

LESLIE N. TORRES, CURRICULUM VITAE

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Texas A&M University

Doctoral Student, Department of History

Graduate Student Affiliate, Race and Ethnic Studies Institute

Crossing Latinidades Pre-Dissertation Fellow, University of Illinois Chicago

Education

Doctor of Philosophy in History

Texas A&M University

College Station, Texas

Anticipated Graduation: 2027

- Dissertation Chair: Dr. Sonia Hernandez
- Certificate in Gender and Women's Studies, Department of Sociology
- Graduate student affiliate, Race and Ethnic Studies Institute at Texas A&M University

Master of Arts in History, 2024

Texas A&M University

College Station, Texas

- Master's thesis title: "Challenging 'Bad Sons of Uncle Sam': Ethnic Mexican Mobilization and Acts of Resistance in Early 20th Century Texas."
- Academy of Future Faculty Certificate, Center for Teaching Excellence at Texas A&M University

Bachelor of Arts in History, 2022

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Edinburg, Texas

- Double-minor in Anthropology and Honors Program
- Certificate in Gender & Women's Studies

Selected Professional Experience

Crossing Latinidades Mellon Pre-Doctoral Fellowship – Remote

August 2025 to May 2026

Academic Fellow

- Awarded by the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC), in partnership with the Mellon Foundation. This fellowship funds dissertation completion within the Latina/o/x field.

- Serves as a research assistant under a faculty mentor dedicated to Latinx humanities work, attends writing and theory clinics, professionalization programs, and speaker series presentations.

Texas A&M University Publishing Press – College Station, TX

June 2024 to August 2024

Editorial Intern

- Initiated peer review readings, copy edited draft manuscripts, proofread design-stage manuscript, and developed book blurbs for press magazine.
- Participated in faculty advisory board meetings, in which the press's faculty board decided when and when not to pursue certain manuscript publications.

The Center for Black, Brown, and Queer Studies – Remote

Fall 2023 to Spring 2024

Academic Fellow

- Integrated teachings from leaders in social justice, higher education, and activism into academic work.
- Participated in thesis writing groups and racial, postcolonial, feminist, and queer theory clinics.

Texas A&M University – College Station, Texas

August 2022 to May 2025

Graduate Teaching Assistant

- Facilitate student engagement and provide guest lectures.
- Responsible for course management and assignment feedback in traditional and hybrid course formats.
- I have assisted with U.S. History Before 1877 and U.S. History Since 1877 courses.

Friends of the Texas Historical Commission – Hybrid

June 2022 to August 2022

Preservation Scholars Program, Historic Sites Division – Intern

- Developed a visitor experience guide for the Texas Revolution historic site, Fannin Battleground in Fannin, Texas.
- Utilized digital and research skills to create visual guide of the battleground to illustrate interest spots and historic visualizations for visitors.
- Explored other realms of historic preservation through visits of the marketing, archaeology, museum, and historic marker programs.

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley – Remote

May 2021 to August 2021

Special Collections and Archives – Intern

- Utilized digital archival material to create online research guides for the Special Collections and Archives website.
- Prepared three online research guides for the public and researchers: Eligio "Kika" de la Garza Congressional Papers, the Mexican Revolution, and Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge.

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley – Remote

February 2021 to December 2021

Voces of a Pandemic Oral History Project – Intern

- This project was part of UT-Austin's Moody College's national Voces of a Pandemic Oral History project, which collected the experiences of Latinx communities during COVID-19.
- Developed an index of approximately 100 interviews conducted by UTRGV researchers and edited interview transcriptions.
- Conducted 10 oral history interviews to add to the Voces of a Pandemic collection in the UTRGV Special Collections & Archives. Of these interviews, I developed a focus group of 5 interviewees who led local mutual aid activism during the pandemic.

Book Reviews and Publications

Forthcoming: Torres, Leslie. “‘Militant Attitudes’ and ‘Superficial Expressions of Goodwill’: Politics of Inclusion in Texas Pan Americanism.” *Journal of Texas History*, vol. 1, no. 1 (2025).

Forthcoming Summer 2025: Book review of Paul D. Lack, *Searching for the Republic of the Rio Grande* (Lubbock: Texas Tech University Press, 2022) in the *Journal of American Ethnic History*.

Forthcoming Spring 2025: Book review of Omar Valerio Jimenez, *Remembering Conquest: Mexican Americans, Memory, and Citizenship* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2024) in the *Western Historical Quarterly*.

Torres, Leslie. “Celebrating Whom? The Citrus Fiesta of 1932 and Anglo-Centrism in the Rio Grande Valley.” *History Matters: An Undergraduate Journal of Historical Research*, 20 (2023): 203-232.

Torres, Leslie, et al. “Land Title Chapter.” In *Kieffer Enterprises: A Porción of Edinburg*. Community Historical Archaeological Program (CHAPS): The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley. 2021.

Academic Awards

2025 – Portal to Texas History Research Fellowship – University of North Texas Libraries. Denton, Texas.

2025 – Glasscock Graduate Research Fellowship – Melburn G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, Texas A&M University. College Station, Texas.

