Casey D. Nichols, PhD

Assistant Professor
Department of History
Texas State University

EDUCATION

PhD, History, Stanford University, 2016. Dissertation Title: "Equal Opportunity Politics in Post-Civil Rights America: African Americans and Mexican Americans in Los Angeles, 1964-1980."
Committee: Albert Camarillo (urban history, Mexican American history), Allyson Hobbs (African American history), Paulla Ebron (Anthropology, global cities).

MA, United States History, University of Washington, Seattle, 2009.
Committee: Quintard Taylor (African American history), Susan Glenn (Women's History).

BA, History, California State University, Long Beach, 2007.

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Texas State University, 2019-.
Assistant Professor, Department of History, California State University, East Bay, 2017-2019.
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of History, Dickinson College, 2016-2017.
Lecturer, Department of History, California State University, Long Beach, 2015-2016.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

African American history, Mexican American history, urban history, comparative race and ethnicity, policy history, civil rights history, US western history, 20th century US history

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH

Articles

"The Magna Carta to Liberate Our Cities": African Americans, Mexican Americans, and Model Cities Program in Los Angeles. *Pacific Historical Review* 90, no. 3 (2021): 337-398.

Books

Poverty Rebels: Black and Brown Protest in Post-Civil Rights America. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2025. (Justice, Power, and Politics Series)

"Motherhood Menace: Black Women's Activism and the Politics of Love" (Book project in development).

Book Reviews

Reviewer, James B. Barrera, "*We Want Better Education!": The 1960s Chicano Student Movement, School Walkouts, and the Quest for Education Reform in South Texas*, American Historical Review, June 2025.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Project Development Grant, The Policy Academies (in collaboration with the Russell Sage Foundation), Washington, DC, 2024-2025.

COLA REP Grant, College of Liberal Arts, Texas State University, 2024-2025.

Emerging Poverty Scholars Fellowship, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2022-2024.

Travel Grant, Department of History, Texas State University, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2025.

Research Enhancement Program (REP) Grant, Texas State University, 2019-2021.

Texas State University Online Resource Grants, University Libraries, Texas State University, 2020.

E. Peter Mauk, Jr./Doyce B. Nunis, Jr. Fellowship, Huntington Library, 2017.

Moody Research Grant, Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Foundation, 2017

Weter Dissertation Grant, Department of History, Stanford University, 2015.

Conference Travel Grant, Pacific Coast Branch-American Historical Association, 2013 & 2014.

Diversifying Academia, Recruiting Excellence Doctoral Fellowship, Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Stanford University, 2012-2014.

RESEARCH HONORS

Achievement Award for Excellence in Scholarly/Creative Activities, College of Liberal Arts, Texas State University, 2025.

New Faculty Research Spotlight, Division of Research, Texas State University, 2021.

Emerging Diversity Scholar Award, National Center for Institutional Diversity, University of Michigan, 2015.

Ernesto Galarza Prize for Excellence in Graduate Student Research, Program in Chicana/o-Latina/o Studies, Stanford University, 2014.

Graduate Scholar in Residence, Chicana/o-Latina/o Community Center, Stanford University, 2012-2015.

Distinguished Departmental Scholar Award, Department of History, Stanford University, 2013.

York-Mason Paper Prize in African American History, Department of History, University of Washington, Seattle, 2009.

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Papers and Roundtables

Panelist, "My Search for Black-Brown Histories in Historical Archives," Pacific Coast Branch-American Historical Association Annual Conference (Santa Clara, CA, July 2025).

Panelist, "Racial Justice and the Voting Rights Act: The Role of Texas in Expanding and Reducing

the Right to Vote," Alliance for Texas History Conference (San Marcos, TX, May 2025).

Panelist, "Urban Resistance, Intersectionality, and the US City," Pacific Coast Branch-American Historical Association Annual Meeting (Honolulu, Hawaii, August 2024).

Panelist, "Black Resistance in Multiracial Contexts," Association for the Study of African American Life and History Annual Meeting (Jacksonville, FL, September 2023).

Panelist, "Resistance and Race in Urban American," Pacific Coast Branch-American Historical Association Annual Meeting (Northridge, CA, August 2023).

