



ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

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It's time to elect OHA leadership, vote on social justice guidelines and mark your calendar for the 2022 in-person OHA meeting in October.

New Committee on Committees, along with council seats, VP,

Nominating Committee on 2022 OHA ballot

By Amy Starecheski, OHA President

The OHA Nominating Committee adopted a new approach to elections starting in 2021, which we have continued this year. You'll find two candidates for first vice president and three candidates for each council seat. Additionally, five candidates are running for three seats on the Nominating Committee. Vote for up to three candidates, with the top three vote-getters winning vacant slots. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order of last name.

The Nominating Committee offers a detailed explanation of its rationale for the new election format, which you can read here:

<https://www.oralhistory.org/2021/07/15/nominating-committee-employs-new-approach-to-elections/>

We also have a brand new elected committee: the Committee on Committees! Members voted to create this new structure at the 2021 annual meeting. The Committee on Committees recruits and assigns members to serve on OHA [committees](#). The Committee on Committees seeks the advice and consent of the OHA Council in making committee assignments and actively seeks to fulfill the OHA's diversity and inclusion goals. Until now, recruiting and assigning committee members was the job of the president.

The OHA created this new committee to increase transparency and inclusion in this particular aspect of our organizational governance. Committee service is a crucial pathway into leadership in the field, and so who makes those appointments really matters. You'll see eight candidates running for six seats on the Committee on Committees. Vote for up to six candidates, with the top six vote-getters constituting the inaugural Committee on Committees. After this year, three of them will cycle off and we'll then elect three new members each year, serving two-year terms.

Read on to meet the candidates.

To vote, please visit this link: <https://oha.memberclicks.net/2022-election>. You will need to sign into your membership profile. If you need help accessing your account, please email Faith Bagley at oha@oralhistory.org.

Online voting will be open for six weeks and will close at 11:59 p.m. CDT on July 25.

Social justice guidelines ready for member vote

In addition to electing new OHA leadership, members are encouraged to vote on proposed guidelines for social justice oral history work, which, if approved, will become part of the OHA's suite of principles and best practices documents available at www.oralhistory.org.

The proposed guidelines grew out of the work of a task force commissioned in 2019 to develop a document outlining practices to better serve vulnerable communities. It aims to

help oral historians center their narrators with ethical and procedural standards.

To read the proposed guidelines in full, see: <https://www.oralhistory.org/guidelines-for-social-justice-oral-history-work/>.

Quick calendar notes

July 15 is the deadline for submitting proposals for next year's annual meeting of the National Council on Public History, an organization whose interests overlap with those of many oral historians. The meeting, whose intriguing theme is "To Be Determined," will be held in Atlanta April 12-15, 2023.

For details, see: <https://ncph.org/conference/2023-annual-meeting/calls-for-proposals/>

Oct. 19-22 should already be highlighted on your calendars for the 2022 OHA annual meeting. This year's theme is "Walking Through the Fire: Human Perseverance in Times of Turmoil." Plan to attend at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. Program details will be available soon.

Meet the candidates for OHA leadership

First Vice President—Vote for one

Troy Reeves, University of Wisconsin-Madison



Biography

Troy Reeves has worked in the oral history field since 1999 and led the oral history program at UW-Madison's Archives since 2007. There he oversees the program's collection and curation of transcripts and recordings, while also collaborating

with practitioners locally and nationally. The projects at UW he has managed include Women Inspire/Women @ UW, African American Athletes at UW and oral histories for its Madison LGBTQ+ Archives.

In the wider field of oral history, Reeves has:

- authored/co-authored book chapters on environmental oral history and public folklore
- published numerous reviews in oral/public history journals
- held OHA leadership roles, including currently as treasurer
- served on council and co-chaired the task force on best practices, leading to an updated suite of documents, in 2017-18
- served as the Oral History Review's managing editor, 2012-2017
- won a 2020 OHA Mason Multimedia Award for "The Lands We Share."

