

*UCCS History Department &  
History Graduate Student Alliance*

# Day of History Graduate Conference

2025

# WELCOME

*Saturday, May 3, 2025*

8:45 - 9:15 AM

**Registration and Welcome**

History Department Chair Dr. Paul Harvey,  
Bradley J. White, and Tara L. S. Harvey

9:15 - 10:15 AM

**Panel 1A | Room: UC 302**

*Narrating Conflict: Memory, Violence, and the Role of the  
Witness in Shaping Collective Memory*

**Panel 1B | Room: UC 303**

*Memory, Myth, and Music: Sacred Sounds and Silenced  
Histories*

10:30 - 11:45 AM

**Panel 2A | Room: UC 302**

*Voices of Resistance: Race, Citizenship, and Cultural  
Identity in America*

**Panel 2B | Room: UC 303**

*Sacred Spaces and Social Struggles: The Changing  
Landscape of American Religion and Equality*

12:00 - 1:15 PM

**Complimentary Luncheon in Clyde's**

1:30 - 2:30 PM

**Panel 3A | Room: UC 302**

*Faith, Freedom, and Modernity: How Religion and Culture  
Shape American Identities*

**Panel 3B | Room: UC 303**

*Preserving Humanity in the Digital Age: Expanding  
Access to Personal Histories through Archives, Metadata,  
and AI*

2:30 - 3:15 PM, UC 302

**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Christina Jimenez**, *Researching  
Urban Workers in Mexico and Colombia, 1890-1940*

3:15 - 4:00 PM, UC 303

**History Department Awards and Recognition**

History Department Chair Dr. Paul Harvey, Provost and  
Vice Chancellor L. Lynn Vidler, Dr. Christina Jimenez,  
Bradley J. White, and Tara L. S. Harvey

*Academic Year 2024-2025*

## CITIES AND CITIZENSHIP

**Dr. Christina Jimenez**

Zach Henson  
David Herrera  
Laura Risheill  
Bradley J. White

## ORAL HISTORY

**Dr. Samantha Christiansen**

Craig Cormier  
Elissa Dallman  
Amanda A. Espinel  
Laura N. Fadely  
Max Holmes  
Dom Markham  
Victoria L. Mason

## RELIGION AND CULTURE IN AMERICA

**Dr. Paul Harvey**

Johnny Hanson  
Tara L. S. Harvey  
Meredith Henson  
Daisy Rodriguez  
Sara Sommers  
Bradley J. White  
Ryan Wilkinson

## INTERNSHIP

**Dr. Christina Jimenez**

Don Caughey  
Zach Henson  
Laura Risheill

GRADUATE SEMINARS



# Information

**2:30-3:15 pm | Room: UC 302**

## **Keynote Speaker**

**Dr. Christina Jimenez**, *Researching Urban Workers in Mexico and Colombia, 1890-1940*

**3:15 - 4:00 pm | Room UC 303**

## **History Department Awards and Recognition**

*History Department Chair Dr. Paul Harvey, Provost and Vice Chancellor L. Lynn Vidler, Dr. Christina Jimenez, Bradley J. White, and Tara L. S. Harvey*

## **Complimentary Refreshments**

### **Registration and Welcome | UC 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Lobby**

Coffee, tea, donuts, and fruit will be available.

### **Luncheon | In Clyde's, University Center Main Floor**

Provided by HGSA

*Colorado BBQ, pulled pork with brioche buns, pickles, fried onions, jalapeños, mac 'n' cheese, coleslaw, charro beans. Warm BBQ sauce on the side.*

*Signature Taco Bar, tofu and/or shredded chicken, flour and/or corn tortillas, served with grilled vegetables, sour cream, cheese, lettuce, and pico de gallo.*

*Water served with the buffets.*

### **Awards and Recognition Ceremony | UC 303**

There will be regular and gluten free chocolate and vanilla cupcakes, coffee, and citrus water following the awards ceremony.