Panelist, "The Protocols and Poetics of Making Home in Hostile Places," Western History Association Annual Meeting (San Antonio, TX, October 2022).

Panelist and Panel Organizer, "Finding Black Voices in Archives and Shaping the Intellectual Legacy of African American Studies," Association for the Study of African American Life and History Annual Meeting (Montgomery, Alabama, September 2022).

Panelist and Panel Organizer, "Forging Community and Fighting for Justice in the Multiracial West," Pacific Coast Branch-American Historical Association Annual Meeting (Online, October 2021).

Panelist, "Black Migration, Protest, and the Long Struggle for Freedom," African American Intellectual History Society Annual Meeting (Online, March 2021).

Panelist and Panel Organizer, "California Youth Fight the War on Poverty," Organization of American Historians Annual Conference, (Philadelphia, PA, April 2019).

Panelist, "The Magna Carta to Liberate Our Cities": African Americans, Mexican Americans, and Model Cities Program in Los Angeles," Pacific Coast Branch-American Historical Association Annual Conference (Santa Clara, CA, August 2018).

Panelist, "The Equal Opportunity Generation," Association of African American Life and History Annual Conference (Cincinnati, OH, September 2017).

Panelist, "The 1965 Watts Rebellion and the Model Cities Program in Los Angeles," Urban History Association Biennial Conference (Chicago, IL, October 2016).

Panelist, "Racial Politics After White Flight: African Americans, Mexican Americans, and Los Angeles' Model Cities Program, Pacific Coast Branch-American Historical Association Annual Conference (Waikoloa Beach, Hawaii, August 2016).

Panelist, "Race and Inequality in a Multiethnic City: African Americans, Mexican Americans, and the War on Poverty in Los Angeles," Organization of American Historians Annual Conference (St. Louis, MO, April 2015).

Panelist, "Black Noise, Brown Invisibility: How the Watts Rebellion Sparked a Political Awakening in Multiethnic California," Western Association of Women Historians Annual Conference (Pomona, CA, May 2014).

Panelist, "War on Poverty, Incorporated: Mexican Americans and Anti-Poverty Activism During the Age of African American Civil Rights," Pacific Coast Branch-American Historical Association Annual Conference (Seattle, WA, August 2011).

Invited Talks

"Motherhood Menace: Black and Brown Women's Activism as a Politics of Love," Grantee Connection Session, The Policy Academies (Zoom, November 2024).

"Faculty Life at Teaching Institutions," Diversifying Academia, Recruiting Excellence Doctoral Program, Stanford University (Zoom, October 2024).

"Rena Price, The Watts Rebellion, and Motherhood in a Postwar City," Anti-Poverty Research Presentation Series, Department of Health and Human Services (Washington, DC, May 2024).

"Rena Price, the Watts Rebellion, and Motherhood in a Post-War City," Symposium on Care and Social Reproduction (Barnard College, April 2024).

"Advice for Navigating Professional and Personal Goals at Teaching Institutions," Diversifying Academia, Recruiting Excellence Doctoral Program, Stanford University (Zoom, October 2023).

"The Least Discussed Problem of Poverty in the Southwest," ¡Fandango! A TXST Interdisciplinary Dialogue on the Southwest, Texas State University (San Marcos, September 2023).

"Motherhood Menace: Black Women and Resistance in the U.S. Political Imagination," Emerging Poverty Scholars Meeting, Brookings Institution (Washington, DC, May 2023).

"From Civil Rights to Model Cities: How Black and Brown Angelenos Shaped Federal Policy," Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society, Indiana University (Zoom, April 2022).

"What I Wish I Knew Then: Advice for PhD Students," El Centro Chicano y Latino Community Center, Stanford University (Stanford, January 2020).

"Academic Job Market and Publishing Roundtable," El Centro Chicano y Latino Community Center, Stanford University (Stanford, January 2020.)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Texas State University, Department of History.