Personal statement

Since joining OHA in 1999, I have tried to give as much to it as it has given me. To borrow a phrase about any great relationship: OHA has been my rock and my pillow.

The OHA is in a time of transition, with upcoming changes in the executive office/director and OHR editors. As a candidate for 1st VP, I can bring continuity, as I am experienced with OHA operations, programs and governance. Moreover, as the current treasurer, I understand our budget and can help keep the OHA on firm financial footing.

My years in the OHA have taught me to listen, empathize, learn and collaborate; I will use these skills, in community with all involved, to advance OHA to a place where all people feel that their membership has value, their annual meeting attendance will be rewarding and safe, and their thoughts, ideas and concerns will be heard.

Rachel F. Seidman, Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum



Biography

Rachel F. Seidman is the curator of women's environmental history at the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum where she is curating an exhibition about women and the environmental justice movement. Previously Seidman directed the Southern Oral History Program at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, where

she created the “Press Record” podcast and directed the Stories to Save Lives: Health, Illness and Medical Care in the South. Seidman is the author of *Speaking of Feminism: Today's Activists on the Past, Present and Future of the U.S. Women's Movement, based on oral history interviews* (UNC 2019).

Seidman was a Fulbright Scholar in Finland, where she taught U.S. women's history and researched Nordic approaches to oral history and the medical humanities. Seidman has also taught at Carleton College and at Duke University. She has a Ph.D. in history from Yale University, and a B.A. from Oberlin College.

Personal statement

I entered the oral history field relatively late in my career and benefitted tremendously from OHA as a resource and a site of real learning, collaboration and growth for me as a scholar. I have valued the welcoming tone the organization sets and the relationships and friendships that it nurtures. I have served on the education committee, co-chaired the program committee and chaired the nominating committee. I've come to deeply appreciate the work and thoughtfulness that staff and members contribute to keeping OHA moving forward. I would welcome the chance to keep contributing to the organization that has meant so much to me over the years and to help make sure it continues to serve members in all the ways that made such a difference to me, as well as in new ways that we dream up as we face the future together.

Council Slate 1—Vote for one

Shanna Farrell, University of California, Berkeley Oral History Center



Biography

Shanna Farrell is an interviewer at UC Berkeley's Oral History Center (OHC), where she works on a wide variety of projects and specializes in cultural and environmental history. She has conducted over 250 interviews during her tenure with the OHC. She has led educational programming, including the Introductory Workshop and Advanced Oral History Summer Institute, since 2013. She served as the co-chair for the 2020 Oral History Association Conference and is on the organizing committee

for the June 2022 symposium on Assessing the Role of Race and Power in Oral History Theory and Practice.

She also produces OHC's podcast, The Berkeley Remix. She uses oral history interviewing techniques in her freelancing writing projects and is the author of two books, *A Good Drink: In Pursuit of Sustainable Spirits* and *Bay Area Cocktails: A History of Culture, Community and Craft*. She holds an interdisciplinary master's degree from New York University and a master's degree in oral history from Columbia University.

Personal statement

I am a passionate member of the oral history community and have been a proud member of the Oral History Association since 2012. I am committed to ensuring that a multitude of voices from different backgrounds and lived experiences are part of the historical record, as well as making oral history--in both practice and theory--accessible to myriad audiences.

If elected to serve on the OHA Council, I will use the pedagogical, practical, relationship-building and administrative skills that I've developed over my decade working in oral history to further the evolution of the field. I look forward to working with both the leadership and membership of OHA to work toward its mission of fostering best practices and encouraging support for oral history and practitioners.

Zeina Ismail-Allouche, Independent Scholar



Biography

Zeina Ismail-Allouche is a storyteller and auto-ethnographer with over 20 years of experience in designing, implementing and monitoring strategic, integrated, multidisciplinary and participatory reform interventions in support of child protection with a special focus on gender-based violence, preventing separation and the alternative care sector. Grounded in Indigenous methodologies, she recently completed her individualized Ph.D. oral history research-creation based on the life stories of individuals who experienced transracial/intercountry adoption <https://storytelling.concordia.ca/projects-item/ineradicable-voices-narratives-toward-rerooting/>

A child protection expert, Ismail-Allouche contributed to the formulation of the International Guidelines on Children without Parental Care. She founded an NGO calling for the right to origins for victims of illegal adoption and those forced to separate from their biological families through placement into institutional care. Originally from

Lebanon, she is very much concerned with the ethical representation of the most marginalized in oral history performance.

