

George T. Díaz, Ph.D.
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University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., History, Southern Methodist University, 2010
Dissertation: "Contrabandista Communities: States and Smugglers in the Lower Rio Grande Borderlands, 1848-1945"
M.A., History, Texas A&M International University, 2004
Thesis: "When the River Ran Red: Prohibition on the Central South Texas Border, 1919 –1933"
B.A., History, summa cum laude, Texas A&M International University, 2002

PUBLICATIONS

"Cultural Resilience as Resistance: The World of Mexican Prisoners in Texas," in *Caging Borders and Carceral States: Incarcerations, Immigration Detentions and Resistance*. Robert Chase editor. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2019.

Border Contraband: A History of Smuggling across the Rio Grande. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2015. [2016 NACCS Tejas Foco Non-Fiction Book Award] [Jim Parish Award for Documentation and Publication of Local and Regional History, Webb County Heritage Foundation, 2015]

"State Power and Its Agents in the North American West," *Journal of the West*, vol. 54, no 1 (Winter 2015): 10. Co-edited with Aaron E. Sánchez.

"'La necesidad hace lícito lo que es ilícito por ley': Contrabando en la frontera española en Norteamérica, siglos XVII-XVIII," en *La frontera en el mundo hispánico: Tierras de convivencia y espacios de confrontación (siglos XV-XVIII)*. Porfirio Sanz Camañes and David Rex Galindo, editors. (Quito: Abya Yala Press, 2015).

"Smugglers in Dangerous Times: Revolution and Communities in the Tejano Borderlands," in *War along the Border: The Mexican Revolution and Tejano Communities*. Arnoldo De León, ed. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2012.

"Twilight of the Tequileros: Prohibition Era Smuggling in the South Texas Borderlands, 1919-1933," in *Smugglers, Brothels, and Twine: Historical Perspectives on Contraband and Vice in North America's Borderlands*. Elaine Carey and Andrae Marak, co-editors. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2011.

"Tracking Tequileros: The Bloody Origins of a Border Ballad," *The Journal of South Texas*, vol. 17, no 2 (Fall 2004): 61.

FORTHCOMING

Border Policing: A History of Enforcement and Evasion in North America. Holly M. Karibo and George T. Díaz editors. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2020.

UNDER REVIEW

“Sed de Sangre: Violencia en Texas contra traficantes mexicanos durante la era de la Prohibición,” El contrabando en el Norte de México, Siglos XIX y XX. Octavio Herrera Pérez editor.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Mañana Land: Life and Death in the Mexican Prison in Texas. [Monograph]

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

“Tequileros,” *The Handbook of Texas Online*, Uploaded on April 29, 2015. Modified on July 18, 2016. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.
<https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/jbt01>

RECENT BOOK REVIEWS

“The Injustice Never Leaves You: Anti-Mexican Violence in Texas,” *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies*, Vol. 44, No. 2 (Fall 2019) 273-277.

“A Crooked River: Rustlers, Rangers, and Regulars on the Lower Rio Grande, 1861-1877,” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 122, No. 4 (April 2019) 471-472.

PREVIOUS POSITIONS HELD

Fall 2012 - Summer 2016

Assistant Professor of History
Department of History, Sam Houston State University

Fall 2011- Spring 2012

Visiting Scholar and Visiting Assistant Professor of History
Center for Mexican American Studies, University of Houston

Fall 2010 - Spring 2011

History and Mexican American Studies Fulltime Temporary Faculty
Department of History and Philosophy, South Texas College

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Courses

Readings in Borderlands History
Smuggling in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands - *Online*
History of Texas Incarceration
The American West –*Online*
Texas History - *Online*

Undergraduate Classes

Texas and the Southwest
Texas and the Southwest - *Online*
Recent U.S. History, 1945 to Present
U.S. History to 1877
U.S. History since 1877
Mexican American History
Intro to American Studies: Smuggling in the Borderlands

MASTERS THESES SUPERVISED

Nick Rizzi, “Only in Arizona: Sheriff Joe Arpaio, the Rise of Conservative Politics, and Fear in the Sunbelt Borderlands,” (MA Thesis, Sam Houston State University, 2016). *Chair*

Emily Gray, “Lunatics and Idiots: Treatment of the Mentally Ill and Mentally Disabled Population in the Rio Grande Valley, 1860-1962,” (MA Thesis, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, 2018)
Committee Member

Evren Turan, “South Texas Media Representations of Rio Grande Valley Mexican Deportation Drives & Repatriation, 1928-1930,” (MA Thesis, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, 2019)
Committee Member

