Kruger (University of Wyoming) returned to the DeGolyer this past August to continue research on his book manuscript, a biography of William M. Batten, the CEO of JCPenney from 1958-1974. The DeGolyer is the principal repository of all the Penney papers, including more than 20,000 photographs, 1,500 linear feet of correspondence, speeches, ledgers, catalogs, and company publications documenting more than 100 years of corporate history.

Mario Rewers (Vanderbilt University) conducted research for part of his dissertation project, which examines the cultural work of American Studies programs from the 1930s—when these programs first became established in the academy—to the 1990s, when they were criticized by a younger generation of scholars as intellectually dubious expressions of Cold War politics. Rewers seeks to reconstruct the origins of American Studies by tracing the intellectual biography of Henry Nash Smith, one of its first and most influential practitioners. Smith spent over a decade at SMU, first as a student and then as a lecturer as well as editor of the *Southwest Review*, before he moved to Harvard in 1937. While at the DeGolyer, Mario examined numerous collections, as well as records of the *Southwest Review* and the SMU Press.

Chloé Marie Pomedio (Universidad de Guadalajara) pored over the DeGolyer’s sixty-six boxes of the Isabel T. Kelly ethnographic archive for the Sierra de Manantlán Archaeological Project. The Kelly papers in the DeGolyer are the oldest (as well as the only) available for this project. Kelly (1906-83) was a social anthropologist and archeologist who specialized in Mexican cultures. Chloé documented the data that Kelly collected during the 1940s during her field work in Jalisco and Colima, digging through more than 3,000 photographic prints, slides, and negatives as well as the 100,000 field notes, journals, charts, tables, and maps.

Cecily Zander (Pennsylvania State University) visited the DeGolyer in order to conduct research for her dissertation, “Agents of Empire: The U.S. Army, Native Americans, and the Civil War in the Making of the American West,” which examines the lives and ideas of the soldiers and officers who served at the forefront of national territorial expansion. While at the DeGolyer, Cecily consulted memoirs, family papers, correspondence, scouting reports as well as many non-circulating volumes from the period. She noted: “As the premier repository for collections dealing with the history of the American Southwest, a trip to the library was essential to the preliminary research for my dissertation project.”

For information about applying for a Clements/DeGolyer Travel Research Grant, please visit our webpage at www.smu.edu/swcenter and follow the links under “Grants.”
Ph.D. candidate Roberto Andrade (upper left) defends his dissertation via Zoom before his committee.

Anne Allbright (Ph.D., 2017) lives in Milan, Italy, and writes that it has been a strange place to be during the pandemic, but fortunately, she is fine. During isolation she started a new business which she hopes to report more on in the next newsletter.

SMU Ph.D. student in anthropology McKenzie Alford received a Clements Center Graduate Research/Travel Grant to support an internship with the Gila River Indian Community Cultural Resource Management Program in Sacaton, Arizona this summer. The program handles burial documentation and repatriation of Hohokam (Huhugam) and historic O’odham human remains excavated from archaeological contexts both on and off the reservation, as well as examination of funerary objects associated with prehistoric and historic burials. While working with the bioarchaeology staff, she expects to learn their procedures for documentation and repatriation of burials and human remains, as well as Hohokam material culture and chronology.

Roberto Andrade (Ph.D., 2020) successfully defended his dissertation, “Fighting to Define Lo Mexicano: Boxing in Working-Class Mexican and Mexican American Culture” via Zoom this May, thus earning his doctorate. An article he wrote for Deadspin titled, “As the Border Bled, Juárez Watched the Game it Waited Nine Years For,” will be included in the upcoming anthology, The Best American Sports Writing 2020. This same article is a finalist for the 2020 Dan Jenkins Medal for Excellence in Sportswriting. The Associated Press Sports Editors (APSE) awarded a top 10 finish to a video that he co-created for the Los Angeles Times about athletes at El Paso’s Eastwood High School using football to face down the tragedy of the Walmart shooting in August 2019.


Kyle Carpenter (Ph.D., 2020) successfully defended his dissertation, “Globalizing the Rio Grande: European-born Entrepreneurs, Settlement, and Mercantile Networks in the Rio Grande Borderlands, 1749-1881,” via Zoom this May, thus earning his doctorate. In his research, Kyle explores the transatlantic and transnational nature of the Rio Grande borderlands and how entrepreneurs attempted, and often failed, to push back against American westward expansion to make the region a center of Atlantic trade. He is also pleased to announce that he is a new history instructor at the University of Arkansas-Rich Mountain in Mena. Congratulations, Kyle!


George T. Díaz (Ph.D., 2010) was awarded tenure at the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley in fall 2019. Border Policing: A History of Enforcement and Evasion in North America, a book he co-edited with Holly M. Karibo, was published with the University of Texas Press this spring. His paper, “Juan Crow Incarceration: Making the ‘Mexican’ Prison in Texas,” is scheduled for the Western History Association’s Annual Meeting in fall 2020.

