

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

- 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 Communication, History and Philosophy (August 2022-Present)

- Director, Texas A&M University-San Antonio Global Borders & Borderlands History Program, 2018-2021.

Refereed Publications: Books

- *The Business of Killing Indians: Scalp Warfare, Conquest, and Genocide across North America.* Book manuscript under contract with Yale University Press.

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

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

- “The Business of Killing Indians: Contract Warfare and Genocide in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands,” *Journal of American History* 110:2 (June 2023).
- “Greater Reconstruction in Historical Perspective,” *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

- 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

- “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, *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](#). Part 2 available at: [Author Interview--William S. Kiser \(Illusions of Empire\) Part 2 | H-CivWar | H-Net](#)
- 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

- 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 History 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

- 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.

Research and Travel 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 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-Present.
- 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.

Book Reviews

28 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*.

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

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

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

23 solicited manuscript reviews for 10 different publishers: 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* (2); *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