2025 – Crossing Latinidades Humanities Research Initiative Summer Institute – Funded by the Mellon Foundation for the completion and participation in the 2025 institute at the University of Illinois Chicago.

2025 – Graduate Student Stipend – Alliance for Texas History, awarded at the inaugural annual Alliance for Texas History conference.

2025 – Women and Gender Studies Graduate Student Travel Grant – Awarded for travel to the Alliance for Texas History inaugural conference in San Marcos, Texas. Women and Gender Studies Program, Department of Sociology, Texas A&M University.

2024 – Caldwell Memorial Award for Excellence in History – Walter Prescott Webb Society, Texas State Historical Association. First Place in Graduate Student Division Paper Contest.

2023 – Ron Stone Texas History Fellowship – Department of History, Texas A&M University. College Station, Texas.

2023 – Graduate Student Small Research Grant – Race & Ethnic Studies Institute, College of Arts and Sciences, Texas A&M University. College Station, Texas.

2023 – Academic Fellowship Stipend – The Center for Black, Brown, and Queer Studies. Remote nonprofit organization.

2022 – Larry W. '73 & Judith '74 Luckett Endowment in History – Department of History, Texas A&M University. College Station, Texas.

2021 – Gerhard Grytz Research Scholarship in History – Department of History, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley. Edinburg, Texas.

Selected Conference Presentations

2025 – Western Historical Association, Annual Conference – Panelist. Individual paper presentation: “‘Rebel’ Tejanas and in the Early Twentieth Century Borderlands.” Albuquerque, NM. October 2025.

2025 – Alliance for Texas History, First Annual Conference – Panelist. Individual paper presentation: “‘Militant Attitudes’ and ‘Bad Sons of Uncle Sam’: Public Battles for Ethnic Mexican Representation and Protection in Early 20th Century Texas.” San Marcos, TX. May 16th, 2025.

2024 – X Coliquio Internacional del Noreste de México y Texas, Annual Conference – Panelist. Individual paper presentation: “Ethnic Mexican Women, Resistance, and Survival in 20th Century South Texas.” Virtual. November 21, 2024.

2024 – Western Historical Association, Annual Conference – Panelist. Individual paper presentation:

““A Race of Heroes”: Ethnic Mexican Women and Confronting Historical Death in Early Twentieth Century Texas.” Kansas City, MO. October 26, 2024.

2024 - National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS): Tejas Focos Conference, Annual conference – Panelist. Individual paper presentation: ““Can’t Keep Good Girls Down”: Tejanas and the Fight Against Historical and Community Erasure, 1900 to 1940.” San Antonio, TX. March 9, 2024.

2024 – Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) Annual conference – Panelist. Individual presentation: “Tejanas as Leaders and Defenders of Community Organizing in South Texas.” College Station, TX. February 28, 2024.

2023 – UT Austin Voces of a Pandemic Symposium – Panelist. Individual presentation: “The Endurance of Mutual Aid Collectives in the Rio Grande Valley during the COVID-19 Pandemic.” Austin, TX. April 21, 2023.

2023 – National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS): Tejas Focos Conference, Annual conference – Panelist. Individual paper presentation: “The Tejano Response to the White Ethnostate of Early Twentieth Century America.” Brownsville, TX. March 25, 2023.

2023 - Texas A&M History Graduate Student Organization (HGSO) Conference, Annual conference – Panelist. Individual paper presentation: "Racialized Enemy-Making and Ostracization of Tejanos in Nineteenth Century Texas." College Station, TX. February 17, 2023.

Academic Service

Texas A&M University

Committee Member, Susanne M. Glasscock Book Prize

June 2025

- Coordinated by the Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research
- Participated in a selection committee to designate outstanding works of original, interdisciplinary humanities scholarship that appeals to both academic and wider audiences.

Graduate Student Working Group Convener

January 2024 to Present

- Immigration, Migration, and Ethnicity Working Group.
- Funded by the Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, this working group generates a collaborate space to discuss and share ideas related to the transnational movement of people throughout all periods of history and discipline.
- Recruited working group speakers and members, organized and facilitated monthly meetings, and organized external guest speaker events.

Graduate student representative, Department of History

August 2024 to May 2025

- Department Marketing & Communications Committee.

- Assisted in the development of department news and events articles and provided the graduate student perspective in website development and improvement.

Communications Officer, Department of History

May 2024 to May 2025

- History Graduate Student Organization (HGSO), 2024-2025 school year
- Conference planning for the 15th annual, internationally attended HGSO conference.
- Developed social media posts, student and faculty newsletters, and assisted in orientation planning for incoming graduate students.

Graduate student representative, Department of History

August 2023 to May 2025

- Undergraduate Professional Development and Social Event Team.
- Assisted in the curation of events for undergraduate students, such as a fall meet and greet, informational sessions regarding study abroad and departmental opportunities, and an end-of-year awards ceremony.

Graduate student representative, Department of History

August 2023 to May 2024

- Department Climate Committee.
- Created climate surveys for undergraduate and graduate students to measure student satisfaction and areas for improvement for the Department of History.