Personal statement

For long years, my engagement work was focusing on ensuring that the voices of the least heard are given safe spaces to tell the other side of the stories. I strongly believe that behavior change processes should ensure safe spaces for the invisible. This practice was further reinforced during my Ph.D. research project that deployed Indigenous methodologies whereby the research journey is collaborative in nature and the line between the researcher and the researchee is blurred. The realities of Indigenous children in Canada were central to my research project. My research-creation proved effective in yielding positive behavioral changes as discussed in my thesis. (available at: <https://spectrum.library.concordia.ca/id/eprint/988750/>)

My commitment is to keep on unsettling the practice of oral history to ensure a decolonized practice that accounts for the silenced voices.

Sara Sinclair, Columbia University



Biography

Sara Sinclair is an oral historian, editor and educator of Cree-Ojibwa and German-Jewish descent. A graduate of Columbia University's Oral History Master of Arts program, Sinclair currently teaches in the program. Her book of contemporary Indigenous oral histories, *How We Go Home: Voices from Indigenous North America*, was released with Voice of Witness/Haymarket Books in October 2020.

Sinclair was the project manager and lead interviewer for Columbia Center for Oral History Research's Robert Rauschenberg Oral History Project. With Peter Bearman and Mary Marshall Clark, Sinclair edited a book from these narratives (Columbia University Press, 2019). She currently contributes to the center's Covid-19 Oral History, Narrative and Memory Archive, and Obama Presidency Oral History. She began attending OHA conferences in 2014 and currently serves as OHA program committee co-chair.

Personal statement

I believe in the power of our field to make meaningful changes to people's lives. I love oral history and oral historians. I am very interested in how to make this work more sustainable for those who practice it. I would like to see the OHA taking on a more practical role in supporting those who are asking: how can we create more stable

work lives for more oral historians; how can we use our skills to also seek employment opportunities in adjacent fields; and how might we introduce ourselves and our work to professions who don't yet know how much they might benefit from our unique skills.

I would also love to see OHA strengthening its intergenerational ties internally. I would like to amplify the voices of our field's elders, so the rest of us can hear stories about how we became the organization we are today, and in parallel, who we left out, whose ears, hearts, minds and voices we should be working to bring back into our fold. I would like to see the OHA embrace different ways of knowing and pursue not only a diverse membership but also diverse expressions of what it means to "do" oral history.

I would be honored to serve an organization whose members have taught me so much.

Council Slate 2—Vote for one

Nishani Frazier, University of Kansas



Biography

Nishani Frazier is interim director of museum studies and associate professor of American studies and history at the University of Kansas. Frazier has also held positions that incorporated oral history including: interviews for Anacostia's Black Mosaic Project, Cleveland Historical Society's black veteran project, King Archives and Library civil rights activist programs, and community training sessions in oral history.

Frazier's most recent book, *Harambee City: The Congress of Racial Equality in Cleveland and the Rise of Black Power Populism*, was released with an accompanying website. The website provides open access to oral history interviews conducted in conjunction with the book [Harambee City](#).

Currently, Frazier is co-principal investigator for Hall Humanities Center project, Stories for All: A Digital Storytelling Project. The project brings together over 40 Kansas-based partner projects dedicated to gathering marginalized and suppressed histories. Additionally, Frazier has served as a member of the OHA Nominating Committee, OHA Scholars-at-Risk Task Force and is a member of OHA's Advocacy Committee.

Personal statement

Community engaged work is the center of my personal and professional philosophy. I am part of a growing membership seeking to enhance OHA's profile

among communities of color, while also acting to transform the internal dynamics which made OHA inaccessible for many. This belief and approach are at the heart of my candidacy.

