

BECKY M. NICOLAIDES

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www.beckynicolaides.com

EXPERTISE: History of suburbs and metro areas in North America; history of Los Angeles.

EDUCATION:

Columbia University, New York, NY

Ph.D. in American History, *graduated with honors*, 1993

- Dissertation passed with distinction and nominated for the Bancroft Dissertation Award

M.A. in American History, 1986

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

B.A. in History & Print Journalism, *summa cum laude*, 1984

- named “Undergraduate of the Year” by the USC School of Journalism

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

Historic Preservation summer workshop, July 2007

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- 1/18-present Founding partner, Head of Operations, [History Studio](#) LLC.
Manage all operations of the company, including finances, legal, development and forecasting, project management, client relations, internal human resources, and assist with marketing, content development, and other areas of need. Also consult on individual projects, including podcasts and documentary films.
- 7/22-12/24 Co-Principal Investigator, San Diego State University Research Foundation.
For the EU Erasmus+ Grant, “Urbanism and Suburbanization in the EU Countries and Abroad: Reflections in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts,” a transnational initiative with scholars from Czech Republic, Germany, France, and the U.S. The U.S. team includes myself and Prof. Andrew Wiese of San Diego State.
- 7/23-6/24 Lead project member, “[Los Angeles County Demographic Data Project 1950-2010](#),” funded by National Endowment for the Humanities in collaboration with the USC Libraries. This project is based on U.S. Census data I collected for *The New Suburbia*.
- 7/15-present [Affiliated Research Scholar](#), Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West
- 8/21-1/23 Consultant, Architectural Resources Group, Los Angeles, Ca.
Worked with a team of scholars to co-write the “Historical Housing and Land Use Study,” for the City of L.A., to inform the City’s housing policy.
- 1/22-5/22 Adjunct Instructor of Environmental Analysis, Pitzer College, Claremont, Ca.
Taught the course “The American Suburbs: Past, Present, and Future.”
- 9/06- 12/20 Co-editor, *Historical Studies of Urban America* book series, University of Chicago Press

Served as lead editor on 16 book manuscripts. Provided extensive conceptual and editorial feedback to authors, summarized recommendations for the Press' faculty board. Also worked with co-editors in vetting book proposals.

- 4/18-8/19 Senior writer, Center for Oral History Research, UCLA Library
Interviewer for the Los Angeles City Government & Politics oral history project.
- 10/16-9/17 American Council of Learned Societies fellowship
Research grant for the book project *The New Suburbia: How Diversity Remade Suburban Life in Los Angeles After 1945*. (full time)
- 1/15-9/16 Consultant, GPA Consultants, El Segundo, CA
 - Conducted research and wrote the historic context portion of the Multiple Property Documentation forms, for SurveyLA, Office of Historic Resources, City of Los Angeles. Reports on Los Angeles history included: history of suburbanization, history of Jews, and history of Latinos.
 - Conducted research and wrote the historic context portion of the Multiple Property Documentation form for L.A. Conservancy, on the Chicano Moratorium.
- 2015 Consultant, Architectural Resources Group, Pasadena, CA
Conducted research and wrote the historic context statement on the history of labor in Los Angeles, for SurveyLA, Office of Historic Resources, City of Los Angeles.
- 1/14-5/14 Consultant, GPA Consultants, El Segundo, CA
Researched and wrote two historic context statements for the State of California Office of Historic Preservation project *Latinos in 20th Century California*.
- 2/12-1/13 National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship
Major research grant for the book project *The New Suburbia: How Diversity Remade Suburban Life in Los Angeles After 1945*. (full time)
- 1/10-12/10 Haynes fellow, John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation, Huntington Library
Major research grant for the book project *The New Suburbia: How Diversity Remade Suburban Life in Los Angeles After 1945*. (full time)
- 5/09-10/09 On-call historian, ICF Jones & Stokes, Los Angeles office
Conducted the research and wrote the historic context statements on the history of suburbanization in Los Angeles, 1880 to 1945, for SurveyLA, Office of Historic Resources, City of Los Angeles.
- Spr 2008, 09 Lecturer, UCLA
Courses taught: GE66-CW, "Los Angeles: The Cluster," freshman writing seminars on "The Red Car Diaries" and "Suburban Diversity in Los Angeles."
- 12/08-1/09 Consultant, Yeshiva University Museum, New York, NY
Conducted research on Los Angeles historical resources for the planned exhibition on Jewish suburbanization, 1945-1970.
- 2/08-7/08 Consultant, Christopher & Joseph Associates

Conducted research and wrote portions of the historic context statement on the history of L.A.'s Central Avenue, for the Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles.

