



**ORAL HISTORY
ASSOCIATION**

NEWSLETTER

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Workshop opportunities offered at fall OHA Conference

OHA fall conference program sessions get underway on Oct. 11 in Montreal, but if you can spare an extra day, come for a workshop on Wednesday, Oct. 10, when four half-day workshops will explore the basics of creating podcasts from oral history interviews, undertaking the basics of

bilingual indexing, using oral history in community organizing and emphasizing the aural in oral history.

Wednesday morning options include:

- Oral History & Podcasting/Radio Storytelling, led by Molly Graham, director of Voices from the Fisheries, an oral history archive of the National Marine Fisheries Service, and
- Introduction to OHMS and Bilingual Indexing, led by Brendan Coates and Teague Schneiter from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Preservation and Foundation Programs and Doug Boyd of the University of Kentucky

Wednesday afternoon workshops include:

- Community Organizing Basics for Oral Historians, led by Sarah Loose and Isabell Moore from Groundswell: Oral History for Social Change, and
- Cooking with Sound: How to Make Great Aural Histories with the Best Sonic Ingredients, led by Kent Davies of the University of Winnipeg, Charles Hardy III of West Chester University and Sarah Lake and Sami Zenderoudi of Concordia University's Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling.

The pre-conference workshops cost \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members. You can sign up for them when you register for the conference here: <https://oha.memberclicks.net/oha-2018-annual-meeting-registration-form#/>

And don't forget to make your hotel reservations for the conference. Get details here:

<http://www.oralhistory.org/local-hotels-montreal-2018/>



President's Letter



Co-Executive Directors Report

Election season opens for OHA leadership slots

OHA members have until July 30 to cast their electronic ballots for OHA first vice president, three Council seats and three Nominating Committee members. Please cast one vote for each position.

Here is the link: <https://www.balloteer.com/bp/nph-bstart?&eid=1009415531640405>

You will need to validate your ballot with the email address you use for your OHA membership.

Need help? Contact OHA at oha@oralhistory.org for assistance.

This issue of the *Newsletter* contains biographical information and personal statements from candidates for the Nominating Committee. The previous edition included that information for the remaining candidates.

Nominating Committee, Position 1:

Anne Chao, Rice University

Anne S. Chao is an adjunct lecturer in the humanities at Rice University, and her field is modern Chinese history. She is also the manager of

the Houston Asian American Archive (HAAA) at Rice. HAAA won the Phi Beta Kappa award for its combination of academic research and community engagement for 2018. She serves on the board of the Houston Ballet, the Houston Endowment, Dunhuang Foundation and the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art as well as on several advisory boards.

Personal Statement

“The Oral History Association is an important meeting point for those who engage in oral history, be they community activists, independent researcher or institutional scholars. I am very proud to be involved with the association and hope that I can be of service to further its mission, especially in encouraging participation of members of diverse ethnic communities.”

Virginia Espino, UCLA

Virginia Espino, a native of northeastern Los Angeles, is a lecturer of Chicana and Working Class history at UCLA and serves on the boards of the California Latinas for Reproductive Justice and the Southwest Oral History Association. She earned her Ph.D. from Arizona State University and her undergraduate degree from UC Santa Cruz. She has been recognized by both the Woodrow Wilson Foundation and the Ford Foundation for her research on population control politics and reproductive injustice during the 1970s.

You can find her collection of oral history interviews at UCLA’s Center for Oral History Research where she spent six years documenting Los Angeles’ historic Chicana and Chicano community. She received the John V. Mink Award for her work in oral history and her collaboration on the Emmy nominated documentary film, *No Más Bebés/No More Babies*, which investigates the history of coercive sterilization at the Los Angeles-USC Medical Center during the 1970s.

Personal Statement

“I am excited at the prospect of greater involvement with the Oral History Association. If elected to the OHA Nominating Committee I will do my utmost to recruit candidates who embody the values outlined in the OHA Statement of Diversity and Inclusivity. I would use my time on the Nominating Committee to continue the work started by my predecessors to build an organization with leadership that represents the diversity of OHA membership

and that centers diverse and marginalized voices.

“I am deeply invested in the values of the OHA and believe that oral history is a process of questioning, listening, recording and preserving diverse historical perspectives. I also believe that the final product of the oral history interview can address social justice issues for marginalized groups by inspiring advocacy, public engagement and greater historical understanding. If elected, I will work to identify new leaders who share similar beliefs.”



Nominating Committee, Position 2:

Kate Scott, U.S. Senate Historical Office

Katherine (Kate) Scott leads the oral history project at the U.S. Senate Historical Office (SHO), where she has served as a historian since 2010. Scott does a lot of fun things at SHO, such as delivering weekly history talks to senators and providing historical context about current topics to members, staff, the media and the general public. The best part of her job is the time she spends interviewing long-time senators and staff whose stories offer a unique perspective of this complex institution.