I also operate from the belief that OHA must re-center its way of thinking structurally, ideologically and via its practice. My critiques on the updated OHA procedures and ethics, subsequently led to my role as co-writer on the new social justice guidelines. More than any aspect of my service, these guidelines reflect the kind of work I'd like to see OHA support and advocate. Broadly, I believe it's important for OHA to assert a stronger national vision and reputational standing among universities, community organizations, documentarians and independent oral historians.

Crystal Mun-hye Baik, University of California, Riverside



Biography

Crystal Mun-hye Baik (she/her) is a feminist memory worker, writer, and interdisciplinary scholar of color who resides in the unceded lands of the Tongva/Kizh people (greater Los Angeles region). She is Associate Professor of Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of California, Riverside where she teaches courses in feminist oral history, anti-imperial solidarities, and feminist critiques of militarization. In the last 15 years, Crystal has led or participated in numerous community documentation and oral history projects including Creative Interventions' Storytelling & Organizing Project (STOP); Inland Empire Activisms (in Riverside, CA); and the Covid-19 Public Memory Project of the Asian/Pacific/American Institute at New York University. She is the author of *Reencounters: On the Korean War and Diasporic Memory Critique* (Temple University Press, 2020), which examines the ongoing consequences of the Korean War through a diasporic memory archive that includes oral history projects. Crystal prioritizes collaborative approaches in her research and is a steering committee member of [GYOPO](#); an editorial collective member of the [Critical Ethnic Studies Journal](#); and co-editor of the new [Critical Militarization Studies](#) book series at the University of Michigan Press. Crystal received her BA in history from Williams College, a MA in Oral History from Columbia University, and her PhD in American Studies & Ethnicity from USC.

Personal statement

It is a privilege to be considered for a seat in the OHA Council during this time of prolonged crisis. In this capacity, I am committed to working with OHA to fully embrace the pluralistic ways we are already practicing oral history while centering racial, gender,

and economic justice. I am invested in building organizational capacity to work alongside memory workers— artists, abolitionists, mutual aid workers, activists, public scholars, knowledge-bearers, and educators in and outside of the academy— so that oral history is supporting social movements and prioritizing the communities from which they emerge. Building on the economic justice work of courageous practitioners, I am also committed to addressing inequities that may hinder adjunct faculty, cultural workers, activists, undocumented practitioners, and independent oral historians from participating in the annual meeting and related conversations. Lastly, I am moved by the prospect of centering processes and practices of collective care and accountability in our work. These practices include “slow” and non-extractive approaches to oral history; prioritizing disability justice (DJ) principles in program organizing; honoring citational practice to acknowledge the contributions and labor of on-the-ground practitioners; centering relationship-building in projects; and lifting up the creative and intellectual labor of Black, Indigenous, Asian American, Latinx, immigrant, queer, transgender, and DJ practitioners.

Alysia Steele, University of Mississippi



Biography

Alysia Steele is an associate professor of journalism at the University of Mississippi. She teaches photojournalism, multimedia, podcasting and oral history in gender studies focusing on marginalized communities. Currently, a Ph.D. candidate in U.S. history, Steele’s dissertation centers on Elaine Tomlin, the only Black female staff photographer for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in the 1960s. She expects to defend her dissertation in 2023. Activist Gloria Steinem endorsed her book, *Delta Jewels: In Search of My Grandmother’s Wisdom*, which comprised her portraits and oral histories of elder Black church women in the Mississippi Delta.

Steele’s work has been published in the NYT, NBC.com, *Chicago Sun-Times*, NPR and USA Today. In 2016, she won the Mississippi Humanities Council’s “Preserver of Mississippi Culture” award for her book. Steele was part of the *Dallas Morning News* photo staff that won the 2006 Pulitzer Prize in breaking news for their Hurricane Katrina coverage.

