

James V. Mestaz

**Department of Humanities
Central State University
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Education

- 2016 University of Illinois at Chicago
Ph.D., Department of History (Summa Cum Laude)
Dissertation Title: Fuerte River Histories and Ambivalent Mayo Modernity
in Mexico, 1926-1970
Dissertation Committee: Christopher Boyer (Chair and Advisor)
UIC: Joaquín Chávez, Javier Villa-Flores, John Monaghan (Anthropology)
Jeffrey Banister (University of Arizona)
- 2009 University of Miami
M.A. Latin American History (Cum Laude)
- 1998 University of California, Los Angeles
B.A. History/Specialization in Chicana/o Studies

Areas of Scholarship

Latin American History, Indigenous Latin America, Environmental History, Mexican History, Ethnohistory, Indigenous Mexican Immigration, Water History, Borderlands, Race and Ethnicity, Gender History, Social Movements, Indigenous Mexican Diaspora, Oral Histories, Latinx Immigration, Transnational Studies.

Areas of Teaching Interest

Modern Latin American History, Indigenous Latin America, Environmental History, African Diaspora in Latin America, Global Studies, Colonial and Pre-Columbian Latin American History, Race and Identity, Latin American Revolutions, Gender, Ethnohistory, Water History, Mexican History, Latinx Immigration.

Academic Appointments

- 2021-Present Assistant Professor of History, Department of Humanities
Central State University
- 2019-2021 Lecturer on History and Literature
Harvard University
- 2017-2019 Visiting Assistant Professor/Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of History
Claremont McKenna College

2016-2017 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History
University of Iowa

Fellowships

2016 Dean's Scholar Fellowship, UIC (Declined Offer)
(Awarded to 20 PhD students at UIC)

2014 Marion S. Miller Dissertation Fellowship, UIC
(Awarded to two PhD candidates annually in the UIC History Department)

2012, 2013 UIC Chancellor's Supplemental Research Fellowship
(To conduct Pre-Dissertation Research in Mexico)

2010, 2014 Abraham Lincoln Graduate Fellowship, UIC
(Two-year recruitment award granted to a limited number of UIC graduate students
Covered First Academic Year and One Year of Dissertation Research in Mexico)

Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor, Central State University, 2021-Present

Introduction to Africans in the U.S.

U.S. History, 1900-1941

U.S. History, 1877-Present

Lecturer on History and Literature, Harvard University, 2019-2021

Latin American Revolutions

Water Justice and Resistance in the Americas

De/Colonialism in Latin/x America: Political and Cultural Modes of Resistance

Latinx Communities: Intersections of Identity, Migration, and Activism

Water Rights in the Americas Freshman Seminar

Visiting Assistant Professor/Postdoctoral Fellow, Claremont McKenna College, Dept. of History, 2017-2019

Latinx Immigration

The Mexican Revolution

Latinx Immigrant Youth Experiences (Co-Taught Course Funded by Mellon Grant)

Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Iowa, Department of History, 2016-2017

Mexican History

Modern Latin America

The Mexican Revolution

Latinx Immigration

Mexican American History

Teaching Assistant, Department of History, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2011-2016

History of Western Civilization

Latin American History

World History

Modern Mexican History

Teaching Assistant, Department of History, University of Miami, 2001-2003

History of Western Civilization

History of the United States

Publications and Works in Progress

Strength from the Waters: A History of Indigenous Mobilization in Northwest Mexico (Manuscript): University of Nebraska Press-To be Published October 2022

"Yoremes, Commodities, and Contentious Notions of Natural Resources in Northwest Mexico" (Chapter in Progress) to be Published in Edited Volume, *Indigeneity, Shatter Zones and Unruly Spaces: Mapping Statelessness in the Americas' Transnational Pacific*

Yaqui Diaspora, Ethnic Relations, and Environmental Adaptation in Mexico and the US (Manuscript in Progress)

"Sweetness and Water Power: El SICAE Sugar Cooperative and Mayo Struggles for Water, 1943-1955," *Journal of Latin American Studies*, Vol. 52, Issue 1, February 2020: pp. 1–25

