

Jessica Erin Ray, PhD

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Current Positions

Instructional Associate Professor of History

Associate Director, Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research

Degrees Held

2014	PhD, History, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
2009	MA, American Dance Studies, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL
2002	BA, History, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Employment History

2023–Present	Associate Director, Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, College Station, TX
2024–Present	Instructional Associate Professor, Department of History, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
2020–2024	Instructional Assistant Professor, Department of History, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
2018–2020	Coordinator of Research and Proposal Development, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX
2018–2020	Graduate Faculty, Department of Dance, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX
2016–2018	Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Dance, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX
2015–2018	Adjunct Lecturer, Department of History, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX
2015	Instructor, US History, Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service, Houston, TX

Honors and Awards

2024	Association of Former Students College-Level Teaching Award, College of Arts & Sciences, Texas A&M University
2024	Open Education Research Champion Award, Student Government Association, Texas A&M University
2024	Nominated for Wells Fargo Honors Faculty Award, Texas A&M University
2023	Early Career Teaching Award, College of Arts & Sciences, Texas A&M University

Professional Societies

American Historical Association
Histories of Dance Working Group
Popular Culture Association

Professional Accomplishments

2025	Development of Digital Accessibility grant, College of Arts & Sciences, Texas A&M University, to bring HIST 105 materials into compliance with ADA Final Rule
2024	PASS (Promoting ArtSci Student Success), College of Arts & Sciences, Texas A&M University to fund Undergraduate Researchers in the Humanities (URTH)
2023–Present	Revival of Glasscock Undergraduate Summer Scholar Program from 0 students in 2022, 12 in 2023, 15 in 2024, and 20 in 2025. I have secured funds throughout the university to support the program and applied for a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to expand the program.
2023–Present	Artistic Advisor, Social Movement Contemporary Dance Theater, Houston, TX
2022	Faculty Lead, Digital Design for Student Success (D2S2), interagency contract with Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) supported by Governor’s Emergency Educational Relief (GEER) funding. Project to develop high-quality Open Educational Resources (OER) for HIST1301 for use across the state of Texas.
2022	co-PI, Type I Merging 3 Colleges Grant, “Overcoming student disengagement through purposefully engaged faculty: a critical friend self-study,” Texas A&M University
2021–2023	“Reinvigorating the Big History Survey,” Course Designer and Lead Faculty, Enhancing the Design of Gateway Experiences (EDGE) grant from Office of Student Success, Texas A&M University
2021–2022	Academic Professional Track Faculty Research Fellowship, Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research
2020–2022	Co-Editor, Special Issues on Dance, <i>Feminist Modernist Studies</i> , 4:3 (October 2021), 5:3 (December 2022)
2018–2022	Board Member, Founding President, Social Movement Contemporary Dance, Houston, TX
2018–2019	John S. Aubrey Fellow, Newberry Library, Chicago for “The Doyenne of Chicago Dance: Ann Barzel as Champion, Collector, and Critic”

Publications

Forthcoming	“Flipped/Hybrid and Flexible: Student Success and Redesigning the U.S. History Survey at Texas A&M University,” with Samantha Shields, Verity McInnis, Shweta Kailani, Kaitlyn Ross, Carlos K. Blanton, <i>The History Teacher</i> (issue TBD).
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- Forthcoming “Americanizing Immigrants: Dance in Chicago Settlement Houses,” invited to appear in *Dancing on the Third Coast: Chicago Dance Histories*, Eds. Susan Manning and Lizzie Leopold, forthcoming University of Illinois Press.
- Forthcoming “Movement on the Midway: Legacies of Dance at the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair,” with Joanna Dee Das, invited to appear in *Dancing on the Third Coast: Chicago Dance Histories*, Eds. Susan Manning and Lizzie Leopold, forthcoming University of Illinois Press.
- 2023 “Locating Popular Dance and Dance in Popular Culture,” with Bhumi Patel, invited to appear in *Dance in US Pop Culture*, Ed. Jennifer Atkins, Routledge.
- 2023 “In the Interest of Health and Cooperation: Women Dancing ‘The Most Important College Interests,’” invited to appear in *Dance in US Pop Culture*, Ed. Jennifer Atkins, Routledge.
- 2022 HIST 1301 Open Educational Resources, with Troy Bickham and Kaitlyn Ross. OERTX.gov.
- 2022 “Voice from the Wings: Ann Barzel and Twentieth Century Dance Writing,” *Feminist Modernist Studies*.
- 2022 “Feminist modernist dance, part II,” with Melissa Bradshaw in *Feminist Modernist Studies*.
- 2021 “Feminist modernist dance, part I” with Melissa Bradshaw, in *Feminist Modernist Studies* 4:3, 295-299.
- 2018–2022 Various Previews & Features, the dance dish, Dance Source Houston, TX.
- 2018 “Chicago Dance Council Program and Newsletter, 1938–1939,” *Making Modernism: Literature and Culture in Chicago, 1893–1955*, Newberry Library, Chicago, IL.