Personal statement

I have been passionate about oral histories of underrepresented communities for years in my work. OHA is the source that I look to for best practices and new and exciting scholarship. I share resources in all my lectures and speaking engagements. I

have been a member for several years and have eagerly attended conferences to learn from others, many of whom have inspired me.

If elected, I commit to working with fellow members to continue pursuing more diverse voices that reflect the beauty of our world. OHA works hard to build community, and the inclusivity of underrepresented and marginalized communities is vitally important, for we know archives have not always represented diversity. OHA is essential in helping lift those voices, and it would be an honor to help carry the torch in providing this service. However I can help, I will.

Nominating Committee—Vote for up to three

Fanny Garcia, Independent Scholar



Biography

Fanny Julissa García is a Honduran American oral historian contributing work to Central American studies with a focus on applied oral history, a term she uses to describe how oral histories can educate, inform policy change and support communities endangered by state-inflicted violence. Her work focuses on immigration justice, detention and incarceration, family separation, and the transnational impact of failed border policies. She has won multiple awards for her work, and recently received the OHA/NEH year-long fellowship for “Separated: An Oral History Project,” which documents the life histories of families impacted by “zero tolerance” policy that forcibly separated parents from their children at the U.S./Mexico border.

Garcia serves on the editorial board of the Oral History Review and is the oral historian on The Path Home: Immigrants Making America project, which aims to collect oral histories of individuals who gained a path to citizenship after the passage of the 1986 Immigration Control and Reform Act.

She received her A.A. in English from Los Angeles Valley College, a B.A. in English from UCLA and an M.A. in oral history from Columbia University.

Personal statement

I am honored to run for election to the Nominating Committee. If elected, I look forward to the opportunity to contribute my skills, life history, positionality and expertise in greater involvement with the Oral History Association. I believe strongly that oral history is a process of building relationships, serving communities, questioning, listening, recording and preserving a diverse array of historical perspectives.

The past several years spent teaching oral history methods inside and outside of academic institutions have taught me that diversity and inclusion must also include outreach to nonacademic practitioners of oral history who work to build connections and movements, facilitate public engagement and create greater understanding of past and current historical moments. If elected to the OHA Council I will do my best to seek out the work of Black, Latinx, Asian and Pacific Islander, Native American, LGBTQIA, and differently abled practitioners doing imaginative, experimental, and rigorous oral history and memory work.

Brian H. Greenwald, Gallaudet University



Biography

Brian H. Greenwald is professor of history and director of the Drs. John S. and Betty J. Schuchman Center at Gallaudet University. Greenwald has focused on stories from the American deaf community through signed interviews. Current research projects include interviews of former deaf printers from The Washington Post and deaf New Yorkers.

Personal statement

I'm running for the Nominating Committee because I support the values of the Oral History Association and seek to broaden the reach of OHA's membership. As a member of the Nominating Committee, I pledge fairness and integrity in the work we do. I pledge to work diligently with members in strengthening OHA's nomination slate to provide the best possible representation in leadership as the organization moves forward with its strategic planning. Additionally, I am interested in advancing diversity and inclusion within the Oral History Association by drawing qualified, competent and motivated stakeholders. By running for the OHA Nominating Committee, I hope to contribute to a collaborative approach to recruiting the best possible group of nominees to meet OHA's objectives.

Jennifer Kiel, Independent Scholar



Biography

Jennifer Keil is the founder of 70 Degrees, an historic consulting firm in Southern California. She received her master's degree in oral and public history methods from California State University, Fullerton, where she serves on the History Department Alumni Council. She has served on the Southwest Oral History Association board since 2015 with her most recent presidential service from 2019-2021. She has served on the OHA scholarship and local arrangements committees.

Personal statement

I would like to support the OHA Executive Committee by networking with the regional oral history associations. As a member of the Nominating Committee, I can actively recruit colleagues from my network of partners that range from universities to nonprofit research centers throughout California.