SERVICE UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT AND COMMUNITY

Presenter, “‘I will die innocent’: The El Paso Murder Trial that Mobilized the Greater Mexican Community,” CMAS talk for ‘From One Borderland to Another: El Valle Stands with El Paso.’ UTRGV (October 2, 2019)

Member, Program Committee 2021 Texas State Historical Association Annual Meeting. Fort Worth (March 4-6)

DREAM Zone Advocate (Summer 2019 - Present)

Tenure and Promotion/Annual Review Evaluation Committee, UTRGV Department of History
(Fall 2019 – Present)

Outreach Committee, UTRGV Department of History (Fall 2019 – Present)

Faculty Senator, UTRGV Department of History (May 2019 - Present)

Panelist, *The Imposter*, UTRGV Dramatic Production (April 14, 2019)

External Consultant, “Hispanic American Rights Exhibit,” Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum
(Spring 2019)

Host for Christopher Browning, Guest Speaker for History Department’s Rondel Davidson Lecture,
(January 30, 2019)

External Reviewer, Fort Brown National Historic Landmark Nomination (Fall 2018 –Spring 2019)

Member, History Department ad hoc Workload Committee (Fall 2018 – Spring 2019)

Speaker, Western History Association’s Take a Historian to School Project, Donna TX (October 8, 2018)

Member, Border Studies Conference Planning Committee, Office of Global Engagement, University
of Texas Rio Grande Valley (May 2017 to Present)

Member, Department Undergraduate Program Committee, (Spring 2018- Spring 2019)

TEACHING

Comprehensive Exam Committee Member for Rogelio Garza (Fall 2019)

Comprehensive Exam Committee Member for Jesus Montemayor (Spring 2019)

Guest Speaker, Brent Campney’s 6300 Historiography and Methods course discussion of *Border
Contraband* (March 6, 2019)

INVITED LECTURES AND ROUNDTABLES (PAST AND FORTHCOMING)

“Prohibition and Smuggling along the Rio Grande,” The Weslaco Museum Saturday Afternoon Lecture
Series. Weslaco, Texas (February 8, 2020)

“Border Contraband and Corridos de Contrabando,” South Texas Historical Association Fall Conference.
Alamo, Texas (November 1, 2019)

“American Ideas, Reality, Repair Gallery,” Hispanic Rights Strand of Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum. Dallas, Texas (September 17, 2019) *Exhibit Editor and Featured Guide for Ribbon Cutting*

“Los Tequileros,” La Santa Cruz de la Concepción Tejanos. San Diego, Texas (August 10, 2019) *Presenter*

“Literary Production as Cultural Resistance, Legacies of Violence & Memory,” Centennial of the 1919 Canales Investigation NEH Conference. Bullock Texas State History Museum. Austin, Texas (February 1, 2019) *Moderator*

“Contrabandista Communities: 19th Century Smuggling across the Rio Grande,” Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX (January 23, 2019) *Presenter*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (PAST AND FORTHCOMING)

“Fighting Electric Death: Mobilization for Condemned Compatriots,” Texas State Historical Association Annual Meeting. Austin, Texas (February 27 – 29, 2020) *Presenter*

“‘Copper Skins,’ Identification for Extirpation in 20th Century Texas State Prisons,” Social Science History Association. Chicago, Illinois (November 21 -24, 2019) *Presenter*

“Bordering Life and Death: Mexican Nationals and Texas Capital Punishment,” Texas A&M University-San Antonio’s First Biennial Global Borders and Borderlands Symposium. San Antonio, Texas (April 20, 2019) *Presenter*

“‘A Knife-Using People’ The Classification of ‘Mexicans’ in Texas State Prisons,” The Western Historical Association Annual Meeting. San Antonio, Texas (October 2018) *Presenter*

RESEARCH, GRANTS AND HONORS

2018 Summer Writing Program, Center for Teaching Excellence & Office for Faculty Affairs and Diversity, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

2011- 2012, Visiting Scholar and Visiting Assistant Professor of History, Center for Mexican American Studies, University of Houston

SCHOLARLY SERVICE

Article Reviewer, *Pacific Historical Review*, (2018)

Book Reviewer, Texas Bookshelf Project, University of Texas Press (2018)

Article Reviewer, *Journal of Borderlands Studies* (2018)

Nominating Committee, Western History Association (2016-2018)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies

Texas State Historical Association

South Texas Historical Association

Social Science History Association

Western Historical Association