

Curriculum Vitae

William S. Kiser
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Education

- Arizona State University, Ph.D., History, 2016.
- Arizona State University, M.A., Public History, 2011.
- New Mexico State University, B.A., History, 2009.

Professional Experience

- Professor, Texas A&M University-San Antonio (2024-Present).
- Associate Professor, Texas A&M University-San Antonio (2021-Present).
- Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University-San Antonio (2016-2021).
- Instructor, Arizona State University (2015-2016).

- Chair, Texas A&M University-San Antonio Department of History, Philosophy, and Geography (2023-Present)
- Chair, Texas A&M University-San Antonio Department of Communication, History, and Philosophy (2022-2023)

- Director, Texas A&M University-San Antonio Global Borders & Borderlands History Program, 2018-2022.

Refereed Publications: Books

- *The Business of Killing Indians: Scalp Warfare and the Violent Conquest of North America*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2025.

- *Illusions of Empire: The Civil War and Reconstruction in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2022.

Gaspar Pérez de Villagrá Award for Outstanding Publication in New Mexico and Southwest Borderlands History. Presented by the Historical Society of New Mexico, 2023.

Choice Editors' Pick for September 2023.

- *Coast-to-Coast Empire: Manifest Destiny and the New Mexico Borderlands*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2018.

- *Borderlands of Slavery: The Struggle over Captivity and Peonage in the American Southwest*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017.

Gaspar Pérez de Villagrà Award for Outstanding Publication in New Mexico and Southwest Borderlands History. Presented by the Historical Society of New Mexico, 2018.

- *Dragoons in Apacheland: Conquest and Resistance in Southern New Mexico, 1846-1861*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2013.

Southwest Book Award, Sponsored by the Border Regional Library Association, 2013.

Best Book: New Mexico History, New Mexico Book Co-Op, 2013.

- *Turmoil on the Rio Grande: The Territorial History of the Mesilla Valley, 1846-1865*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2011.

Refereed Publications: Articles

- "Greater Reconstruction and the Limitations to Federal Power in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands," in *Civil War History*, forthcoming December 2025.
- "Indian Slavery and Greater Reconstruction in the Southwest Borderlands," in *New Mexico Historical Review* 99:3 (Summer 2024): 295-316.
- "The Business of Killing Indians: Contract Warfare and Genocide in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands," in *Journal of American History* 110:2 (June 2023): 15-39.
- "Greater Reconstruction in Historiographical Perspective," in *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 127:1 (July 2023): 109-13.
- "The Persistence of Unfree Labor in the American Southwest," in *Western Historical Quarterly* 52:3 (Autumn 2021): 259-80.
- "'We Must Have Chihuahua and Sonora': Civil War Diplomacy in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands," in *Journal of the Civil War Era* 9 (June 2019): 196-222.
- "The Politics of Slavery and Social Hierarchies in Colonial, Mexican, and Territorial New Mexico," in *New Mexico Historical Review* 92 (Summer 2017): 285-309.
- "A 'charming name for a species of slavery': Political Debate on Debt Peonage in the Southwest, 1840s-1860s," in *Western Historical Quarterly* 45:2 (Summer 2014): 169-189.
- "Navajo Pawn: A Misunderstood Traditional Trading Practice," in *American Indian Quarterly* 36:2 (Spring 2012): 150-181.

Edited Volumes

- William S. Kiser, ed. *The Civil War and Reconstruction across the American West*. Under contract with Texas A&M University Press.
- Guest Editor: "The Civil War and Greater Reconstruction in the Southwest Borderlands," Special Issue of the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 127:1 (July 2023)

Book Chapters

- "Scalp Warfare in California," in Kiser, ed., *The Civil War and Reconstruction across the American West*. Under contract with Texas A&M University Press.
- "Intoxicants and Scalp Warfare in the Nineteenth-Century U.S.-Mexico Borderlands," in Hilary Earl, Adam Jones, and Edward Westermann, eds., *Intoxication and Atrocity: Alcohol, Drugs, and Violence*, under contract with McGill-Queen's University Press.
- "Genízaros and Cultural Systems of Slavery in the Hispanic Southwest," in Moises Gonzales and Enrique R. Lamadrid, eds., *Nación Genízara: Ethnogenesis, Place, and Identity in New Mexico*. 47-62. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2019.
- "Louis Geck," in Janne Lahti, ed., *Soldiers in the Southwest Borderlands, 1848-1886*. 35-56. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2017.