***Program Design: Victoria L. Mason***







# 9:15 - 10:15am

## Panel 1A | Room: UC 302

### Narrating Conflict: Memory, Violence, and the Role of the Witness in Shaping Collective Memory

#### Content Advisory:

This panel addresses topics that include war trauma, sexual violence, institutional oppression, and contested histories of conflict. Some material may be graphic, emotionally difficult, or unsettling. We share these narratives not to sensationalize, but to honor the experiences of those whose voices have often been marginalized or erased. By engaging critically and compassionately with these histories, we affirm the importance of confronting uncomfortable truths rather than allowing silence to obscure injustice. We invite all participants to approach these stories with respect, care, and an understanding of their enduring significance.

Introduction by Dr. Michael Harvey

Moderators: Ian Torres & Max Holmes

#### **Panelists:**

**Dom Markham**, *War is Boring Until It's Not: An Oral History of the Common Experiences of Combat Soldiers in the Afghanistan War*

Using oral histories and previously published accounts, this paper aims to present the perspectives of enlisted combat arms soldiers who served in the US-Afghanistan War. These uncensored and uncompromised perspectives present a more holistic understanding of the shared experiences and the complexities of serving in a war. It aims to decenter the preconceived notions regarding the common soldier serving in Afghanistan and overcoming the infallibility and mythology of the American combat soldier.

**Amanda A. Espinel**, *From Patriarchal to Misogynistic: How Rape is Institutionalized Terrorism Against Subordinate Bodies*

Rape is not a crime of the past or a new phenomenon. Subordinate bodies, whether identified as woman or man, have long been victims and survivors of sexual violence. While the onus is on the individual perpetrator, often the true criminal is the very institution that claims to protect.

**Zach Henson**, *Two Tales of One City: The Conflicting Legacies of Qingdao*

Qingdao has been sought after by many different powers for its location and natural resources. From its time as a German colony where it was a conflict of military and trade interests that became a cultural beacon. During the Japanese occupations where the industrial base built by the Germans was expanded upon by the Japanese. And up until today it is a model for Chinese industrial tourism. Qingdao is a city that bears the memory and conflicting legacies shaped in the image of multiple external forces and created a unique blend of all of them.



9:15 - 10:15am

**Panel 1B: | Room UC 303**

**Memory, Myth, and Music: Sacred Sounds and Silenced Histories**

Moderators: Don Caughey & Ryan Wilkinson

**Panelists:**

**Victoria L. Mason**, *Wounds that Remember, Voices that Resist: The Afterlife of Ludlow's Trauma, Intergenerational Memory, and Advocacy in the Shadow of the Massacre*

The memories of the Ludlow Massacre endure through the oral histories of survivors, their descendants, and community members. These testimonies reveal layers of trauma, racial tension, collective resilience, and political advocacy. This paper examines these narratives to explore how memory shapes and preserves the legacy of the Ludlow Massacre across generations.

**Laura N. Fadely**, *Through the Stones: Historical Fiction, Historical Inquiry, and the Case of Outlander*

This project explores how *Outlander*, as a globally popular work of historical fiction, shapes public perceptions of Scottish and Jacobite history. By combining interviews, media analysis, and personal fieldwork with fan tourism and historical scholarship, the study examines how narrative, emotion, and place converge to inspire both historical inquiry and historical distortion. Through this lens, *Outlander* becomes a case study for understanding the powerful, complex relationship between fiction, fandom, and historical memory.

**Bradley J. White**, *That Sacrilegious Sound: The Evolution of the Banjo in American Religious Spaces*

This paper explores the role of the banjo as an instrument deemed capable of producing religious music. This paper examines the history of the banjo from the minstrel era through the 1940s and evaluates shifting cultural perceptions of the instrument.