Ana Liberato, University of Kentucky



Biography

Ana Liberato is an associate professor of sociology at the University of Kentucky. She has a Ph.D. in sociology (2005) and M.A. (2001) in Latin American studies (sociology concentration) from the University of Florida, Gainesville. Her research interests include inequalities based on race/ethnicity, gender and class and their interplay with migration, mobility and political identities. Liberato also has a special interest in memory studies as well as the political, cultural and socioeconomic processes taking place in Caribbean and Latin American societies because of economic globalization and the democratization processes that followed authoritarian regimes.

Personal statement

I am an Afro-Caribbean immigrant woman trained academically in both the Dominican Republic and the USA. I became a U.S. citizen in 2005. I am a statistician and sociologist who became part of the oral history community in 2019 when I attended the OHA annual meeting in Salt Lake City. I have fallen in love with oral history and would like to serve OHA in any capacity.

I have served my profession through my participation in the American Sociological Association's ethnic minorities and gender, race and class sections. I have also served the Southern Sociological Society through my role as editorial board member of Social Currents. I am currently in the Latin American Studies Association's nomination committee (DR-Haiti Section) and the Nomination Committee at the University of Kentucky (social science representative). I will bring my disciplinary, academic and personal experience to OHA, as well as my skills and competencies, standpoint, commitment and collegiality.

Ida Milne, Carlow College, Ireland**Biography**

Ida Milne is a social historian of disease and medicine, and a history lecturer at European Carlow College, Ireland. Her primary research field is on the social, medical, economic and political history of the 1918-19 influenza pandemic in Ireland. During covid-19, she has become a frequent contributor to radio and print media on the 1918-19 influenza pandemic. She has used oral history to unveil intimate stories in many different fields--the 1918-19 influenza pandemic, childhood experiences of illness and the emotional impact of the chronically ill child on families, MMR vaccination resistance, southern Irish Protestants, and working lives in medicine and the newspaper industry, as well as gender in medicine and the newspaper industry.

Milne teaches oral history at B.A. and M.A. levels and is founding member and former vice president of the Oral History Network of Ireland. Currently she co-chairs the OHA's International Committee.

Personal statement

The Nominating Committee shapes the future leadership of the OHA. I have extensive networks within oral history circles within OHA and internationally, and through my membership of other professional associations in North America and

Europe. I am committed to the practice and application of oral history to democratize the historical process and record.

Committee on Committees—Vote for up to six

Lisa Arrastia, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts



Biography

Lisa Arrastia is an associate professor of education at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Originally from West Harlem in New York City, over the last 30 years Arrastia has served as a high school teacher, school leader and founder in rural and downstate New York, the San Francisco Bay Area and Chicago. With a Ph.D. in American studies, an M.Ed. in administration and supervision, an M.A. in education and a B.S. in sociology and Black studies and minor in writing, her professional expertise is wide while her fields of concentration remain in audio ethnography (oral history remix), aesthetics-based education, pedagogies of culture, notions of masculinity and gender and the intersection of race, social class, place and school.

Personal statement

I am the founder, now donor to the East Side Freedom Library of the Young People's Archive. As a professor in the field of education, I have taught and still teach "listening across difference to listen to understand" through what I call "audio ethnography" (or oral history remix) to undergraduates in all fields, undergraduate and graduate education licensure students, and K-12 schools.

Ellen Brooks, Independent Scholar



Biography

After graduating from the Oral History Master of Arts program at Columbia University in 2013, I coordinated oral history programs at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (2013-2018) and the State Archives of North Carolina (2019-2020). Today I work as an independent oral historian and consultant, primarily with libraries and archives doing oral history and community memory work. My professional interests include archival practices, podcasting, building networks and communities of practice, and the intersection of all these with oral history.

Personal statement

Since attending my first annual meeting in 2012, I have been committed to OHA and to my colleagues in the field. In 2014 I co-founded the OHA Mentorship Program, which evolved into the OHA Emerging Professionals Committee, which I chaired for three years. I am an active member in the OHA Archives Interest Group, and in 2019 I co-chaired the OHA Archives Principles and Best Practices Task Force. From all these experiences I have developed a good understanding of what it means to work with OHA leadership and other OHA members dedicated to making OHA a well-run, well-rounded and welcoming organization.