Government Publications

- *Petrified Forest National Park: Historic Resource Study*. Published by the National Park Service, 2013.

Online Publications and Interviews

- Author Interview, *New Books Network*, April 25, 2025. Available at: [William Kiser, "The Business of Killing Indians: Scalp Warfare and the Violent Conquest of North America" \(Yale UP, 2025\) - New Books Network](#)
- "The Long Shadow of Indian Scalp Bounties," Yale University Press Blog, March 11, 2025. Available at: [The Long Shadow of Indian Scalp Bounties - Yale University Press](#).
- Speaking engagement on PBS Documentary, July 15, 2024, located at 39:45 in: [The Genízaro Experience: Shadows in Light | NMPBS \(knme.org\)](#)

- Author Interview, *New Books Network*, November 23, 2023. Available at: [Podcast | William S. Kiser, "Illusions of Empire: The Civil War and...](https://newbooksnetwork.com/podcast/william-s-kiser-illusions-of-empire-the-civil-war-and...) (newbooksnetwork.com)
- Author Interview, *H-CivWar*, January 26, 2022 and February 2, 2022. Part 1 available at [Author Interview-- William S. Kiser \(Illusions of Empire\) Part 1 | H-CivWar | H-Net](https://h-civwar.org/author-interview-william-s-kiser-illusions-of-empire-part-1). Part 2 available at: [Author Interview--William S. Kiser \(Illusions of Empire\) Part 2 | H-CivWar | H-Net](https://h-civwar.org/author-interview-william-s-kiser-illusions-of-empire-part-2)
- Author Interview, *Current: The Author's Corner*, November 29, 2021. Available at: <https://currentpub.com/2021/11/29/the-authors-corner-with-william-kiser/>
- Author Interview, *Muster* (Online Blog of *Journal of the Civil War Era*), June 18, 2019. Available at: <https://www.journalofthecivilwarera.org/2019/06/author-interview-william-s-kiser/>
- Author Interview, *New Books Network*, July 30, 2018. Available at: <https://newbooksnetwork.com/william-s-kiser-borderlands-of-slavery-the-struggle-over-captivity-and-peonage-in-the-american-southwest-u-pennsylvania-press-2017/>
- "How New Mexico's Peons Became Enslaved to Debt," Smithsonian Institution, November 2, 2017. Available at: <https://www.whatitmeanstobeamerican.org/tags/debt-peonage/>
- "Debt Servitude in the Southwest," Interview with C-SPAN, April 18, 2015. Available at: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?325429-2/discussion-debt-servitude-southwest>

Awards and Recognitions

- TAMUSA College of Arts and Sciences 2022 Excellence in Scholarly/Creative Activity Award in the Tenured Faculty category.

Conference Presentations

- 2025 Western History Association Conference. Panel Chair: "This Country is Yet a Shameful Land," October 17, 2025.
- 2025 Organization of American Historians Conference. Roundtable Organizer and Presenter: "New Directions in Civil War History," April 5, 2025.
- 2024 Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) Conference. Panel Chair: "Texas Indigenous Landscapes: Sovereignty and Memory." March 1, 2024.
- 2023 BrANCH (British American Nineteenth Century Historians) Conference at

- Oxford University. Panel Presentation: “Violence and Cooperation in the Civil War-era U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.” September 22-24, 2023.
- 2023 UTSA John Nau III Conference on Texas History. Paper Presented: “Civil War Diplomacy and Intrigue in Northwestern Mexico.” March 25, 2023.
 - 2022 Western History Association Conference. Panel Organizer: “The Civil War and Greater Reconstruction in the Southwest Borderlands.” October 14, 2022.
 - 2020 Western History Association Conference. Panel Organizer: “Nación Genízara: Ethnogenesis, Place, and Identity in the Southwest Borderlands.” Paper Presented: “Genízaros and Cultural Systems of Slavery in the Hispanic Southwest.” October 15, 2020.
 - 2019 Texas State University Center for the Southwest Symposium entitled “Chasing Slavery: The Persistence of Forced Labor in the Southwest.” (Invited) Paper Presented: “The Long-Lasting Implications of New Mexico’s Debt Peonage System.” October 25, 2019.
 - 2019 Texas State Historical Association Conference (TSHA). Paper Presented: “Confederate Diplomacy in Northeastern Mexico, 1861-1863.”
 - 2018 Western History Association Conference. Paper Presented: “Contingencies of Empire: Civil War Diplomacy in Chihuahua and Sonora.”
 - 2017 Western History Association Conference. Panel Organizer: “Freedom Limited: The Political, Legal, and Religious Implications of Indian Enslavement in New Mexico and California.” Paper Presented: “The Politics of Slavery and Social Hierarchies in New Mexico.”
 - 2015 Western History Association Conference. Panel Organizer: “Soldiers in the Borderlands: Biographies of Enlisted Men and Officers in the Nineteenth Century Southwest.” Paper Presented: “Louis William Geck: A Dragoon and Nation-BUILDER in Territorial New Mexico.”
 - 2015 Organization of American Historians Conference. Panel Organizer: “A Lasting Legacy: Coercive Labor Systems in Post-Civil War America.” Paper presented: “Debt Peonage in Judicial and Political Transition: Comparing Unfree Labor in Territorial New Mexico and the Jim Crow South.”
 - 2014 Arizona History Convention. Paper Presented: “Hyperbolizing Petrified Forest.”
 - 2013 Western History Association Conference. Panel Organizer: “Contested Identities and Cultural Hegemony in the Southwest Borderlands.” Paper