* Winner 2009 Preservation Design Award, California Preservation Foundation

* Winner 2010 MPD award from L.A. Conservancy

- 7/01-6/06 Associate Professor of History and Urban Studies & Planning, UC San Diego
7/97-6/01 Assistant Professor of History and Urban Studies & Planning, UC San Diego
Courses taught: History of American Urban Community, History of Suburbanization in America, The 20th Century American City, History of Los Angeles, History of California, American Politics and Society, 1942-present, , Booze in American History, Urban Studies and Planning Honors Seminar, Graduate Research Seminar in US History, miscellaneous directed studies (undergraduate and graduate), graduate advisement/dissertation committees (history, ethnic studies, anthropology, music departments).
I resigned in June 2006, after commuting between Los Angeles and La Jolla for 9 years.
- 8/94-5/97 Assistant Professor of American Studies, Arizona State University West, Phoenix, Az
Courses taught: American Urban History Since 1870, Contemporary America: the U.S. Since 1945, The Black American Experience: African American History Since 1865, Writing in American Studies, Research & Writing in American Studies (seminar), Creative Non-Fiction Writing (seminar), miscellaneous directed studies (undergraduate).
- 6/95-9/97 Consultant, "History of Alcohol Consumption Rates Project," funded by National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Principal investigator: Dr. Ron Roizen, run principally out of Southwest Regional Laboratory, Los Alamitos, California.
- 5/91-8/94 Research Associate, "Alcohol History Project," and "History of Alcohol Consumption Rates Project," both funded by National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Principal investigators: Dr. Gregory Austin and Dr. Ron Roizen, run out of Southwest Regional Laboratory, Los Alamitos, California.
- 8/93-8/94 Postdoctoral Fellow, Prevention Research Center/Alcohol Research Group, School of Public Health, U.C. Berkeley. Project title: "The History of Female Drinking in the United States, 1900-1940."
- 10/88-5/91 Researcher, *The Encyclopedia of New York City*, edited by Kenneth T. Jackson. New York Historical Society, New York City.
- 9/84-9/85 Events Editor & Staff Writer, *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*, Los Angeles.

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

The New Suburbia: How Diversity Remade Suburban Life in Los Angeles After 1945 (New York: Oxford University Press, January 2024)

Becky M. Nicolaides and Andrew Wiese, eds., *The Suburb Reader*, 1st and 2nd Editions (New York: Routledge, 2006/2016)

* Named one of top 10 books of 2007 by PLANetizen.com

My Blue Heaven: Life and Politics in the Working-Class Suburbs of Los Angeles, 1920-1965

(Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002)

* 2004 Pacific Coast Branch Book Award, American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch

* 2004 Donald H. Pfleuger Local History Award, Historical Society of Southern California

* 2003 finalist, W. Turrentine Jackson Award, Western History Association

Articles/chapters in books, journals, online platforms:

“Are Latinx suburbs ethnoburbs? And why it matters.” Article for *MetropoLatinx: The Significance of Latinidad in Urban History*, edited by A. K. Sandoval-Strausz (University of Chicago Press, forthcoming).

“Migrations,” chapter in *A Los Angeles County Almanac*, edited by William Deverell and Wade Graham (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, forthcoming)

“[From Resourceful to Illegal](#): The Racialized History of Garage Housing in Los Angeles,” Boom California, January 31, 2019.

“[Locked Out](#): Research Access as a Challenge for the Discipline,” *Perspectives on History* (AHA), August 6, 2018

Becky Nicolaides, with maps by Jennifer Mapes, “Map Room: Stay-at-Home Moms in Los Angeles County, 1950-2000,” Map Room feature, *California History*, vol. 93, no. 3 (Fall 2016), 2-8.

Becky Nicolaides and James Zarsadiaz, “Design Assimilation in Suburbia: Asian Americans, Built Landscapes, and Suburban Advantage in the San Gabriel Valley since 1970,” *Journal of Urban History*, 43, 2 (2017), 332-371; published OnlineFirst November 5, 2015.

* 2015 Arnold Hirsch Award, Urban History Association

* 2018 Catherine W. Bishir Prize, Vernacular Architecture Forum

“Introduction: Asian American Suburban History” for the “Special Issue: Asians in the Suburbs,” guest edited by Becky Nicolaides, *Journal of American Ethnic History* 34: 2 (Winter 2015). With articles by Willow Lung Amam, Jennifer Fang, and Mark Padoongpatt.

“The Social Fallout of Racial Politics: Civic Engagement in Suburban Pasadena, 1950-2000,” in *Making Suburbia*, edited by John Archer, Paul Sandul, and Katherine Solomonson (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2015)

“Suburban Landscapes of Los Angeles,” in *Overdrive: Los Angeles Constructs the Future, 1940-1990*, edited by Wim de Wit and Christopher James Alexander (Los Angeles: Getty Research Institute, 2013)

“Suburbia and Community,” *CSW Update*, January 2008, 13-19.