The combination of my professional experience, my on-going involvement with OHA, and my close connections with colleagues around the country would make me an asset to the Committee on Committees. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to help OHA grow and succeed, and particularly to focus on welcoming new voices into the oral history space, both practitioners and narrators.

Darold Cuba, Washington National Cathedral



Biography

A graduate of the OHMA program at Columbia ('20), I am the inaugural Oral History Fellow at the Washington National Cathedral and the Ball-DuPont Oral History Fellow at the Lewes Historical Society in Lewes, Delaware. I founded The Mapping Freedom initiative as my OHMA thesis, to map all of the "freedom colonies" (marronage) spaces in the world, using oral history and GIS mapping technology for a digital interdisciplinary multimedia social justice initiative, which is now my dissertation as a history doctoral candidate at the University of Cambridge (St. John's College).

Personal statement

A member of OHA since 2018 and having been the recipient of the numerous benefits that the organization provides, I now want to focus on giving back to the space that has fed me so well in my burgeoning oral history career. The Committee on Committees is the perfect fit for me, and among my goals are to help create, develop and sustain the efforts for supporting the work of critical race theory, which has been under attack lately, including the establishment for an oral history project.

José Ángel Gutiérrez , University of Texas-Arlington, Emeritus



Biography

José Ángel Gutiérrez during the Chicano Movement was considered one of the Four Horsemen of that era. He is a professor emeritus of political science and founder of the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Texas-Arlington, including the oral history project: <https://library.uta.edu/tejanovoices/> plus with others the oral history project: <https://crbb.tcu.edu/>. In addition to his Ph.D, he holds a J.D. and is licensed to practice in various federal jurisdictions and the State of Texas. He has authored and co-authored 17 books. He has received many professional honors including the 2019 National Hispanic Hero Award from the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute in Chicago and 2016 Distinguished Alumni from Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Personal statement

My interest in serving is to give back to oral history studies what it has given me, a successful academic career. From my first rejections of using oral history anecdotal evidence in research papers during early undergraduate and graduate years to establishing the largest collection of such histories on Mexican origin people in the

U.S.: Tejano Voices at the University of Texas-Arlington. Now, being honored with emeritus status I want to help others. This position will allow me to do some of that if I am given the opportunity and selected as member of the Committee on Committees.

Linda Shopes, Independent Scholar



Biography

I have been involved with oral history since the 1970s and with the Oral History Association for just about as long, serving in many capacities, including as president in 1997-1998. Most recently I served as co-chair of the 2020 annual meeting Local Arrangements Committee and am currently a member of the ad hoc group planning the June symposium, "Assessing the Role of Race and Power in Oral History Theory and Practice."

I have taught oral history in venues ranging from community workshops to graduate seminars and have written widely in both oral and public history. I also served as founding co-editor of Palgrave's Studies in Oral History series. Much of my work in oral history has been based in Baltimore; currently I am participating in the Maryland Lynching Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Oral History Initiative and in the development of a network of oral historians and our allies in Baltimore to advance the practice there.

Personal statement

The Oral History Association is at a moment of transformation, and committee appointments are an important part of this process. They are a way to expand the association's reach, bring in new ideas and support current efforts at diversity and inclusion. As a member of the Committee on Committees, I would draw upon the broad networks I've developed over the years among oral historians—self-identified and not—both within and outside of the association, including those who have come to our field through both customary and nontraditional paths and/or who engage in diverse forms of practice.

Although I know something of the history and functions of OHA committees, if elected I would educate myself about their current agendas and needs and take those into account as I worked with fellow Committee on Committees members to recommend appointments to the OHA Council. I appreciate the council's nomination and thank the membership for your consideration.