Review of *Agrarian Revolt in the Sierra of Chihuahua 1959 - 1965* by Elizabeth Henson *Pacific Historical Review*, Vol. 89, No. 1, Winter 2020: pp. 156-158

Review of *Border Land, Border Water: A History of Construction on the US-Mexico Divide* by C. J. Alvarez *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, Vol. 100, No. 4, Nov. 2020: pp. 736–738

Invited Lectures

2022 "Trujillo y la Dictadura en la República Dominicana, 1930-1961"
Central State University, Foreign Languages: Dominican Republic Study Abroad

2018 "Insights into Graduate Research and Funding"
The Claremont Colleges Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows

2018 "The Challenges and Triumphs of Archival Research and Oral Interviews"
Claremont McKenna College History Majors Lecture

- 2017 “The Fuerte River: An Environmental History of Development and Mayo Cultural Change”
Colby College, Jesuits and Environmental History in Latin America
- 2017 “The Early Years of Mexican-Americans in Iowa”
Iowa City League of United Latin American Citizens Tribute to Past Leaders
- 2016 “The Indigenous Origins of Día de Los Muertos”
University of Iowa Cultural Celebration
- 2016 “The Russian Revolution,” UIC, History of Western Civilization
- 2015 “The Practice of Oral History toward the Completion of a Doctoral Dissertation”
UIC, Politics and Revolution in Latin American and Caribbean History
- 2012 “The Fuerte River: Mayos, Modernization, and Technology,” UIC, Mexican History
- 2011 “Mayo and Yaqui Mobilization during the Mexican Revolution,” UIC, Mexican History
- 2002 “U.S. Imperialism and the Mexican-American War,” University of Miami, History of the U.S.

Conference Presentations

- 2022 “Our Water, Our Identity: Indigenous Combatants in the CNC and CTM Water War”
Conference on Latin American History, New Orleans, LA, January 6-8.
- 2021 “The Rise of Bachomo the Cat: An Environmental History of an Indigenous Mexican Revolt”
Conference on Latin American History, Remote Conference, January 7-9.
- 2020 “Old Water Woman and other Latin American Indigenous Stories tied to Environmental Change”
Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies, Austin, TX, March 5-7.
- 2019 “Stay off of my Irrigated Land! SICAE Member Land Seizures and its Impact on Mayo Ejidos, 1946-1957”
Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies, Oaxaca, Mexico, March 26-31.
- 2019 “From Our River to Theirs: The Effects of Hydraulic Development on Mayo Villages, 1955-1970”
Conference on Latin American History, Chicago, IL, Jan. 3-6. (Also Served as Panel Chair)
- 2018 “Two Negatives are Not Positive: Changing Mayo Hydraulic Social Strategies, 1944-1957”
Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies Conf., Univ. of NV Reno, April 5-8.
- 2016 “Sweetness and Water Power: El SICAE Sugar Cooperative and the Fracturing of Mayo
Communities, 1938-1955,” Conference on Latin American History, Atlanta, GA, Jan. 7-10.
- 2015 “Their Technology, Our Way: Mayo Uses of Fuerte River Infrastructure, 1926-1942,” Rocky
Mountain Council for Latin American Studies Conf., Univ. of AZ, Tucson, AZ, April 8-12.

- 2014 “Mayo Oral Histories on the Fuerte River, 1930-1970,” 12th International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities, Universidad CEU San Pablo, Madrid, Spain, June 11-13.
- 2013 “Fuerte River Histories and Ambivalent Mayo Modernity,” Global Water Conference, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, April 12-13.
- 2013 “River Histories: Mayo Cultural Change and the Fuerte River,” Midwest Latin American History Conference, Loyola University, Chicago, IL, January 26.
- 2012 “Our Truth is Our Struggle Yaqui and Mayo Utilization of the Mexican Revolution,” Southwest Council of Latin American Studies Conference, Miami, FL, March 8-10.
- 2011 “Yaqui and Mayo Adaptability: Resistance and Survival During the Mexican Revolution,” Loyola University History Conference, Chicago, IL, November 5.
- 2011 "Yaqui Resistance and the Mexican Revolution," Eyes on the Mosaic Graduate Student Conference on Race, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, May 21.