During the past eight years, Scott has worked to add underrepresented voices to the Senate oral history collection, curate the interviews in new ways and enhance accessibility. She is particularly proud of a new project, Women in the Senate, a collection of interviews with former women senators and staff that explores women’s evolving role in the Senate in the last half century.

Personal Statement

“I am a member of several professional organizations, but I consider the Oral History Association to be my intellectual ‘home.’ I devour each issue of *The Oral History Review*. I return from every annual meeting inspired by the work of my peers, bubbling with new ideas and with a deeper appreciation for the theory and practice of this unique field.

“Over the years, I have supported the OHA’s mission in a variety of ways: writing reviews for *The Oral History Review*, twice serving on the annual meeting program committee and once on the scholarship committee. I have also been active in my regional OHA affiliate, Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region, serving as a co-chair of the annual conference, and as vice president of the organization.

“If elected to serve on the Nominating Committee, I will work conscientiously with committee members to recruit OHA officer and Council candidates who reflect the diversity of voices, experiences and affiliations that comprise our dynamic community.”

Rachel Seidman, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Rachel F. Seidman is director of the Southern Oral History Program at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, where she also holds adjunct appointments in History, American Studies, and Women & Gender Studies. Seidman has a Ph.D. in history from Yale University, and a BA from Oberlin College. The author of *The Civil War: A History in Documents* (Oxford University Press, 2001), and scholarly articles on women’s activism in the Civil War, her current book of oral history interviews with feminist activists around the United States is under contract with UNC Press.

Seidman co-hosts the SOHP’s podcast “Press Record,” and founded and co-directed The Moxie Project: Women’s Leadership for Social Change at both UNC and Duke University, where she formerly worked. Seidman is a 2018-19 Fulbright Scholar and will be undertaking oral history research and teaching in Finland in 2019. Seidman has served on the OHA education committee and co-chaired the program committee for the 2017 annual conference in Minneapolis.

Personal Statement

“I entered the oral history field relatively late in my career, and the Oral History Association has been an important resource and a site of real

learning, collaboration, and growth for me as a scholar. I deeply appreciate the welcoming tone the association sets, and I consider it a necessary institution for the community of oral historians.

“I have been honored to serve on the education committee and as co-chair for the 2017 annual conference’s program committee, and I would welcome the chance to continue to be of use to OHA and its stakeholders. Service on the nominating committee would allow me to help shape the future of the organization by ensuring that we bring forward people who have the necessary energy, skill and commitment to working hard for the benefit of OHA.”



Nominating Committee, Position 3

Kelly Navies, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture

Kelly Elaine Navies is the museum specialist in oral history for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture where she coordinates all aspects of the oral history program. Most recently, she worked on the exhibition “City of Hope: Resurrection City and the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign” currently on view at the National Museum of American History. She has been conducting oral history research for almost 30 years, beginning as an undergraduate in African American Studies at UC Berkeley. She did graduate work at UNC Chapel Hill and also earned a master’s degree in Library and Information Science from the Catholic University of America.

Navies’ oral history projects and interviews give voice to many facets of the African American experience in the United States and are located at UNC Chapel Hill’s Southern Oral History Program, The Reginald F. Lewis

Maryland Museum of African American History and Culture, the Washington DC Public Library, and at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC).

Personal Statement

“Over the past two decades, since the first time I presented at an OHA conference in 2000, the OHA has played a significant role in the evolution of my professional life as an oral historian. It has broadened my understanding of the role of oral history within and beyond the academy and has introduced me to the vast array of oral history practitioners doing good work in the world. Twice, I have participated on OHA conference planning committees, including this year, and I have looked forward to becoming more involved in the leadership of OHA.

“Currently, I am responsible for all aspects of our growing program from developing projects and coordinating interviews to managing public outreach and handling administrative tasks. As such, I draw on almost 30 years of experience as a practicing oral historian. It would be an honor to work alongside other passionate oral historians on the OHA nominating committee and to play a role in the continuing evolution of this most important institution as we navigate the challenges of a steadily growing field.”

Juan Coronado, Michigan State University

Juan David Coronado is a postdoctoral scholar at the Julian Samora Research Institute at Michigan State University. A social historian, Coronado’s research interests include the Mexican American military experience, Chicana/o history, oral history and Latina/o history with an emphasis on class and gender. Since his arrival to Michigan, Coronado has led several community outreach projects serves as oral historian in the Oral History of Latinos in Michigan project.

Coronado, a native of the Río Grande Valley in South Texas, previously taught history at the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg. Having grown up near the U.S.-Mexico Border, Coronado incorporates the bilingual and multicultural components of the area into his teaching, research and writing. He has dedicated time and effort to preserve local and public history from South Texas that has often been omitted by traditional works.

Naturally, oral history has been his ideal medium to make the field of history more inclusive and reflective of the entire American experience. Coronado also serves as co-president of the Southwest Oral History Association.