- Presented: “Debt Peonage and Judicial Empowerment in Territorial New Mexico.”
- 2013 New Mexico/Arizona History Convention. Paper Presented: “Campaign of Clowns: The 1857 Bonneville Campaign.”
 - 2011 Ethnohistory Conference. Paper Presented: “Navajo Pawn: A Misunderstood Traditional Trading Practice.”

Invited Lectures

- State Bar of New Mexico 2025 Annual Meeting, Albuquerque NM, August 1, 2025. Invited Featured Speaker Presentation entitled “The Legal Legacies of Unfree Labor in Nineteenth Century New Mexico.”
- San Antonio Mission Indian Descendants, San Antonio, Texas, July 12, 2025. Invited Book Talk on *The Business of Killing Indians*.
- Los Bexareños, San Antonio, Texas, June 7, 2025. Invited Book Talk on *The Business of Killing Indians*.
- San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society, San Antonio, Texas, May 17, 2025. Invited Book Talk on *The Business of Killing Indians*.
- Texas A&M International University, Laredo, Texas, April 30, 2025. Invited Book Talk on *The Business of Killing Indians*.
- Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony, April 22, 2025, Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Address entitled “The Business of Killing Indians: Scalp Warfare, Conquest, and Genocide across North America.”
- National Society Colonial Dames, San Antonio, Texas, October 9, 2024. Presentation entitled “Indian Scalp Bounties in Colonial America.”
- HEFNU Regional Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization, University of Texas at Austin, February 18, 2024. Keynote address entitled “The Business of Killing Indians: Scalp Warfare, Conquest, and Genocide across North America.”
- Friends of New Mexico History, January 4, 2024. Presentation entitled “Civil War Diplomacy in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.”
- National Society Colonial Dames, San Antonio, Texas, April 12, 2023. Presentation entitled “Indian Scalp Bounties in Colonial New England.”
- Texas General Land Office, Save Texas History Symposium, Austin, Texas, November 5, 2022. Presentation entitled “Civil War Diplomacy and Intrigue in

the Texas-Mexico Borderlands.” Full video online:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMgg-r3dEQc

- “Borderlands of Slavery” book talk, University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) Undergraduate Honors Program, March 31, 2022.
- National Society Colonial Dames, San Antonio, Texas, November 10, 2021. Presentation entitled “Civil War Diplomacy and Intrigue in the Texas-Mexico Borderlands.”
- History Museum of New Mexico, Santa Fe, New Mexico, August 7, 2019. Presentation entitled “Coast-to-Coast Empire.”
- Daughters of the Republic of Texas, New Braunfels, Texas, February 9, 2019. Presentation entitled “Texas Manifest Destiny, 1836-1865.”
- Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, San Antonio, Texas, January 11, 2019. Presentation entitled “Texas Manifest Destiny, 1836-1865.”
- History Club, Texas A&M University-San Antonio, November 26, 2018. Presentation entitled “Coast-to-Coast Empire.”
- Los Bexareños, San Antonio, Texas, July 7, 2018. Presentation entitled “Confederate Diplomacy in Northern Mexico.”
- Sons of the Republic of Texas, Alamo Chapter, San Antonio, Texas, December 14, 2017. Presentation entitled “Texas History Post-Revolution to the Civil War.”
- History Club, Texas A&M University-San Antonio, November 14, 2017. Presentation entitled “Borderlands of Slavery.”
- Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Alamo Couriers Chapter, San Antonio, Texas, September 27, 2017. Presentation entitled “Turmoil on the Rio Grande.”
- TCARA, San Antonio, Texas, June 20, 2017. Presentation entitled “Texan Manifest Destiny, 1836-1862.”
- Sons of the American Revolution, San Antonio, Texas, April 19, 2017. Presentation entitled “Texan Manifest Destiny, 1836-1862.”
- Sons of the American Revolution, Boerne, Texas, October 22, 2016. Presentation entitled “Texan Manifest Destiny, 1836-1862.”
- Order of the Indian Wars, Las Cruces, New Mexico, October 1, 2015. Presentation on the Apache Wars in 1850s New Mexico.

