

Megan McDonie

Department of History
The University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley
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Education

- 2020 Ph.D. in Latin American History, Penn State University, University Park, PA
Secondary fields in Medieval and Early Modern Global History, minor in Latin American Studies
- 2015 MA Latin American and Medieval Iberian History, Penn State University, University Park, PA
- 2013 BA History and Spanish, Minors in Anthropology and the Honors Program, Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA (Magna Cum Laude, Department Honors, University Honors)

Academic Positions Held

- 2022 – Present Assistant Professor of History, The University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville, TX
- 2020 – 2022 Visiting Assistant Professor, Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA

Publications

- 2022 “Early Modern Maya Perspectives on the Natural World,” in *Routledge Encyclopedia of the Renaissance World* (peer-reviewed entry) *Forthcoming 2022*
- 2018 “When the Earth Shakes: A Status Report on Dissertation Research Regarding Mexican Volcanoes” *IK: Other Ways of Knowing* 4 (2018): 167-175.
- 2016 “Scobie Award Reports: ‘Explosive Encounters: Volcanic Landscapes, Indigenous Knowledge, and Cultural Exchange in Early Modern Mesoamerica,’” *Conference on Latin American History Fall Newsletter*, 52 no 2 (2016): 7-8.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Explosive Encounters: Volcanic Landscapes, Indigenous Knowledge, and Cultural Exchange in Early Modern Mesoamerica

External Grants and Fellowships

- 2019 History of Science Predoctoral Fellowship, American Philosophical Society Library
- 2018 John Carter Brown Library Short Term Fellowship, Brown University
- 2017 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship
American Philosophical Society Library Short Term Research Fellowship
Friends of the Princeton University Library Research Grant, Princeton University
International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council
CLIR-Mellon Dissertation Fellowship in the Humanities in Original Sources
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for Kaqchikel Mayan, Tulane University
Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation, Science, Technology, and Society Program
- 2016 Mendel Fellowship, Lilly Library, Indiana University
American Historical Association Conference Travel Funding
Mountains and Sacred Landscapes Conference Travel Funding, The International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture, and The India and China Institute
James R. Scobie Pre-Dissertation Research Award, Conference of Latin American History
Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship, Social Science Research Council
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for Kaqchikel Mayan, Tulane University

- 2015 American Society for Ethnohistory Conference Travel Funding
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for Kaqchikel Mayan, Tulane University

University Grants and Fellowships

- 2017 Whiting Indigenous Knowledge Student Research Award, ICIK (Interinstitutional Center for Indigenous Knowledge), Penn State University
Latin American Studies Research Award, Latin American Studies Program, Penn State University
- 2016 RGSO Dissertation Support Award, College of the Liberal Arts, Penn State University
Latin American Studies Research Award, Latin American Studies Program, Penn State University
- 2015 Latin American Studies Research Award, Latin American Studies Program, Penn State University
- 2012 Gundaker/Summers Enrichment Grant, Susquehanna University

Department Grants and Fellowships

- 2016 Conference Travel Grant Award, History Department, Penn State University
McCourtney Pre-Dissertation Research Award, History Department, Penn State University
- 2015 Conference Travel Grant Award, History Department, Penn State University
Stitzer Seed Grant, History Department, Penn State University
- 2014 Conference Travel Grant Award, History Department, Penn State University
Pencak Seed Grant, History Department, Penn State University
- 2013 Conference Travel Support, History Department, Penn State University

Awards and Honors

- 2020 Penn State Alumni Association Dissertation Award, Doctoral Scholar Medal
- 2017 Liberal Arts External Funding Incentive Award
Anne M. Richards Award for Best A.B.D. Research Paper, Penn State History Department
- 2016 Second Place, Ann M. Richards Award for Best Pre-A.B.D. Research Paper, Penn State History Department
- 2015 E-Tu Sen Sun Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Student
- 2013 Gerald Gordon/Wm. A. Russ Award for Achievement in History, Department of History, Susquehanna University
Outstanding Student in Spanish, Department of Modern Languages, Susquehanna University
Kumar Award for Outstanding Promise in Anthropology, Department of Anthropology/Sociology, Susquehanna University

Book Reviews

- 2022 Review of "Rewriting Maya Religion: Domingo de Vico, K'iche' Maya Intellectuals and The Theologia Indorum" By Garry Sparks, *Hispanic American Historical Review*, vol. 102, no. 1 (February 2022).
- 2017 Review of "The Death of Aztec Tenochtitlan, the Life of Mexico City," by Barbara E. Mundy, *Itinerario*, Vol 41, Issue 3, December 2017, pp. 628-630.