“How Hell Moved from the City to the Suburbs: Urban Scholars and Changing Perceptions of Authentic Community,” in *The New Suburban History*, edited by Kevin M. Kruse and Thomas J. Sugrue (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006).

“The Neighborhood Politics of Class in a Working-Class Suburb of Los Angeles, 1920-1940,” *Journal of Urban History*, 30 (March 2004), 428-451.

“Suburbia and the Sunbelt,” and “Lesson Plan: How to Read a Suburb,” *OAH Magazine of History*, 18, 1 (October 2003), 21-26, 36-37.

Carl Abbott and Becky M. Nicolaides, "Lesson Plan: Professional Sports and Sunbelt Cities," *OAH Magazine of History*, 18, 1 (October 2003), 27-28.

"The Quest for Independence: Workers in the Suburbs," in *Metropolis in the Making: Los Angeles in the 1920s*, edited by William Devereil and Tom Sitton (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001).

"'Where the working man is welcomed': Working-class suburbia in Los Angeles, 1900-1940," *Pacific Historical Review* 68, 4 (November 1999): 517-559.

* 2000 Louis Knott Koontz Memorial Award, American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch

Reprinted, with changes in:

Looking for Los Angeles: Architecture, Film, Photography and the Urban Landscape, edited by Charles G. Salas and Michael S. Roth (Los Angeles: Getty Research Institute, 2001).

"The Resort City Gets Real: Review Essay," *Journal of Urban History*, 25 (November 1998), 110-121.

"The state's 'sharp line between the sexes': Women, alcohol, and the law in the United States, 1850-1980," *Addiction*, 91, 8 (August 1996), 1211-1229.

"Radio Electioneering in the American Presidential Campaigns of 1932 and 1936," *Historical Journal of Film, Radio, and Television*, 8, 2 (June 1988), 115-138.

Op-eds, major blogs:

"[Opinion: Can't afford a house in L.A.?](#) Here's how that happened," *Los Angeles Times*, September 28, 2023.

Jon Christensen and Becky Nicolaides, "[Op-Ed: How to make sure the L.A. River Master Plan](#) fulfills its promise to the Gateway Cities," *Los Angeles Times*, February 21, 2021.

"[Suburban Metamorphosis](#)," HippoReads, December 2016.

Becky Nicolaides and Andrew Wiese, "[Suburban Disequilibrium](#)," *New York Times*, Sunday Review section, April 7, 2013.

"What about the 'childish' suburbs?" *Newsday*, January 25, 2009.

"The Rise of Boss Microphone," *The Washington Post*, July 17, 1988.

Encyclopedia Entries:

Becky Nicolaides and Andrew Wiese, "[Suburbanization Since 1945](#)," Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History (online), April 2017.

"Politics in the Suburbs" (co-written with Andrew Wiese), "Working Class in Cities and Suburbs" and "Lakewood." In *The Encyclopedia of Urban History*, edited by David Goldfield (Thousand Oaks, Sage Publications, 2007).

"Partisan Press." In *The Encyclopedia of New York City*, edited by Kenneth T. Jackson (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995).

“Balloon-Frame House,” “Brain Trust,” “Civilian Conservation Corps,” “Columbian Exchange,” “Dust Bowl,” “Federal Theatre Project,” “Federal Writers’ Project,” “Japanese-American Relocation,” “Levittowns,” “*Middletown*,” “Muckrakers,” “*Sacco-Vanzetti Case*,” “Sunbelt.” In *The Reader’s Companion to American History*, edited by Eric Foner and John A. Garraty (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1991).

Technical Reports:

Becky Nicolaidis and Greg Austin, “Drinking Among American Women: A Chronological History, 1600-1990.” Report prepared for the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Grant AA04570-11 (Los Alamitos, CA: Southwest Regional Laboratory, 1992).

Becky Nicolaidis and Greg Austin, “Drinking Among Native Americans: A Chronological History, 1600-1980.” Report prepared for the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Grant AA04570-11 (Los Alamitos, CA: Southwest Regional Laboratory, 1992).

Book reviews for:

American Historical Review, Journal of Urban History, Journal of American Studies, Western Historical Quarterly, Pacific Historical Review, Cañon

PUBLIC HISTORY: CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORTS

Co-author. “Historical Housing and Land Use Study.” For the City of L.A, to inform the city’s housing policy. Through Architectural Resources Group. 2022.

“Residential Development and Suburbanization in Los Angeles: Overview.” For SurveyLA, for Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources, through GPA Consultants, El Segundo, Ca. Sept. 2016

“History of Jew in Los Angeles: Overview.” For SurveyLA Jewish Los Angeles Historic Context Statement, for Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources, through GPA Consultants, El Segundo, Ca. June 2016.

“History of Labor in Los Angeles, 1880 to 1980: Overview and Sub-Themes.” For SurveyLA History of Labor Historic Context Statement, for Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources, through Historic Resources Group, Pasadena. February 2016.