Honors and Travel Awards

- 2021 Professional Development Funding Grant, Central State University
- 2021 Honors Mentor Medallion, Central State University
- 2021 Alan Heimert Teaching Prize, History and Literature, Harvard University
- 2021 Certificate of Teaching Excellence, Harvard University
- 2020 Supplementary Travel Fund Award, History and Literature, Harvard University
- 2019 Provostial Fund for the Arts and Humanities Award, Harvard University
- 2019 Office of Undergraduate Education Travel Award, Harvard University
- 2019 Mellon Grant to Co-Teach Course on Diversity, Claremont McKenna College
- 2018-2019 Claremont McKenna College Faculty Research Grant: Summer, Fall, Spring Terms
- 2017 UIC Most Outstanding History Department Dissertation
- 2015 Best Graduate Student Paper Award (in honor of Adrian Bantjes)
Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies Conference
- 2014 Graduate Scholar Award
12th International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities, Madrid, Spain
- 2012-2016 UIC Graduate Student Council Travel Award

- 2012-2016 UIC College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Ph.D. Student Travel Award
- 2012-2016 UIC Graduate Student Conference Presenter Award
- 2013, 2015 UIC History Department Graduate Travel Award
- 2011-2013 UIC History Department Doctoral Award (Enhanced Honorarium TAship)
- 2011 San Juan de Letras Society, Oaxaca Summer Institute (outstanding research paper)
- 2002-2004 University of Miami History Department Travel Award
- 2000 U.S. Student Delegate
Latin American and Caribbean Student Congress, Havana, Cuba
- 1999 Witness for Peace Delegate
(U.S. Delegate to Guatemala to monitor implementation of 1994 peace accords)

Community Service/Related Work Experience

- 2019 Information Seminar “How to Conduct Oral Interviews and Use Them in Writing”
Harvard University
- 2010 Information Seminars "How to Get Accepted to Graduate School"
UIC Academic Center for Excellence, U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute Conference
- 2009-2010 Intern/Writer
Indigenous People’s Issues and Resources
- 1999-2000 Coordinator
Chicano/Latino Student Resource Center, California State University, Los Angeles
- 1999-2000 Volunteer Tutor
Chicano/Latino Student Resource Center, California State University, Los Angeles
- 1993-1996 Office Manager/Researcher
National Center for History in the Schools, Los Angeles, California
- 1994-1996 Mentor and Tutor for Inner-City Youth
Amigos del Barrio, Los Angeles, California

Service

- 2021 Recruitment Committee, College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, Central State University
- 2021 Puerto Rican, American, and Caribbean Organization of Dayton, Ohio

- 2020 Thesis Prize Committee, History and Literature, Harvard University
- 2019-2021 Thesis Prize Committee, Ethnicity, Migration, Race, Harvard University
- 2019-2021 Committee on Instruction, History and Literature, Harvard University
- 2019-2021 Association of Harvard Latinx Faculty and Staff
- 2019-2021 East Boston Ecumenical Community Council
- 2018 Best Graduate Student Paper Prize Committee, Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies Conference
- 2017-2019 Latino/a Roundtable of the San Gabriel Valley and Pomona Valley
- 2016-2017 League of United Latin American Citizens (Iowa City Chapter)
- 2016-2017 University of Iowa Latino Council
- 2013-2016 Founding Member UIC Latina/o Graduate Student Association (Treasurer)
- 2011-2016 UIC Latino Cultural Center Ambassador Group
- 2010-2013 UIC Windy City History Conference Committee
- 2010-2016 UIC History Graduate Society
- 1995-1997 UCLA Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán
- 1994-1996 UCLA Latin American Student Association
- 1993-1998 Theta Delta Chi National Fraternity (UCLA Chapter)

Professional Associations

- Conference on Latin American History
- Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies
- Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies
- American Historical Association
- Southwest Council of Latin American Studies
- Ohio Academy of History

Foreign Languages

- Fluent in Spanish (reading, writing, conversation, translation)
- Basic Portuguese (reading)