



# H CENTRAL HISTORY

Spring/Summer 2022 Central Washington University History Department

## History Faculty Win Major CWU Awards

Central Washington University presented Professors Jason Knirck and Josué Quezada Estrada with prestigious awards this spring, once more highlighting the excellence of the History Department.

**Dr. Jason Knirck**, Professor and Chair of the History Department received the Board of Trustees Distinguished Faculty Award. He collected a \$5,000 prize and a release from teaching for one quarter for the 2022/23 academic year. Dr. Knirck has been with CWU for 17 years and previously won other awards from the Board of Trustees. A University Press release states that Dr. Knirck, “demonstrated a balance of excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service that befit this honor. He has taught 24 classes in the Department of History at all levels since 2005, covering a broad range of subjects. He



also has mentored numerous students in graduate and undergraduate projects and theses while creating a variety of courses to enhance the department’s curricular offerings. Along the way, Prof. Knirck has become one of the most popular teachers in the department for his expertise, enthusiasm, rigor, ability to connect with students, his methodologies, and his sense of humor.”

**Dr. Josué Quezada Estrada**, Assistant Professor of History, received the President’s Diversity award along with ten other CWU employees and one campus organization. The award recognizes



faculty who have exerted extraordinary effort to make the University a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive institution, both for those on campus and for members of the community. CWU President James Wohlpart co-hosted

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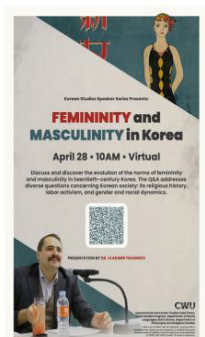
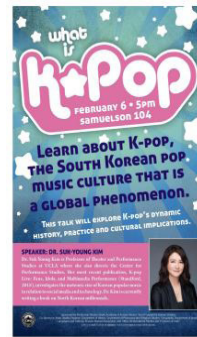
## History Faculty Leads Korean Studies Grant

This is Dr. Chong Eun Ahn’s last quarter directing the Korean Studies Seed Grant, funded by the Academy of Korean Studies in the Republic of Korea.

The grant team, which includes Jeffrey Dippmann (PRS), Volha Isakava (WLC), and Michael Johnson (WLC), has achieved its primary goal, creating an environment that fosters academic and public interest in Korean history and culture in Central and Eastern Washington.

It successfully hosted the annual Korean Studies speaker series; awarded thirteen

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# FACULTY

## Faculty Awards (from page 1)

the event and stated that Dr. Estrada and the others, “represent what is best about our institution, and they reflect CWU’s ongoing commitment to being a diverse, welcoming place where everyone feels like they belong.”

## Additional faculty news and Awards:

Professors **Stephen Moore, Marilyn Levine, Jason Knirck, Jason Dormady,** and **Josué Estrada** were nominated by students for the HOPE Award from the CWU Chapter of the National Residence Hall society.

## Dr. Daniel Herman

The article “Searching the Shadows: Thoughts on the West’s Political History - An Extended Field Note” appeared in the *Western Historical Quarterly*. Volume 53, Issue 2, Summer 2022, Pages 117–143, <https://doi.org/10.1093/whq/whac001>

## (Korean Studies, Continued from Page 1)

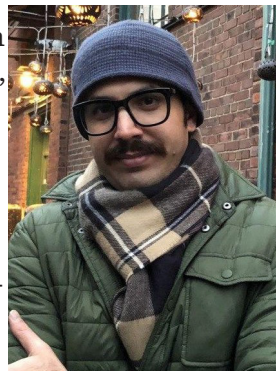
Korean Studies scholarships to undergraduate wildcats; funded two graduate students in History as Korean Studies GAs; ran the Korean Culture Resource Center, which sponsored various Korean culture events on campus; offered four new upper division courses on

Korea; increased library collections; and established a Korean Studies minor to be offered beginning in Fall 2022.

The grant team is excited about the new minor at CWU and very grateful for the generous support the colleagues, students, and staff in the History department have offered over the last three years!

## Dr. Mohammad Amin Mansouri

Dr. Mansouri will join the CWU History Department as an Assistant Professor in Fall, 2022. He will offer History courses in Islam, Science, Mysticism, and Magic. He comes to us from the University of Toronto in Ontario, Canada.



## Dr. Jason Dormady

Dr. Dormady was promoted to the rank of Professor. In March he organized and presented on a panel about pedagogy and primary documents at the Rocky Mountain Council of Latin American Studies in Las Cruces, NM.

## Dr. Marilyn Levine

Dr. Levine traveled to France to present at the “New Foundations

and Directions in Digital Chinese Studies Summer School Workshop Session and Conference.” She delivered a half-day workshop on network analysis, led a two-hour session on teaching digital history, and presented a research paper titled: “Chinese Political and Cultural Elites: Twentieth Century Transformations.” She also published two articles: “Post WWI Chinese Revolutionary Leaders in Europe” in *Journal of Historical Network Research* Vol. 5 No. 1: 187-232, and “Biography for Historical Analysis: A Chinese Biographical Database,” *Journal of Historical Network Research* Vol. 5 No. 1: 271-87.

## Dr. Josué Estrada

Dr. Estrada published a review of *Race and Partisanship in California Redistricting: From the 1965 Voting Rights Act to Present*, by Oliver Richomme in the *Journal of American Ethnic History*.







# Graduate Student News

**Kaelen Sauriol** won two awards for her thesis “Russian Women Emigres after the Revolution” written under the supervision of Dr. Roxanne Easley. Sauriol received the Dale and Mary Jo Comstock Distinguished Award for the best Masters thesis at CWU (shared with Jessica Coffey of Cultural and Environmental Resource Management). She also received the Topmiller Award for the best History Department MA thesis. The Topmiller Award honors the memory of Robert Topmiller, a CWU grad and a former professor and scholar of the Vietnam War at Eastern Kentucky University.