“The Chicano Moratorium in Los Angeles County: Historic Context - Overview.” National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Documentation Form, for Los Angeles Conservancy, through GPA Consulting. July 2015.

“History of Latinos in Los Angeles: Overview.” SurveyLA Latino Los Angeles Historic Context Statement, for Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources, through GPA Consultants. April 2015.

“History of Latinos in Los Angeles: Latinos and Education in Los Angeles, 1880-1980.” SurveyLA Latino Los Angeles Historic Context Statement, for Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources, through GPA Consultants. April 2015.

“History of Latinos in Los Angeles: Latinos and Civil Rights in Los Angeles, 1900-1980.” SurveyLA Latino Los Angeles Historic Context Statement, for Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources, through GPA Consultants. April 2015.

“History of Latino Labor and Struggles for Inclusion.” Latinos in Twentieth Century California, National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Documentation Form, for the State of California Office of Historic Preservation, through GPA Consultants. May 2014.

“Streetcar Suburbanization in Los Angeles” (co-author). For SurveyLA, Office of Historic Resources, City of Los Angeles and the Getty Conservation Institute, through ICF Jones & Stokes. October 2009.

“Early Automobile Suburbanization” (co-author). For SurveyLA, for Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources and the Getty Conservation Institute, through ICF Jones & Stokes. October 2009.

“History of L.A.’s Central Avenue (and African Americans in Los Angeles)” (co-author). For the Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles, through Christopher Joseph & Associates. 2008.

* Winner 2009 Preservation Design Award, California Preservation Foundation

* Winner 2010 MPD award from L.A. Conservancy

ADVOCACY WORK:

Mellon Foundation task force on Research Access and Scholarly Equity. March 2019-2021.

American Historical Association “[Statement on Research Access](#),” approved by AHA Council, January 2020. I wrote this statement, with input from Jim Grossman, executive director of the AHA.

James Grossman and Becky Nicolaides, “[Research Access and Scholarly Equity](#),” *Perspectives on History* (AHA), January 10, 2020.

“[My Journey through the Research Access Crisis](#),” UCLA Center for the Study of Women blog, March 5, 2019.

Panelist and panel organizer, “Sustaining Scholarship: A Roundtable on Research Life Outside the Academy,” Annual meeting of the **American Historical Association**, Chicago, Jan 2019.

Ad Hoc Committee on Independent Scholars, for the Mellon Initiative of the Organization of American Historians, 2018-2019.

“[Locked Out](#): Research Access as a Challenge for the Discipline,” *Perspectives on History* (AHA), August 6, 2018.

Chair/moderator and panel organizer, “Democratizing Research Access: How can we make research available to historians working outside of universities?” Annual meeting of the **American Historical Association**, Washington, D.C. Jan 2018.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, HONORS:

2022-2024 Lead project member, “[Los Angeles County Demographic Data Project 1950-2010](#),” funded by National Endowment for the Humanities in collaboration with the USC Libraries. This project is based on U.S. Census data I collected for *The New Suburbia*.

2022-2024 EU Erasmus+ grant for “Urbanism and Suburbanization in the EU Countries and Abroad: Reflections in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts.” This is

an international collaborative initiative, with scholars from Czech Republic, Germany, France, and the U.S.

- 2021, 22, 23 Tillie Olsen Research Affiliate Grants, UCLA Center for the Study of Women
- 2018 Catherine W. Bishir Prize, Vernacular Architecture Forum, for best article.
- 2016-17 Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies (1 year)
- 2015, 16, 18 Tillie Olsen Research Affiliate Grant, UCLA Center for the Study of Women
- 2015 Arnold Hirsch Award for best article of 2015, Urban History Association
- 2014 Finalist, Princeton Mellon Visiting Fellowship in Architecture, Urbanism & the Humanities
- 2013 C. Allan and Marjorie Braun Fellowship, Huntington Library (1 month)
- 2012-13 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship (1 year)
- 2010 Haynes Major Research Grant, John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation (taken in residence at the Huntington Library, San Marino) (1 year)
- 2009 Mayer Fellowship, Huntington Library, San Marino (3 months; accepted 1 month)
- 2007-08 months) Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship, Huntington Library, San Marino (5 months)
- 2007, 09, 12 Tillie Olsen Research Scholar Grant, UCLA Center for the Study of Women
- 2005 Research Stipend, Historical Society of Southern California/Haynes.
- 2004 Pacific Coast Branch Book Award, American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch, for *My Blue Heaven*
- 2004 Donald H. Pfleuger Local History Award, Historical Society of Southern California, for *My Blue Heaven*
- 2002-03 Faculty Fellowship, UCSD Academic Senate Committee on Research
- 2002 Faculty Fellowship, UCSD Center for the Humanities
- 2001 Research Stipend, Historical Society of Southern California/Haynes
- 2000 Louis Knott Koontz Memorial Award for best article of year, American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch
- 1999-2000 Hellman Fellowship, U.C. San Diego
- 1997-2000 Research Grant (3 years), Department of History, U.C. San Diego
- 1996-97 Postdoctoral Fellowship, Scholars and Seminars Program, "Perspectives on Los Angeles," Getty Research Institute for the History of Art and the Humanities
- 1995-97 Scholarship, Research & Creative Activities Grant, Arizona State University West