Regennia Williams, Western Reserve Historical Society



Biography

Williams has taught history at the post-secondary level and lectured in non-academic settings for more than 20 years and has conducted hundreds of oral history interviews. While serving as an associate professor of history at Cleveland State University, she founded and continues to direct the Ohio-based Praying Grounds Oral History Project. She also has conducted oral history research in Virginia, Washington, D.C., Nigeria, Macau and South Africa. She currently is the Distinguished Scholar of African American History and Culture at Cleveland's Western Reserve Historical Society, where she launched the A. Grace Lee Mims Arts and Culture Oral History Project in 2021.

Among her other accomplishments, Williams leads the Center for the Study of Religion and Spirituality in the History of Africa and the Diaspora (The RASHAD Center, Inc.), a nonprofit educational corporation. Long active in the Oral History Association, she has often chaired conference sessions, including in 2021, when she chaired a roundtable, "Moving Stories in Challenging Times: Narratives from America's North Coast."

Personal statement

As a life member of the Oral History Association (OHA), a former OHA Council member and a former member of OHA's Diversity Committee, I would welcome the opportunity to serve on the Committee on Committees. I am convinced that my training and my experience working with students, colleagues and volunteers in a variety of settings make me an ideal candidate for this position.

Lucas Wilson, University of Toronto



Biography

[Lucas Wilson](#) holds an M.A. in English from McMaster University, as well as an M.T.S. from Vanderbilt University. An Invisible Histories Project fellow, Wilson is finishing his interdisciplinary Ph.D. in comparative studies at Florida Atlantic University. His academic work has appeared in [Canadian Jewish Studies](#), [Flannery O'Connor Review](#), and in edited collections published by [The MLA](#), [SUNY Press](#), and [DIO Press](#). He also has a forthcoming article in *The Journal of Jewish Identities* and a forthcoming book chapter about Liberty University's gay conversion "therapy" program (published through The University of Alabama Press). His public-facing work has appeared in [The Advocate](#), [Queerty](#), [LGBTQ Nation](#), and [Religion Dispatches](#), among other venues. He is currently a sessional lecturer at University of Toronto.

Personal statement

I am interested in this position because of both my background in oral history and my vision to see oral history better represented in interdisciplinary scholarship. While teaching at University of Toronto, I am currently finishing my Ph.D. in comparative studies at Florida Atlantic University. For my dissertation, I conducted a series of oral histories of children of Holocaust survivors in Charleston, South Carolina, when I was a Charleston research fellow.

I have also begun conducting oral histories of queer Liberty University alumni to write a queer history of Liberty University (my next project after I finish my Ph.D.). With OHA, I would like to strategize ways to encourage the practice of oral history across disciplines. I believe the discipline of oral history is generative for both narrators and those conducting the oral histories, and I want to be a part of an organization that promotes the practice in interdisciplinary scholarship.

Yiyi Zhang, Independent Scholar



Biography

Yiyi Zhang was born and raised in Beijing, China, but has spent over 10 years abroad in the pursuit of knowledge. She holds a B.A. in philosophy from Brandeis University, two master's degrees from Columbia University – the first in philosophy and the second in oral history – and a master's in theology from Boston College. All the while, she has been driven by a desire to understand different worldviews not only through academic research, but also through lived experiences of travel and service in various countries throughout East, South and Central Asia, as well as Mozambique.

Her oral history work thus far has sought both to amplify the voices of marginalized peoples and to engage deeply with different individuals' transformative religious experiences. Her future hope is to incorporate oral history into theological discourses and to promote deeper interreligious understanding. In her leisure time, she enjoys drawing and soap-making.

Personal statement

I graduated from OHMA in Dec 2018. During the program at Columbia, I focused on interviewing people who had powerful religious experiences from various faith backgrounds and produced a creative storytelling event as my thesis. Since then, I've done free-lance oral history works with organizations such as the Coney Island History Project and the Community Ministries with All Angels' Church. My work has taken its forms on websites and exhibitions.

Since the spring of 2020, I've been pursuing my third master's degree in theology at Boston College with a focus on comparative theology. I hope to incorporate oral history interviews into the theological discourse in the future and promote deeper interreligious understanding. I volunteer myself to serve with OHA in capacities that it needs to stay in touch with folks in the field and be inspired by one another.



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