10:30 - 11:45 am

**Panel 2A: I Room UC 302**

**Voices of Resistance: Race, Citizenship, and Cultural Identity in America**

Moderators: Ian Torres & Johnny Hanson

**Panelists:**

**Lissa Dallmann**, *Culture Shifts in the Japanese American Community impacted by Incarceration during WWII*

During WWII, 120,000 Japanese Americans were forced to live in prison camps for no crime except their nationality. I analyze the cultural impacts of the incarceration and how it altered the community as a whole. How has Japanese American culture and community changed because of incarceration?

**Craig Cormier**, *Giving A Day Toward the Bomb: The African American Female Experience at Oak Ridge, TN During the Manhattan Project*

This paper examines the overlooked experiences of African American women at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, during the Manhattan Project, challenging dominant narratives that celebrate scientific achievement while obscuring systemic racism and gendered labor exploitation. Through oral histories of women like R.L. Ayers, Lavada Chisholm, Hazel Moore, and Kattie Strickland, it reveals how segregation, unequal working conditions, and federal policies marginalized Black workers despite their indispensable contributions to the atomic bomb's development. By centering their stories, this study critiques "atomic nostalgia" and reframes Oak Ridge's history to highlight the intersectional oppression and resilience of those excluded from its legacy.

**David Herrera**, *United Mexican American Students of Colorado*

The United Mexican American Students of Colorado is a story in the 1960s and 1970s about a group of people using collective action to escape poverty from the barrios through education. With courage, integrity, perseverance, hope, brotherly love, and action, and with a willingness to overcome impoverishment by helping one another through service. Proving that affirmative action was a successful social program. They struggled through racism and hate. They fought for their rights of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and were victorious.

The result was college graduates creating a path for others to follow. *Que Viva, humanity!*

**Zach Henson**, *Volga Germans in Northern Colorado*

Relying largely on newspapers and legislation, this research paper argues that between 1901 and 1925, the treatment and identity of the Volga German community in certain Northern Colorado towns shifted significantly, specifically around 1917, from assimilating immigrants to enemies within. Moreover, comparing their experiences to that of Mexican immigrants, who arrived to replace them as laborers in the sugar beet industry in the 1920s. The contrast demonstrates how the Volga Germans were discriminated against based on culture and class while the Mexicans were discriminated against based on race and class thus suggesting a strong connection between race and citizenship in America between 1901 and 1925.



10:30 - 11:45 am

**Panel 2B: I Room UC 303**

**Sacred Spaces and Social Struggles: The Changing Landscape of American Religion and Equality**

Moderators: Victoria L. Mason & Laura N. Fadely

**Panelists:**

**Sara Sommers**, *The Magic of Theological Institutions in Higher Education*

This paper explores the rise, evolution, and continued importance of divinity school libraries in the United States, as a shaping factor in theological education from the early nineteenth century to the present.

**Laura Risheill**, *Economic Equality in Human Remains Disposition and the Business of Death within Colorado Springs - Focusing on Evergreen Cemetery*

What divides us in death? In Colorado, the answer might surprise you. Using Evergreen Cemetery as an example it shows at least so far in my research that Colorado cemeteries aren't shaped by the same deep conflicts seen elsewhere. At Evergreen Cemetery, divisions are drawn more by economic status and personal choice than by force. Exploring some new terrain in the history of Evergreen, we discover that organizational affiliation: such as religious groups, fraternal orders, and even insurance companies are the primary factor influencing how and where individuals are laid to rest.

**Daisy Rodriguez**, *Amendment 2 and the Battle for Equality: Religious Liberty, Civil Rights, and the Legacy of LGBTQ+ Activism in Colorado*

This paper explores the political, legal, and cultural impact of Colorado's Amendment 2, a controversial 1992 ballot measure that sought to prohibit protections for LGB individuals under state and local law. It examines how religious conservatism, centered in cities like Colorado Springs, fueled the measure's passage and how grassroots LGB activism—both locally and nationally—mounted a successful resistance culminating in the landmark Supreme Court decision *Romer v. Evans*. The essay argues that the Amendment 2 conflict exemplifies the enduring tension between religious liberty and civil rights.