- 1993-94 Postdoctoral Fellowship, Prevention Research Center/Alcohol Research Group, School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley
- 1990-92 Matriculation & Facilities Fellowship, Columbia University
- 1990 Frederick E.G. Valergakis Graduate Grant, Hellenic University Club of New York
- 1989-90 Advanced Graduate Student Grant, Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society
- 1988-89 Interdisciplinary Fellowship, Center for the Social Sciences, Columbia University
- 1986-88 President's Fellowship, Columbia University
- 1985-86 Richard Hofstadter Fellowship, Columbia University
- 1984 Outstanding Undergraduate of the Year, awarded by USC Trojan Fourth Estate
- 1983 Elected to Phi Beta Kappa

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION AND COMMUNITY:

Co-coordinator, [LA History & Metro Studies Group](#), USC ICW & Huntington Library, 2011-present.
Lead coordinator 2012-16, 2017-present.

Committee member, "[Telling the Whole Story: The Land](#)," Indigenous Peoples social justice reconciliation effort for All Saints Church, Pasadena, Ca. 2021-present.

Los Angeles History + Policy initiative, founder, 2019-present (work currently on hold)

Research Affiliate, UCLA Center for the Study of Women, 2007-2022

Los Angeles Mayor's Office Civic Memory Working Group, Mayor Eric Garcetti's Office, City of Los Angeles, 2019-2021,
Co-chaired the "Sites and Themes of Consideration" subcommittee and co-wrote the subcommittee's [report](#) for *Past Due: Report and Recommendations for the Los Angeles Mayor's Office Civic Memory Working Group* (2021).

Governing Council. Research Division (elected position), American Historical Association, 2017-2020.

American Historical Association Council Committee on Annual Meeting, 2018-2020.

Ad Hoc Committee on Independent Scholars, for the Mellon Initiative of the Organization of American Historians, 2018-2019.

Program Committee, 16th National Planning History Conference, the Society for American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH), Los Angeles, 2014-2015

Advisory group, International "Cultures of the Suburbs" network, funded by Leverhulme Trust, with participants from UK, Ireland, South Africa, Australia and U.S., 2011-2014

UCLA Center for the Study of Women, Travel Grants award committee, 2014

Book Award Committee, American Historical Association - Pacific Coast Branch, 2011-2013
(chair, 2013)

Nominating committee, Urban History Association, 2010-2012

Grant evaluator, Historical Society of So. California/Haynes Grants on Los Angeles history, 2009, 2010

Research Scholar Liaison, Center for the Study of Women, UCLA, 2008-2009

Board of Directors, Urban History Association, 2005-2008

Board of Councilors, American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch, 2005-2007

Senior scholar, Spencer Foundation Fall Fellow's Workshop, "Dissertation Fellowships for Research Related to Education." Spencer Foundation, Santa Monica, Ca., Oct. 2007

Program Committee co-chair, American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch, 2006 Conference

Book award committee, 2006 Donald H. Pfleuger Book Award, Historical Society of Southern California

South Gate Regional Advisory Board, 2005

Co-Leader, Los Angeles History Research Group, Huntington Library, 2001-2004

Steering Committee, Los Angeles History Research Group, Huntington Library, 2001-2005

Discussion facilitator, Pasadena reads *The Grapes of Wrath*, California Council for the Humanities, 2002.

Proposed idea (with Greg Hise) for the Los Angeles Interchange Program, initially sponsored by the Getty Research Institute, 1998.

Founder and Coordinator, "All Saints Tutoring Pasadena" Program, All Saints Episcopal Church, Pasadena, CA, 1990-1992 (program aimed at low-income children in Pasadena)

Peer reviews of book manuscripts and articles for:

University of Chicago Press, Stanford University Press, Blackwell Publishers, Temple University Press, Winterthur Publications, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Urban History*, *Pacific Historical Review*, *Social Problems*, *Western Historical Quarterly*, *California History*, *Journal of Planning History*

Grant reviewer for:

Newberry Library, Chicago
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Dissertation committee member for graduate students at:

UCSD (Departments of History, Anthropology, Music, Ethnic Studies), UCLA, Brandeis University, Northwestern University

EDITORSHIPS AND EDITORIAL BOARDS:

Editorial Board, *California History*, 2013-present

Co-editor, “Historical Studies of Urban America” book series, University of Chicago Press, 2006-2020. Lead editor on the following books:

Tim Keogh, *In Levittown’s Shadow: Poverty in America’s Wealthiest Suburb* (2023)

* [Best Books of 2023 List](#), Publisher’s Weekly

Sean Dempsey, *The Politics of Dignity: Religion, Human Rights, and the Making of Global Los Angeles* (2023)

Meredith Oda, *The Gateway to the Pacific: Japanese Americans, Japan, and the Remaking of Transpacific San Francisco* (2019)

Julie Rabig, *The Fixers: Devolution, Development, and Civil Society in Newark, 1960-1990* (2016)

Mark Krasovic. *The Newark Frontier: Community Action in the Great Society* (2016)

Ansley Erickson, *Making the Unequal Metropolis: School Desegregation and its Limits* (2016)

Ben Looker, *A Nation of Neighborhoods: Imagining Cities, Communities and Democracy in Postwar America* (2015)

* Winner 2015 Kenneth Jackson Book Award, Urban History Association

Nancy Kwak, *Homeownership for All: American Power and the Politics of Housing Aid* (2015)

* Winner 2015 Kenneth Jackson Book Award, Urban History Association

Lila Berman, *Metropolitan Jews: Politics, Race, and Religion in Postwar Detroit* (2015)

Andrew Highsmith, *Demolition Means Progress: Flint, Michigan, and the Fate of the American Metropolis* (2015)

Marta Gutman, *A City for Children: Women, Architecture, and the Charitable Landscapes of Oakland, 1850-1950* (2014)

* Winner 2014 Kenneth Jackson Book Award, Urban History Association

Sarah Jo Peterson, *Planning the Home Front: Building Bombers and Communities at Willow Run* (2013)

Carl Nightingale, *Segregation: A Global History of Divided Cities* (2012)

Richard Harris, *Building a Market: The Rise of the Home Improvement Industry 1914-1960* (2012)

Charlotte Brooks, *Alien Neighbors, Foreign Friends: Asian Americans, Housing, and the Transformation of Urban California* (2009)

Guian McKee, *Problem of Jobs: Liberalism, Race, & Deindustrialization in Philadelphia* (2008)

Editorial Board, *A People’s Guide to Orange County*, ed. Elaine Lewinnek, Gustavo Arellano, Thuy Vo Dang, Michael Steiner (University of California Press, 2021)

Advisory Board, *Encyclopedia of American Urban History*, ed. David Goldfield (Sage Publications, 2007)

Editorial board, *Journal of Urban History*, 2002-2007

Editorial board, *Pacific Historical Review*, 2003-05

COMMUNITY TALKS:

Jan 2023 “Segregating the Foothills: The Roots of Racial Exclusion in La Canada, La Crescenta, and the Suburbs of LA.” Talk to the **Canada Crescenta Democratic Club**, via zoom.

Jan 2023 Forum on Housing Discrimination, **All Saints Church**, Pasadena, Ca.

Oct 2022 “Segregating the Foothills: A History of Racial Exclusion in La Canada, La Crescenta, and the Suburbs of LA.” Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley and the **Lanternman House Museum**, Lanternman House, La Canada, Ca.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, INVITED LECTURES, SYMPOSIA:

- May 2024 “Reimagining the Suburban Ideal, in Multiracial Los Angeles,” **Conference on Suburban Studies**, Palacky University, Olomouc, Czech Republic.
- Feb 2024 “New Directions in Suburban History,” a conversation with Matt Lassiter and Becky Nicolaides, **LA History & Metro Studies Group**, Huntington Library, San Marino, Ca.
- Jan 2024 “The Suburb Toolkit,” for the roundtable panel “Taking It to the Streets: A Historians’ Roundtable on Translating Scholarship into Community Change.” Panelist and organizer of panel. **American Historical Association** annual conference, San Francisco, Ca.
- May 2023 “The New Suburbia: How Diversity Remade Suburban Life in Los Angeles.” Clark Davis Memorial Lecture, **LA History & Metro Studies Group**, Huntington Library, San Marino, Ca.
- Apr 2023 “Visual Culture Walking Tour,” **Caltech**-Huntington Program in Visual Culture, Pasadena, Ca.
- Apr 2023 “Latinx homeownership and suburban political cultures in Los Angeles, 1970-2010.” **Organization of American Historians conference**, Los Angeles, Ca.
- Mar 2023 “The Historic Suburban Landscapes of Los Angeles.” Transnational meeting, for **EU Erasmus +** program “Urbanism and Suburbanization in the EU Countries and Abroad,” Université Clermont Auvergne, France.
- Sept 2022 With Andrew Wiese, “American Suburban History: Past Themes and Current Projects.” Transnational meeting, for **EU Erasmus +** program “Urbanism and Suburbanization in the EU Countries and Abroad,” Universität Duisburg-Essen, Germany.
- April 2022 Convener, “A Transnational Student conversation about Suburbanization,” zoom teleconference, including students and faculty from Pitzer College (U.S.), Palacky University (Czech Republic), and Universität Duisburg-Essen (Germany). For **EU Erasmus +** program “Urbanism and Suburbanization in the EU Countries and Abroad.”
- Dec 2021 “Are Latinx suburbs ethnoburbs? And why it matters.” **MetropoLatinx History conference**, Penn State University (attended virtually).
- Oct 2021 “Informality in Cities and Suburbs,” roundtable discussion, **Urban History Association Conference**, (virtual).
- Jan 2020 Panelist, “From Studying the Past to Influencing the Future: Historians and Public Policy.” Annual meeting of the **American Historical Association**, New York, NY.
- Nov 2019 Invited speaker, “The Urban World” conference, Columbia University, New York, NY.