CWU History Department MA students are consistent winners of the prize.

**Lily Alcazar Oseguera** successfully presented her thesis proposal about braceros (Mexican contract workers) in Yakima Valley during World War II. This project seeks to deepen our understanding on the

Bracero Program in Washington State.

**Ulysis Cruz Antonio** is studying the movement of people from Oaxaca, Mexico to Washington State, and their creation of transnational communities. This thesis will be a significant contribution to Washington’s Chicano/a/x History.

**KC Catey, Catherine Colwell,** and **Kaelen Sauriol** were all hooded and presented with their MA degrees from CWU this spring.

Pictured from Left to Right, Catey, Roxanne Easley, Colwell, and Sauriol.



## Upper Division Fall Courses

**History of Islamic Civilizations**  
with Dr. Mohammad Mansouri

**Colonial Africa**  
with Dr. Lacy Ferrell

**Aztec/Inca/Maya**  
with Dr. Jason Dormady

**France 1789-1945**  
with Dr. Jason Knirck

**The Era of World War I**  
with Ken Munsell

**Gender and History in Asia**  
with Dr. Chong Eun Ahn

## Upper Division Winter Courses

**Youth in Africa**  
with Dr. Lacy Ferrell

**Medieval European History**  
with Dr. Roxanne Easley

**History of Black Diaspora**  
with Dr. Josué Estrada

**Modern China**  
with Dr. Chong Eun Ahn

**Mexico in the Modern Era**  
with Dr. Jason Dormady

**German History Since 1815**  
with Dr. Melissa Jordine

Interested in being a graduate student at CWU and earning a MA degree in History?  
Send inquiries to:  
[roxanne.easley@cwu.edu](mailto:roxanne.easley@cwu.edu).

# Alumni News

**Brian Davis (BA)** is a lawyer with the Utah firm of Patterson, Earnhart, Real Bird, and Wilson. He returned to CWU virtually in March of 2022 to participate in a workshop with Dr. Knirck's History 302 (Historical Methods) course to discuss his trajectory from CWU History and Music student to a lawyer working to defend the rights of indigent people in the United States. After CWU, Brian earned his Juris Doctorate at the University of Denver.



**Katie Omans (MA)** published an article in May, 2022 in the *Irish Historical Studies* journal titled "The Belfast Boycott: consumerism and gender in revolutionary Ireland 1920-1922." *Irish Historical Studies* is the flagship journal in Irish History and Studies and her piece is drawn from her award-winning CWU MA thesis.

**Ryan Booth, (MA)**, completed his doctoral dissertation at WSU on Native Americans as U.S. Army scouts. He is now teaching in a post-doctoral position at Washington State University in Pullman which will transition into an Assistant Professor position.

**Elizabeth "Liz" Seelye (BA and MA)** and **Mayra Meraz (BA)** returned virtually to CWU in the spring

to present on a panel to CWU and community college students about working in non-profit community service organizations. Liz is a housing stability supervisor at Neighborhood House, a Seattle-area organization that helps people find housing and build community. Mayra is a community outreach coordinator for the Eastern King County branch of NAMI - the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

**Laynie Moran (BA)** is now the Collection Manager for the Skagit County Historical Museum.

**Rebecca Hastings (BA and MA)** was accepted to and is currently enrolled in the Master of Library and Information Sciences program at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Hastings completed her MA thesis with Roxanne Easley in 2013 and went on to finish a PhD at the University of Oregon in 2020. She currently works as a History instructor at Grays Harbor College.

**Ron Erickson (BA)** recently completed his term on the CWU Board of Trustees where he served as chairperson from 2018 to 2021. Erickson graduated from Ellensburg High, and was a 1966 graduate of CWU History. He went on to get his MA at the University of Wyoming and his Juris Doctorate at UC Davis. For 35 years he worked as a lawyer and entrepreneur in technology enterprises.


**Kellie Hedgers (BA and MA)** completed her PhD in US Civil War History at Louisiana State University.

The department loves connecting with alumni, so please let us hear from you! Send updates of your current whereabouts and activities to [history@cwu.edu](mailto:history@cwu.edu).

## What Do You Do With A History Degree? Tell us!

Besides President of the United States, professor, archivist, lawyer, tech entrepreneur, community service leader, business owner, librarian, military officer, talk show host, diplomat, or supreme court justice, what else can you do with a History degree?

The History Department hosts virtual zoom workshops for students about career paths they could choose with a history degree. We frequently draw from the experience of our alumni for these programs. Are you interested in speaking with our students about finding a career? Contact Jason Dormady at [dormadyj@cwu.edu](mailto:dormadyj@cwu.edu) and we can discuss potential participation in our virtual quarterly workshops.





Getting a job in community service and non-profit orgs with a **HISTORY DEGREE**

What do you do with a History degree? Join us for a discussion and a Q&A with:

**WHEN:** Tues. Feb. 22nd  
**TIME:** 3 to 4pm  
**WHERE:** Zoom!

Email [dormadyj@cwu.edu](mailto:dormadyj@cwu.edu) for a Zoom meeting link.




Getting a job with a **HISTORY DEGREE**

What do you do with a History degree? Join us for presentations and a Q&A with professionals from the US State Department and the National Park Service for advice on using your History degree.

**WHEN:** Mon. Feb. 22nd  
**TIME:** 3 to 4pm  
**WHERE:** Zoom!

Email [dormadyj@cwu.edu](mailto:dormadyj@cwu.edu) for a Zoom meeting link.



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