Danya Epstein, current SMU Ph.D. student in art history, received a Clements Center Graduate Travel/Research Grant to conduct research for her dissertation “The Archive is Absent: Hopi Art History in the Long Twentieth Century,” which interrogates the notion of the archive in Native American art history. The grant funded her research trips to the Peabody Museum at Harvard, various museums in Arizona, and sites related to the Hopi architect Dennis Numkena in Arizona. Danya explores how Native American art history has been constructed and produced, asking what it would look like to honor an Indigenous perspective while respecting tribal privacy. Looking at different moments in the history of Hopi and Euro-American encounters from the late nineteenth century to present, she examines the archives of archaeology, commercialism and connoisseurship, and public consciousness—archives that the discipline of art history has sought to suppress.
David Rex Galindo (Ph.D., 2010) happily announces that he and Constanza López married last year ... twice: in Santiago, Chile, in November, and in Valladolid, Spain, in December. They have made Santiago their home. David also published a book chapter titled “Shaping Colonial Behaviors: Franciscan Missionary Literature and the Implementation of Religious Normative Knowledge in Colonial Mexico, 1530s-1640s,” in Thomas Duve and Otto Danwerth, eds., Knowledge of the Pragmatici: Legal and Moral Theological Literature and the Formation of Early Modern Ibero-America (Brill, 2020), and an article co-authored with Cristián Leal, “Para no poner en peligro la santa pobreza: Economía material en el Colegio de misiones de Chillán-Chile, 1756-1817,” Vínculos de Historia (2020).


Carla Mendiola (Ph.D., 2017) presented a paper, “Contesting Identity Narratives of Belonging and Difference in the U.S-Mexico Borderlands: Constructing Mexican American Identity Through Historical Narratives” at the Western History Association’s annual meeting last fall in Las Vegas. She also spearheaded mini-reunions and photo-ops while in Sin City. Current SMU history Ph.D. student Josh Phillips received a Steve Denson/Clements Center Research/Travel Grant which funded his trip to visit historic sites and archives in Paris, Texas, and Durant, Oklahoma City, and Norman, Oklahoma. Josh’s dissertation explores the reasons why several Native nations, including the Choctaws, chose to ally themselves closely with the Confederacy.

Current SMU history Ph.D. student Timothy Seiter also received a Clements Center Graduate Travel/Research Grant which funded his trip to the Dolph Briscoe Center in Austin, Texas. While there Tim conducted research for his dissertation as well as an article in progress, both on the Karankawa Indians of Texas. Findings will also make their way to the online archive he created: see https://karankawas.com/archive/

Congratulations to current SMU Ph.D history student Patrick Troester, who is in the inaugural class of Moody Family Dissertation Fellows at SMU, receiving full funding from SMU’s new Moody School of Graduate Studies in order to complete his dissertation, “The Broken Edge of Empire: Making Violence, Nations, and State Power in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands, 1820-1890.” Pat explores the relationship between violence and nation-building across the borderlands’ diverse colonial and Indigenous societies, examining the ways in which borderlands people experienced and participated in the construction of nation-states and other large polities from within the local community and commercial relationships that already defined their everyday lives.

Joel Zapata (Ph.D., 2019) begins this fall as assistant professor of history at Oregon State University. He was awarded the 2020 National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Tejas Foco Dissertation Award and the 2019 Louis Pubols Public History Prize from the Western History Association. Congratulations, Joel! His book manuscript, “The Forgotten Homeland: Mexicans on the Southwest Great Plains,” counters the depiction of ethnic Mexicans as only recent immigrants, making clear their long-term presence in the United States beyond the Southwest and placing them as an integral part of the Southern Plains.

**FALL EVENT**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2020**

**Gregg Cantrell**, Texas Christian University  
*The People’s Revolt: Texas Populists and the Roots of American Liberalism*  
5:30 PM webinar  
To register, go to www.smu.edu/CPH  
Co-sponsored with SMU’s Center for Presidential History

The judging committee wrote:

*Maurice S. Crandall’s* *These People Have Always Been a Republic* is an original and well-argued take on three hundred years of Indigenous political history in what is today Arizona, New Mexico, and Sonora. Crandall’s research is both deep and broad as it reveals how Hopis, Pueblos, Tohono O’odhams, and Yaquis in the Southwest at turns resisted, manipulated, and undermined the political systems imposed by Spanish, Mexican, and U.S. empires in order to assert sovereignty. Ambitious in its chronology, impressive in its source base, and nuanced in its analysis, *These People Have Always Been a Republic* provides new perspectives on Indigenous sovereignty and politics, on the dynamics of colonialism, and on the nature of democracy. It is also a beautiful piece of writing.