- Mar 2019 Presenter, “Learning Suburban Affluence in Multicultural Suburbia: Case Study San Marino.” **Los Angeles History & Metro Studies Group**, San Marino, Ca
- Jan 2019 Presenter, “From Warm to Cold in LA: Exploring the Range of Reactions to Ethnic Diversification in Los Angeles Suburbs After 1970.” Also coordinated the panel “Ethnic Dynamics in American Cities, Suburbs, and Agri-Towns: Explorations of How Ethnicity Shaped Urban Space.” Annual meeting of the **American Historical Association**, Chicago, Ill.
- Jan 2019 Panelist and panel coordinator, “Sustaining Scholarship: A Roundtable on Research Life Outside the Academy.” Annual meeting of the **American Historical Association**, Chicago, Ill.
- Apr 2018 Invited lecture, “From Green Acres to Suburban Poverty: The Uneven History of Working-Class Housing in South Los Angeles,” Everyday Architecture ISLA Spring Speak series, **Occidental College**, Los Angeles, Ca.
- Mar 2018 Invited lecture, “Suburbs in Transition: Diversity and the American Dream,” **Manhattan College Urban Studies Annual Lecture**, Manhattan College, New York
- Feb 2018 2018 George A.V. Dunning Keynote Lecture: “Rethinking the Dream: Old and new frameworks for understanding suburban life in Southern California after 1950.” **Historical Society of Southern California conference**, “From the Cold War to the Space Race: Science, Technology, and Society in Southern California,” Pomona, Ca.
- April 2017 Commentator, 2017 Whitsett Graduate Seminar in California History, Cal State Northridge.
- April 2016 Featured speaker, “Metropolitan America in a Globalization Age: Inequalities and Opportunities,” **Symposium at Georgia Tech**, Atlanta, Ga.
- Jan 2016 Invited lecture, “History of Los Angeles,” to visiting graduate students from the **University of Sydney**, held at USC, Los Angeles, Ca.
- Nov 2015 Moderator, with Andrew Wiese, and lead organizer, “Suburban Crisis, Suburban Regeneration,” roundtable discussion with Manuel Pastor, Willow Lung Amam, Wendy Cheng, Joe DiStefano, and June Williamson, 16th National Conference on Planning History, of the **Society for American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH)**, Los Angeles, Ca.
- Nov 2015 Presenter, “Exploring Lifeways and Values across L.A. Asian American Suburbs, 1960-2000,” 16th National Conference on Planning History, of the **Society for American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH)**, Los Angeles, Ca.
- Nov 2015 Chair and organizer of the panel, “Complicating Suburbia in Los Angeles,” 16th National Conference on Planning History, of the **Society for American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH)**, Los Angeles, Ca.
Panel covered in:
<http://www.kcet.org/socal/departures/columns/intersections/suburban-ideals-vs-new-realities-informal-housing-in-south-gate.html>.
- Nov 2014 Chair/commentator, “Race, Space, and Politics in Los Angeles’s Postwar Suburbs,” annual meeting of the **American Studies Association**, Los Angeles, Ca.

