

LESLIE N. TORRES, CURRICULUM VITAE

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Education

Doctor of Philosophy in History

Texas A&M University

College Station, Texas

- Expected Graduation: 2027

Master of Arts in History, 2024

Texas A&M University

College Station, Texas

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

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

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

June 2024 to August 2024

Editorial Intern

- Developed skills in the overall editorial process behind a scholarly publishing press. Initiated peer review readings, copy edited manuscripts, and more.

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 present.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

- Facilitate student engagement and provide guest lectures.
- Responsible for course management and assignment feedback.
- 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.

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 meant for 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.

Publications

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.

Selected Academic Awards

2024 – Caldwell Memorial Award for Excellence in History (\$400) – Walter Prescott Webb Society, Texas State Historical Association. First Place in Graduate Student Division Paper Contest.

2023 – Ron Stone Texas History Fellowship (\$2,500) – History Department, Texas A&M University. College Station, Texas.

2023 – Graduate Student Small Research Grant (\$1,000) – Race & Ethnic Studies Institute, College of Arts and Sciences, Texas A&M University. College Station, Texas.

2023 – Academic Fellowship Stipend (\$800) – The Center for Black, Brown, and Queer Studies. Remote nonprofit organization.

2022 – Larry W. '73 & Judith '74 Lockett Endowment in History (\$2,500) – History Department, Texas A&M University. College Station, Texas.

Selected Conference Presentations

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

Communications Officer, Department of History

May 2024 to Present

- 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 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.

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.

Graduate student representative, Department of History

August 2023 to May 2024

- 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.