US History Since 1877, Fall 2019-Present (14 in-person, 2 fully online)
Conflict and Creativity in US Urban and Suburban History (1 in-person)
Senior Seminar (1 in-person)
US Social Justice and Reform Movements (1 in-person; community engaged course, 1 fully online)

African American History: From Freedom to Black Lives Matter (1 in-person, 1 fully online)
African American History (Graduate Course; 2 in-person)

California State University, East Bay, Department of History.
Race and Ethnicity in Comparative Perspective (Graduate Course; 1 in-person)
Civil Rights Through Film (1 fully online)
Introduction to Public History (1 in-person)
California and the World (5 in-person)
History of the San Francisco Bay Area (1 hybrid; community engaged course)
Cold War America (1 in-person)
U.S. Social Justice and Reform Movements (1 hybrid; community-engaged course)
African American History: From Freedom to Black Lives Matter (1 in-person)

Dickinson College, Department of History and Department of Africana Studies.
Race Riots and Rebellions in 20th Century Urban America (1 in-person)
African American History Since Slavery (1 in-person)

California State University, Long Beach, Department of History.
US Since 1968 (1 in-person)
The History of Social Activism (1 in-person; community-engaged course)
Senior Seminar (1 in-person)
Methodologies of History (1 in-person)

TEACHING HONORS

Course Development Grant, Service-Learning Excellence Program, Texas State University, 2024.

Golden Apple for Excellence in Teaching, College of Liberal Arts, Texas State University, 2022.

Presidential Distinction for Excellence in Teaching, College of Liberal Arts, Texas State University, 2022.

SERVICE

Department Service

Faculty Search Committee in Museum Studies, Department of History, Texas State University, 2024 2025.

Volunteer, Bobcat Day, Texas State University, April 2022-April 2024.

Senior Seminar Committee, Department of History, Texas State University, 2024-2025.

Budget Planning Committee, Department of History, Texas State University, 2024-2025.

Graduate Student Orientation Speaker, Department of History, Texas State University, August 2024.

Research Fund Committee, Department of History, Texas State University, 2020-.

Library Committee, Department of History, Texas State University, 2023-2024.

Faculty Search Committee in Latinx History, Department of History, Texas State University, 2022-2023.

Evaluator, MA Thesis Proposal Defense, Department of History, Texas State University, April 2022.

Commentator, 9th Annual Phi Alpha Theta History Conference, Department of History, Texas State University, April 2021.

Evaluator, College-Level Examination Program, Department of History, Texas State University, 2020-2021.

Co-Creator, Black Lives Matter Research Guide, University Libraries, Texas State University, 2020.

College Service

College of Liberal Arts Representative, Principal Investigators Council, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Texas State University, 2023-.

University Service

Panelist, "MLK Luncheon and Discussion: The Intersection of the Civil Rights Movement and Labor," Student Involvement and Engagement, Texas State University, January 2025.

Faculty and Staff for Student Affairs Advisory Council, Division of Student Success, Texas State University, 2023-.

Panelist, "Why Don't We All Vote," Student Involvement and Engagement, Texas State University, October 2024.

Planning Committee, Black History Month Read-In, Texas State University, February 2024.

Guest Speaker, Black History Month, Panhellenic Association, Texas State University, February 2024.

Attendee, "It's a Family Affair," Black Student Organizations, Texas State University, September 2022.

Attendee, Unity Welcome Mixer, Office of Inclusive Excellence, Texas State University, September 2022.

Panelist, "Ask A Black Professor Anything," African American Studies Program, Texas State University, March 2021.

Attendee, "The University Star Presents: Reflecting on the 11% Project," Texas State University, April 2021.

Participant, "Inclusive Learning Environments," Faculty Development, Texas State University, March 2020.

Attendee, Black Men United Inaugural Black History Month Trivia Bowl, Texas State University, February 2020.

Panelist, “Lunch and Learn: The 1619 Project,” Texas State University, October 2019.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Public History

Scholarly Review Panel, Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library Exhibit Refresh, 2024-2025.

Conference Program Committees

Program Committee, Pacific Coast Branch-American Historical Association Annual Conference, 2023-2026.

Program Committee, “Migrations, Meeting Grounds, and Memory,” Western History Association Annual Conference (Albuquerque, NM, October 2020).

Program Committee, “Our Foremothers’ Keepers: The Art and Practice of Black Women’s History,” Association of Black Women Historians National Symposium (Los Angeles, CA, December 2018).

Award Committees

Reviewer, Vicki Ruiz Article Prize for Race in the US West, Western History Association, 2023-2026.