- Las Cruces Railroad Historical Society, March 2012. Presentation on the Gadsden Purchase and the Pacific Railway Surveys.

Grants

- 2021 Faculty Research Summer Fellowship (\$5,000). Awarded by Texas A&M University-San Antonio College of Arts & Sciences.
- 2020 Faculty Research Summer Fellowship (\$3,000). Awarded by Texas A&M University-San Antonio College of Arts & Sciences.
- 2019 Clements Center-DeGolyer Library Research Travel Grant (\$700). Awarded by Southern Methodist University.
- 2019 Humanities Texas Grant (\$1000).
- 2019 Faculty Research Summer Fellowship (\$3,000). Awarded by Texas A&M University-San Antonio College of Arts & Sciences.
- 2017 Faculty Research Summer Fellowship (\$3,000). Awarded by Texas A&M University-San Antonio College of Arts & Sciences.
- 2015 Samuel and Marion Merrill Travel Grant (\$500). Awarded by the Organization of American Historians.
- 2013 Summer Research Grant (\$700). Awarded by the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, Brigham Young University.

Service to the Profession

- *Vistas* Book Series, Texas A&M University Press. General Editor, 2021-Present.
- 2022 Western History Association (WHA) Conference, Local Arrangements Committee Co-Chair.
- *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (SWHQ) editorial board, 2020-2024.
- Lansing B. Bloom Family Award for Best Thesis and Dissertation committee, Historical Society of New Mexico (HSNM), 2019-2020.
- Robert M. Utley Book Award committee, Western History Association (WHA), 2018-2020.
- 2018 Western History Association (WHA) Conference, Local Arrangements Committee Co-Chair.

- Faculty adviser to Phi Alpha Theta chapter at TAMUSA, 2016-2022.

Book Reviews

30 solicited book reviews in 14 journals: *American Historical Review*, *Journal of American History*; *American Nineteenth Century History*; *New Mexico Historical Review*; *Journal of Arizona History*; *Western Historical Quarterly*; *Pacific Historical Review*; *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*; *Journal of Southern History*; *Criminal Law & Criminal Justice Books*; *The Journal of the Civil War Era*; *Kansas History*; *Journal of the West*; *H-AmIndian*.

One National Family: Texas, Mexico, and the Making of the Modern United States, 1820-1867. By Sarah K.M. Rodríguez. (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2024), forthcoming in *Journal of the Civil War Era*.

Hispano Bastion: New Mexican Power in the Age of Manifest Destiny, 1837-1860. By Michael J. Alarid. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2023), in *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 127:4 (April 2024): 472-73.

Bad Mexicans: Race, Empire and Revolution in the Borderlands. By Kelly Lytle Hernandez. (New York: W.W. Norton, 2022), in *Journal of American History* 110:3 (December 2023).

The Apache Diaspora: Four Centuries of Displacement and Survival. By Paul Conrad. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021), in *American Historical Review* 128:2 (June 2023).

West of Slavery: The Southern Dream of a Transcontinental Empire. By Kevin Waite. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2021), forthcoming in *New Mexico Historical Review*.

Country of the Cursed and the Driven: Slavery and the Texas Borderlands. By Paul Barba. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2021), in *Western Historical Quarterly* 54:1 (Spring 2023).

War and Peace on the Rio Grande Frontier, 1830-1880. By Miguel Angel Gonzalez-Quiroga. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2020), in *Journal of Southern History* 87:1 (February 2021).

Blood in the Borderlands: Conflict, Kinship, and the Bent Family, 1821-1920. By David C. Beyreis. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2020), in *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 124:3 (January 2021).