Personal Statement

“Oral history is important to people of diverse heritages, backgrounds and social standings. It connects us to our past, which for many people has been erased by a popular historical narrative that takes for granted the contributions of the marginalized. My interest in serving the OHA stems from the work I do in preserving the contributions of Chicanas/os and other Latinas/os in the United States. I hope to bring a perspective that can widen the current body of knowledge that exists within the organization. My drive is to make not only the field of oral history, but the field of history more inclusive.

“Going through the Texas education system, I quickly learned what little regard it had for Chicano and Mexican history. As a historian, I still often find myself in a mostly white world, however there are good allies around and we must come together to bring effective change to our field, communities and society.

“Oral history is a grand avenue to preserve the marginalized voices of the past that make our history and thus our society more inclusive. Therefore, I am interested in serving OHA to widen the perspective and move the organization forward.”



First Vice President--Daniel Kerr, American University

Council Position 1

Sarah Milligan, Oklahoma State University

Troy Reeves, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Council Position 2

Alexander Freund, University of Winnipeg

Jeff Corrigan, California State University Monterey Bay

Council Position 3

Debbie Ardemendo, Apollo Theater, New York City

Gwendolyn Etter-Lewis, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio



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Mary Kay Quinlan, Editor*

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President's Column

By **Todd Moye**

The OHA has a lean paid staff. They earn their paychecks many times over, but it's also true that volunteers do the bulk of the OHA's work, from planning our annual conference to setting its policies and long-term priorities. I'd like to highlight the work that one of our committees and one of our task forces are engaged in this year, and I invite you to put your own shoulder behind the wheel of the group that best fits your talents and interests.

The OHA's Statement of [Principles and Best Practices](#) is our most important public-facing document. I have used it as the cornerstone of every oral history training I have ever led, as I know many of you have. I also know how often experienced oral historians have directed would-be oral historians to the document as a starting point. I couldn't possibly calculate how many oral historians the document has educated, or how much better the practice of oral history in the U.S. is today as a result.

It's important that the document reflect *current* best practices, which evolve more rapidly than ever in the digital age. To that end, Sarah Milligan and Troy Reeves have led a small team over the past several months to revise the document for the first time in nearly a decade. I have been impressed by the time and thought that the members of the task force have put into this, and I'm excited that they will be able to share the results of their work with you in Montreal.

I'm encouraging Council to think of ways to make the statement more of a living document, which would require the task force to convene more regularly. Stay tuned for developments on that front.

As the OHA grows, it's up to all of us to ensure that it is a welcoming place for oral historians from all walks of life, and we all bear responsibility for making more opportunities available for oral historians from underrepresented groups. This is the explicit charge of the Diversity Committee, which for the past few years has been working with Council and the executive office to create an OHA-sponsored diversity fellowship.

When the fellowship is in place, it will employ a budding oral historian from an underrepresented community in an oral history program or archive for one year, thereby carving a path toward a career in oral history. In the future we want to scale this up to offer multiple fellowships each year. We're nearly to the finish line with the first iteration of the fellowship, but we could use your help to get across.

Later this summer you will receive a call for volunteers on OHA committees and task forces. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the [committee descriptions](#) and respond to the survey. It would be wonderful if your passions and skill set align with the work of the Diversity Committee, but if not, I'm confident that you will find another spot where your work would be valued.

Executive Co-Director's Column

By **Kristine McCusker**

Greetings from the co-directors who have spent the past two months representing the Oral History Association at various meetings, professional organizations and conferences nationally and internationally.

In April, Louis Kyriakouides attended the American Council of Learned Societies in Philadelphia where he was able to meet other executive directors. Highlights of the meeting included sessions on leadership, data protection and most importantly, developing pro-active policies on harassment and other issues.

In May, he was a guest at the University of Ghent in Belgium to participate in a doctoral defense panel of international scholars. At the meeting, he was able to discuss oral history methods and work at the law school, where they are working on human rights abuses. He is hoping to develop a relationship with them.

In mid-May, Kris McCusker spent time with colleagues at the Organization of American Historians, talking about potential partnerships with them. We are happy to announce that the crack editorial team at the *Oral History Review* will be holding a workshop on publishing and oral history at the OAH conference in Philadelphia in 2019.

She also spent time at the National Council on Public History, visiting especially with Executive Director Stephanie Rowe, who had some great suggestions regarding the OHA and future growth.

In early June, she presented a paper at the International Country Music Conference, especially talking about the good work the OHA is doing and why popular music scholars need to be using oral history methodology. Then, she attended the Southern Association for Women Historians where she was able to visit with former OHA president and executive secretary Rebecca Sharpless.

Finally, Kris and intrepid Program Associate Faith Bagley will be visiting potential sites for the 2021 annual conference, checking out whether they are a good fit for our organization.

Please note: Major construction begins on our building July 17 and we will be without access to our phone from July 17 until Aug. 20. If you need to contact the executive office, emailing us is best at oha@oralhistory.org. We will be able to return phone calls, but won't be able to answer them immediately. Thanks for your patience!