The judging committee also recognized two finalists: Jessica Kim for *Imperial Metropolis: Los Angeles, Mexico, and the Borderlands of American Empire, 1865-1941* (David J. Weber Series in the New Borderlands History, University of North Carolina Press, 2019), and Andrew Offenburger for *Frontiers in the Gilded Age: Adventure, Capitalism, and Dispossession from Southern Africa to the U.S.-Mexican Borderlands, 1880-1917* (Lamar Series in Western History, Yale University Press, 2019). The judging committee wrote:

*Jessica Kim’s* *Imperial Metropolis* excavates the related stories of the rise of Los Angeles, the arc of capitalist expansion in the American West, and the relatedness of both to the porosity of the international border separating Mexico from California. This is the history of the local as it plays out in the international arena, one where the international boundary is troubled in an interpretively useful manner, and which is supported by a rich base of archival evidence and a stirring narrative arc.

*Andrew Offenburger’s* *Frontiers in the Gilded Age* is a tour de force of comparative history. The committee was enthralled by Offenburger’s ability to see the interconnectedness of the Yaqui of Chihuahua and the Boers of South Africa and the sheer scope of his study. The volume provides surprising, compelling stories at every turn and a model for research that looks both regionally and globally.

In 2011, the Western History Association Council and the Clements Center agreed to sponsor a new book prize to be administered by the WHA. The **David J. Weber-Clements Prize for the Best Non-Fiction Book on Southwestern America** was presented for the first time at the 2012 annual meeting of the WHA. The purpose of the prize is to promote fine writing and original research on the American Southwest. The competition is open to any non-fiction book, including biography, on any aspect of Southwestern life, past or present, copyrighted in the previous year.
Writing Kit Carson: Fallen Heroes in a Changing West (University of North Carolina Press, 2020). In this critical biography, Susan Lee Johnson braids together lives over time and space, telling tales of two white women (Quantrille McClung and Bernice Blackwelder) who, in the 1960s, wrote books about the fabled frontiersman Christopher “Kit” Carson. Johnson explores the practice of history in the context of everyday life, the seductions of gender in the context of racialized power, and the strange contours of twentieth-century relationships predicated on nineteenth-century pasts.

War and Peace on the Rio Grande Frontier, 1830-1880 (New Directions in Tejano History, University of Oklahoma Press, 2020). Miguel Ángel González-Quiroga draws on national archives, letters, consular records, and periodicals to give voice to borderlanders’ perspectives as he weaves their varied stories into one sweeping narrative, a tale of economic connections and territorial disputes, of refugees and bounty hunters, speculation and stake-holding, smuggling and theft, and other activities in which economic considerations often carried more weight than racial prejudice.

Redefining the Immigrant South: Indian and Pakistani Immigration to Houston During the Cold War (New Directions in Southern Studies, University of North Carolina Press, 2020). Mining archives and using oral histories, Uzma Quraishi traces this pioneering community of Indian and Pakistani peoples from its midcentury roots to the early twenty-first century, arguing that South Asian immigrants appealed to class conformity and endorsed the model minority myth to navigate the complexities of a shifting Sunbelt South.

Beneath the Backbone of the World: Blackfoot People and the North American Borderlands, 1720-1877 (David J. Weber Series in the New Borderlands History, University of North Carolina Press, 2020). With extensive archival research from both the United States and Canada, Ryan Hall shows for the first time how the Blackfoot used their borderlands position to create one of North America’s most vibrant and lasting Indigenous homelands.


Borderlands Curanderos: The Worlds of Santa Teresa Urrea and Don Pedrito Jaramillo (University of Texas Press, 2021). Jennifer Koshatka Seman writes a historical exploration of the worlds and healing practices of two curanderos (faith healers) who attracted thousands, rallied their communities, and challenged institutional powers.
Congratulations to former Clements Center Associate Director and Distinguished Professor of History at SMU emerita Sherry L. Smith on the publication of her new book, *Bohemians West: Free Love, Family, and Radicals in Twentieth Century America* (Heyday Press, 2020). Sherry recounts the opening years of the twentieth century as it saw a grand cast of radicals and reformers fighting for a new America, seeking change not only in labor picket lines and at women’s suffrage rallies but also in homes and bedrooms. In the thick of this heady milieu were Sara Bard Field and Charles Erskine Scott Wood, two aspiring poets whose love story uncovers a potent emotional world underneath this transformative time. Self-declared pioneers in free love, Sara and Erskine exchanged hundreds of letters that charted a new kind of romantic relationship, and their personal pursuits frequently came into contact with their deeply engaged political lives. As Sara’s star rose in the suffrage movement, culminating in a cross-country automobile trip in 1915 and gathering hundreds of thousands of signatures for a petition to Congress, she began to ask questions about her own power in her relationship with Erskine. Exploring a passionate and tumultuous relationship that spanned decades, *Bohemians West* offers a deeply personal look at a dynamic period in American history.