The Three-Cornered War: The Union, the Confederacy, and Native Peoples in the Fight for the West. By Megan Kate Nelson (New York: Scribner, 2020), in Journal of Arizona History 61 (Summer 2020).

The Alchemy of Slavery: Human Bondage and Emancipation in the Illinois Country, 1730-1865. By M. Scott Heerman. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018), in American Nineteenth Century History 20:3 (September 2019).

Being and Becoming Ute: The Story of an American Indian People. By Sondra G. Jones. (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2019), in *H-AmIndian* (2019).

The Limits of Liberty: Mobility and the Making of the Eastern U.S.-Mexico Border. By James David Nichols. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2018), in The Journal of Arizona History 59:3 (Autumn 2018).

Apache Adaptation to Hispanic Rule. By Matthew Babcock. (Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press, 2016), in American Historical Review 123:4 (October 2018).

Comanches and Germans on the Texas Frontier: The Ethnology of Heinrich Berghaus. By Daniel J. Gelo and Christopher J. Wickham. (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2018), in Ethnohistory 65:4 (October 2018).

The Modoc War: A Story of Genocide at the Dawn of America's Gilded Age. By Robert Aquinas McNally. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2017), Journal of American History 105:2 (September 2018).

Depredation and Deceit: The Making of the Jicarilla and Ute Wars in New Mexico. By Gregory F. Michno (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2017), Southwestern Historical Quarterly 121:4 (April 2018).

Civil War in the Southwest Borderlands, 1861-1867. By Andrew E. Masich (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2017), The Journal of Arizona History 58:3 (Autumn 2017).

Contesting the Borderlands: Interviews on the Early Southwest. By Deborah and Jon Lawrence (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2016), in New Mexico Historical Review 92:3 (Summer 2017).

Panting for Glory: The Mississippi Rifles in the Mexican War. By Richard B. Winders (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2016), in Southwestern Historical Quarterly 70:3 (January 2017).

Fort Bascom: Soldiers, Comancheros, and Indians in the Canadian River Valley. By James Bailey Blackshear (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2016), The Journal of Arizona History 57:3 (Autumn 2016).

A Civil War History of the New Mexico Volunteers & Militia. By Jerry Thompson (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2015), The Journal of Arizona History 57:2 (Summer 2016).

Chained in Silence: Black Women and Convict Labor in the New South. By Talitha L. LeFlouria (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015), Criminal Law & Criminal Justice Books (March 2016).

Juan Bautista de Anza: The King's Governor in New Mexico. By Carlos R. Herrera (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2015) in The Western Historical Quarterly 46:4 (Winter 2015).

Remembering the Modoc War: Redemptive Violence and the Making of American Innocence. By Boyd Cothran (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014) in The Journal of the Civil War Era 5:4 (December 2015).

The Gray Fox: George Crook and the Indian Wars. By Paul Magid (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2015) in The Journal of Arizona History 56:3 (Autumn 2015).

Edmund G. Ross: Soldier, Senator, Abolitionist. By Richard A. Ruddy (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2013) in The Western Historical Quarterly 45:4 (Winter 2014).

Uniting the Tribes: The Rise and Fall of Pan-Indian Community on the Crow Reservation. By Frank Rzeczkowski (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2012), in Pacific Historical Review 83:1 (February 2014).

Crooked Paths to Allotment: The Fight over Federal Indian Policy after the Civil War. By C. Joseph Genetin-Pilawa (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2012), in Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains 36:4 (Winter 2013-14).

I Fought a Good Fight: A History of the Lipan Apaches. By Sherry Robinson (Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2013), in The Journal of Arizona History 54:4 (Winter 2013).

Commander and Builder of Western Forts: The Life and Times of Major General Henry C. Merriam, 1862-1901. By Jack Stokes Ballard (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2012) in Journal of the West 52:2 (Spring 2013).

Manuscript Reviews

25 solicited manuscript reviews for 11 different publishers: Yale University Press (1); University of Oklahoma Press (5); University Press of Kansas (1); University of Notre Dame Press (1); University of North Texas Press (1); *American Historical Review* (1);

Journal of American History (1); *Journal of the Southwest* (2); *Journal of the Civil War Era* (1); *New Mexico Historical Review* (3); *Western American Literature* (1); *Western Historical Quarterly* (2); *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (5)

Courses Taught at Texas A&M University-San Antonio

U.S. History to 1865
U.S. History since 1865
U.S. Foreign Policy
U.S. Since 1945
American West
Native American History
Civil War & Reconstruction
Historical Methods