Invited Talks–Selected

- 2025 “Ann Barzel: Chicago’s Doyenne of Dance,” Studies in Dance, University Seminar, Columbia University, New York City
- 2024 “Reflections on the AHA Texas Conference on Introductory History Courses: Past, Present and Future,” Texas State Historical Society, College Station, TX, February 28–March 2
- 2023 “Through the Eyes of our Stakeholders: Faculty and Student Experiences with OER,” Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Open Education Week, March 9
- 2023 “Where Do We Keep History,” South Texas College History Department, April 17
- 2022 “Dance Artist Writing Workshop: (Re)Considering Your Written Toolkit,” Presenter & Facilitator, Dance Source Houston, Houston, TX, October 15
- 2022 “Why Not Dance (in) History?: Embodiment in History Classes Large and Small,” Embodied Pedagogies Working Group, Duke University, March 25
- 2022 “Where Do We Keep History,” South Texas College History Department, February 22

Conference Presentations–Selected

- 2023 “Flipped, Flexible, and Free (Resources): Reinvigorating the Big US History Survey at Texas A&M University,” Chair and Presenter, American Historical Association, Philadelphia, PA, January 5-8
- 2021 “Curation of A Life in Motion: Ann Barzel’s Peripatetic Feminist Archive,” Modernist Studies Association, Chicago, IL, November 4–7; Accepted: Meeting Canceled
- 2021 “When Dance Criticism Falls Flat: Ann Barzel’s Critiques of Criticism and the Development of Her Voice in the Popular Press,” Popular Culture Association
- 2020 “‘I’ll do all the ‘educating’ one person can do — maybe more’: Ann Barzel’s Dance Writing and the Popular Consciousness” Popular Culture Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, April 15–18; Accepted: Meeting Canceled
- 2020 “Changing the Game: Reimagining the Pre-Award Process for Growth at a Traditional Teaching Institution” National Council of University Research Administrators, San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 5–6
- 2019 “Critique and the Archive in ‘the Dance Hub of America’: Ann Barzel and Dance in Chicago” Dance Studies Association, Evanston, IL, August 8–11
- 2018 Roundtable Participant for “Chicago Style: Making Modernism in the Midwest,” Modernist Studies Association, Columbus, OH, November 8–11

Campus Talks

- 2023 Transformational Teaching and Learning Conference Pre-Conference Panel on Enhancing the Design of Gateway Experiences (EDGE), Texas A&M University, May 2
- 2023 Guest Teacher (Jazz Dance), KINE 210, Texas A&M University, April 10
- 2023 Women’s Research on Women Symposium, Texas A&M University, March 30
- 2023 “Hear from Peers: Understanding Active Learning and Ways to Implement It,” hosted by Center for Teaching Excellence, with Negin Mirhoseini, Texas A&M University, March 31
- 2023 “Red Light, Green Light: The USA and the ERA,” Freshman in Liberal Arts Reaching Excellence (FLARE), Texas A&M University, March 7
- 2022 Guest Speaker, HIST 618, Texas A&M University, October 18
- 2022 “Fights for our Rights: US Women’s Movements and (Some of) Its Leaders,” Freshman in Liberal Arts Reaching Excellence (FLARE), Texas A&M University, March 8
- 2021 “Everyone a Historian: Auditioning a Flipped Hybrid Model in the US History Surveys,” Transformational Teaching and Learning Conference, Texas A&M University [Online]

Departmental, College, & University Service–Selected

- 2024–Present Honors and Undergraduate Research Advisory Committee, Texas A&M University
- 2024–Present Undergraduate Committee, Department of History, Texas A&M University

2022–2024	Faculty Advisory Council–Academic Professional Track, College of Arts and Sciences, Texas A&M University
2023–2024	Digital Learning Task Force, College of Arts & Sciences, Texas A&M University
2024	Panel Reviewer, Texas Conference on Student Success, Texas A&M University
2022–2023	Department of History Undergraduate Committee, Texas A&M University
2023	Panel Reviewer, Texas Conference on Student Success, Texas A&M University
2022	Department of History Search Committee for Academic Professional Track Faculty Member
2022	Panel Reviewer, Texas Conference on Student Success, Texas A&M University
2021–Present	Faculty and Student Advisory Board, Center for Teaching Excellence, Texas A&M University
2021–2024	Department of History Awards Committee, Texas A&M University
2020–2022	Coordinator of Classroom Innovation, Department of History, Texas A&M University

Professional Development

2023	Participant, National Humanities Alliance Annual Meeting and Humanities Advocacy Day, March 19–21
2022–2023	Certificate in Effective Teaching Practices, Association of College and University Educators
2022–2024	Inclusive Teaching Learning Community, Center for Teaching and Learning, Texas A&M University
2022	Certificate in Inclusive Instruction for Equitable Learning, Association of College and University Educators
2022	Participant, American Historical Association, Texas Conference on Introductory History Courses, September 16–17
2021	American Historical Association-Gardner Institute Online Learning Course
2019	National Arts Strategies, Executive Program in Arts & Culture Strategy, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
2019	Participant, National Humanities Alliance Annual Meeting and Humanities Advocacy Day, March 10–12