Editorial Experience

- 2015- Editorial Assistant for *Ethnohistory* Journal, *Latin American Originals Book Series*
2017 (Penn State University Press) and *Cambridge Latin America Series* (Cambridge University Press)

Teaching and Research Experience

- 2017 Teaching Assistant, Penn State University, World History II
- 2015 Research Assistant, Penn State University
- 2014 Teaching Assistant, Western Heritage II, Penn State University
Research Assistant, Penn State University
- 2013 Teaching Assistant, American Civilization Since 1877, Penn State University

Guest Lectures

- 2021 “Archives and Arguments: Conducting Thesis Research” History Methods, Susquehanna University
 “The Subterranean and Volcanic Landscapes,” Medicine, Science, and Technology in Latin America Seminar, Penn State University
- 2017 “The Age of Revolution: France and Haiti (Saint-Domingue)” World History II: 1500 to Present, Penn State University
- 2016 “Classic Period Ceramic Production,” Art History: Maya Art and Architecture, Penn State University

Invited Talks

- 2020 Roundtable Presenter and Discussant, “New Directions in the History of Science,” American Philosophical Society Library, Philadelphia Pennsylvania (held remotely)
- 2019 “Kaqchikel Sources and Volcanoes at the APS,” American Philosophical Society Library Fellows Talk, Philadelphia, PA
- 2018 “*En las faldas del volcán: Contested Territories Surrounding the Popocatepetl Volcano 1590-1617*” ICIK (Interinstitutional Center for Indigenous Knowledge) Seminar, Penn State University
 “Topographic and Landscape Terms in Kaqchikel *Vocabularios*,” Brown Bag Lunch Talk, American Philosophical Society Library, Philadelphia Pennsylvania

Conference Presentations/Seminar Workshops

- 2022 “Feeling Jaded: Nahua and Spanish Efforts to Control the Rain, 1535-1550,” American Society for Ethnohistory, Lawrence, Kansas
 “Shaky Earth: Navigating the Turbulent Terrain Surrounding Santiago de Guatemala and the Volcán de Fuego,” Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies Annual Meeting, Charlotte, NC
- 2020 “Encountering Mountains of Fire in the Sixteenth-Century Americas,” McNeil Center Brown Bag Work-In-Progress Seminar, Philadelphia, PA
 “Interpretations of Volcanic Ecology: Creating a Built Environment around the Volcán de Fuego, 16th-17th Centuries,” Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA (*cancelled due to COVID-19*)
- 2019 “A Mountain of Fire, or A Mountain of Water?: Late Sixteenth-Century Land Conflicts Relating to the Popocatepetl Volcano,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois
- 2018 “A Mountain of Sustenance: Ash Fall, Altepetls, and Nahua Litigants in Conflicts surrounding the Popocatepetl Volcano,” Southwest Seminar, Salt Lake City Utah
- 2017 “In the Heart of the Mountain: Kaqchikel Maya and Spanish Interpretations of the Volcán de Fuego in Early Colonial Guatemala, Mountains and Sacred Landscapes Conference,” The New School, New York
 “Ring of Fire: The Volcán de Pacaya and the Relocation of Guatemala City,” 1st Annual Penn State Latin American Studies Symposium and 2017 TePaske Seminar,” Penn State University
 “Diabolical Neighbors: The Eruption of the Volcán de Fuego and the Construction of Guatemala City,” Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies, Salt Lake City, Utah
- 2016 “Redefining *Dhimmi*: The Creation of Legal Identities during the Arian, Islamic, and Catholic Conquests of the Iberian Peninsula between 589-1284,” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan
 “Interdisciplinary Methodologies for Studying Volcanoes, Science, and Culture in Colonial Mexico and Guatemala,” Roundtable Discussant, Committee for Early Modern Studies Roundtable on Research Methods, Penn State University
- 2015 “The Secret of the Smoke: Popocatépetl and Iztaccíhuatl in the 16th Landscape of Tenochtitlán,” American Society for Ethnohistory (ASE) Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada

“*Gallos Degollados*: Secrecy, Materiality, and Idolatry in Late Seventeenth and Early Eighteenth Century Oaxaca, Mexico,” Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies (RMCLAS), Tucson, Arizona

2014 “*Sortilegos, Sacrificios, and Libros Antiguos*: Shaping Zapotec Identity through *Maestros de Idolatría* in Eighteenth-Century Oaxaca, Mexico,” Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies (RMCLAS), Durango, Colorado

2013 “Un Buen Católico: An Early Eighteenth-Century Examination of the Impacts of Religious Conflict on the Presence of the Catholic Church in Oaxaca, Mexico,” Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies (RMCLAS) Santa Fe, NM

Relevant Language and Abroad Experience

2015-2017 Oxlajuj Aj Mayan Language Institute for Kaqchikel Mayan, held in Antigua, Guatemala, through Tulane University (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced Levels)

2012 Oaxaca Summer Institute XIV Fellow, Oaxaca, Mexico

2011 Center for Cross-Cultural Studies, Fall Semester Semi-Integrated Program, Seville, Spain

2010 Peruvian Culture and Society, Susquehanna University Go Short Program, Lima, Cuzco, and Urubamba, Peru

University Service

2022 Scholarship Committee, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

2021-2022 Latinx Initiative Organizing Committee, Susquehanna University
Campus COVID-19 Testing Volunteer, Susquehanna University

2016 Chaperone for Penn State Honors Program Trip to Cartagena, Ibagué, Murillo, and Bogotá, Colombia (Part of an Honors Program Course at Penn State)

2015-2016 Vice President, History Graduate Student Association (HGSA) Executive Committee, Penn State University

2014-2015 Secretary, History Graduate Student Association (HGSA) Executive Committee, Penn State University

Languages

Spanish - advanced reading, writing, and speaking - language exam passed Fall 2013

Spanish (16th-18th centuries) - advanced paleography

Kaqchikel Mayan – intermediate reading, writing, and speaking

Portuguese – intermediate reading and writing, completed Portuguese III Fall 2015

Nahuatl – Beginning reading