**Ryan Wilkinson**, *To be Orthodox and American: How Eastern Orthodoxy is Redefining Itself on American Soil*

Eastern Orthodoxy, with its special place in America as a Christian faith that is neither Protestant nor Catholic, has long been treated as an “immigrant religion,” more of a curiosity than a religion that could visibly impact American society on a wider scale. This essay seeks to properly address the true complexity of American Orthodox lives, as well as what challenges they face and will continue to face as their faith adapts to the demands of life in America.





1:30 - 2:30pm

### Panel 3A: I Room UC 302

## Faith, Freedom, and Modernity: How Religion and Culture Shape American Identities

Moderators: Dr. Brittany Orton & Amanda A. Espinel

### *Panelists:*

#### **Johnny Hanson**, *Austin 3:16: Religion in Professional Wrestling*

Professional Wrestling is a massive entertainment business with millions of fans worldwide watching week after week to the storylines and athleticism produced by wrestlers. Religion is often incorporated into the storyline to add elements of realism and throughout the decades of WWE's rise, this study analyzes key examples.

#### **Meredith Henson**, *Spare the Rod, Spoil the Child (and the Nation): How Evangelicals Made the Homeschool Movement a Political Grassroots Organization for the Religious Right*

Homeschooling started out as a counter cultural movement in the 1960s as a way to break away from the rigid structure of school. By the 1980s and 90s however Evangelicals had taken hold of the homeschool movement, creating a grassroot organization for the Religious Right, thanks in large part to the evangelical lobbying group the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA).

#### **Max Holmes**, *Modern World on Wheels: Automobiles, Automobility, and the City of Denver in the Twentieth Century*

Exploration of the car's effect on the City of Denver and surrounding Metro area. Denver's relationship with the automobile is greatly influenced by residents' association of the machine to modernity, especially that era's feelings of progress, prosperity, autonomy, and self-reliance. This association and partiality for the automobile obscures the harm that cars, car culture, and car-centrism affected the city, making reform and 'progress' difficult in the present.



1:30 - 2:30pm

**Panel 3B: I Room UC 303**

**Preserving Humanity in the Digital Age: Expanding Access to Personal Histories through Archives, Metadata, and AI**

Moderators: Dom Markham & Laura N. Fadely

**Panelists:**

*Internship in History with Dr. Christina Jimenez*

**Zach Henson, *History Is Human***

Through transcribing, translating, and digitizing several German language documents at the Regional History & Genealogy collections at Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) the human elements of history were placed at the forefront of my work. Because the documents were personal accounts and letters as well as a comic poetry book written by and for German POWs at Carson, much of the work was focused on providing context for the documents as well as translating them. By doing so I was able to place these individual stories within the greater historical context, highlighting the human element for those who experience these historical events.

**Laura Risheill, *How the Evolution of Digital History Makes Research Materials More Available***

During my internship with the Pikes Peak Library District, under the guidance of Photo Archivist Erinn Barnes, I've been working closely with metadata. While the term might sound intimidating, metadata is simply the behind-the-scenes information that makes digital items searchable and accessible. I began by adding author commentary to the existing metadata for a political cartoonist's work, and later moved on to editing, combining, and uploading newspaper issues from the 1890s in Cripple Creek to the library's digital collection. These efforts help broaden access to historical materials for those who can't visit the library in person, highlighting the power of digital history and the important role digital media plays in preserving and sharing the past without the constraints of geographic location.

**Don Caughey, *Reviving the Past: AI and the Colorado Centennial-Bicentennial Oral History Project***

This internship included using AI to assist in transcribing a series of 1976 interviews for Pikes Peak Library District. The Colorado Centennial-Bicentennial Project includes multiple subjects on the eastern plains of Colorado from Calhan to Sterling were interviewed concerning a variety of topics ranging from pig farming and environmental protesting to the women's liberation movement. Technical challenges in utilizing AI in this manner will also be discussed.