- Sept 2014 Panelist, "Suburban Poverty: Looking to the Past and Planning for the Future," panel discussion, **L.A. History and Metro Studies Group**, Huntington Library, San Marino, Ca.
- June 2013 Invited lecture, "From Green Acres to Suburban Poverty," lecture in conjunction with the A. Quincy Jones exhibition, **Hammer Museum**, Los Angeles, Ca.
- April 2013 Keynote address, "Stills from L.A.: Reflections on diversity and the remaking of suburban life," **British Association for American Studies** annual meeting, University of Exeter, UK
- April 2013 Chair of panel, "Urban History/State of the Field: Rethinking Working Class Suburbia," annual meeting of the **Organization of American Historians**, San Francisco, Ca.
- Oct 2012 Commentator on panel, "Diversity, Immigration, and Inequality in Contemporary Suburbia," meeting of the **Urban History Association**, New York City.
- Aug 2012 Presenter, "Suburbia in Transition: Political turmoil in Pasadena, Ca., 1960-1980," annual meeting of the **American Historical Association - Pacific Coast Branch**, San Diego, Ca.
- May 2012 Presenter, "Exploring social and civic engagement in postwar Los Angeles suburbia," **Urban History Seminar**, Chicago History Museum, Chicago.
- Oct 2010 Commentator on panel, "Suburban Diversity," meeting of the **Urban History Association**, Las Vegas.
- Jan 2010 Presenter, "Exploring Social and Civic Transformations in Suburban Los Angeles Since 1945: Surveying the landscape of Los Angeles Suburbia," joint meeting of the **Western History Workshop and LA History Group**, Autry National Center of the American West, Los Angeles.
- July 2009 Invited speaker, "Early Working Class Suburbs in Los Angeles," **UCLA History Geography Project**, "Places and Times" Institute, Los Angeles.
- April 2009 Presenter, "The long slide from hyperactive sociability to bowling alone: exploring community experience in postwar suburbia," annual meeting of the **Organization of American Historians**, Seattle, Wash.
- Nov 2008 Presenter, "Community experience in postwar suburbia," meeting of the **Urban History Association**, Houston, Tex.
Commentator on panel, "Sunbelt Boom and the Politics of the Right," at the same conference.
- Oct 2008 Chair/commentator of panel, "Crossing Over: American Jews and Their Others in Suburbia," annual meeting of the **American Studies Association**, Albuquerque, NM.
- Aug 2008 Chair of panel, "Envisioning the Modern American City," annual meeting of the **American Historical Association, Pacific Coast Branch**, Pasadena, Ca.
- July 2008 Chair of panel, "Contesting Space," for the conference, "Sunbelt Rising: The Politics of Space, Place, and Region in the American South and Southwest," **Huntington Library**, San Marino, Ca

- Mar 2008 Invited lecture, “Workers as Suburbanites: Implications of Home and Community Life for Class Identity,” **UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment**, Los Angeles.
- April 2007 Lecturer, “The American City in the Progressive Era,” for 8th Grade American History teachers. U.S. History Institute weekend workshop of the **National Center for History in the Schools**, UCLA. Pasadena, Ca.
- Oct 2006 Chair/commentator of panel, “Envisioning the American City,” meeting of the **Urban History Association**, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Aug 2006 Chair/commentator of panel, “Envisioning the City,” annual meeting of the **American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch**, Stanford University.
Chair/moderator of panel, “New Directions in Urban and Suburban History.” At the same conference.
- Aug. 2005 Organizer of panel, “Making and Performing Race in Los Angeles,” annual meeting of the **American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch**, Corvallis, Oregon.
- May 2005 Invited lecturer, “Saving Homes, Saving Dignity: The Social Roots of Depression-Era Politics in Working-Class Los Angeles,” 75th Anniversary Lecture Series, **Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site**, Long Beach, Ca.
- April 2005 Chair of panel, “Wilderburbs: The Environmental Transformation of the American Suburb,” annual meeting of the **Organization of American Historians**, San Jose.
- Mar. 2005 Presenter, “Beyond White Flight: A Preliminary Foray into the Demography of Post-War California Suburbia,” for the “New Vision of Suburban Life: An Interdisciplinary Conference,” **Center for Suburban Studies, Hofstra University**, Hempstead, New York.
- Nov. 2004 Panelist, California Studies Symposium honoring the career of Clark Davis (1967-2003), **Cal State Fullerton**.
- Feb. 2004 Invited presenter, “How Hell Moved from the City to the Suburbs: Urban Scholars and Changing Perceptions of Authentic Community,” at the conference, “City Limits: New Perspectives in the History of American Suburbs,” **Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies, Princeton University**.
- Nov. 2003 Chair of panel, “Planning Suburbia,” 10th National Conference on Planning History, of the **Society for American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH)**, St. Louis, Missouri.
- March 2003 Presenter, “From Slut to Social Drinker: Exploring the history of alcohol use in America,” Pregnancy Risk Information Twilight Speak Series, **UCSD Medical Center**.
- March 2003 Keynote speaker, “It Took All Kinds: Exploring the History of Postwar Los Angeles,” for the conference series “Los Angeles: The Essence of a Community,” presented by the **Historical Society of Southern California**, Autry Museum of Western Heritage, L.A.
- Feb. 2003 Invited presentation on *My Blue Heaven*, **UCLA Law School Faculty Colloquium**.

- Sept. 2002 Invited lecturer, "Making the Suburban Working Class: Meanings and Implications from the L.A. Story," for the public lecture series, "Economic Growth for Whom?" Urban Studies Program, **University of Wisconsin**, Milwaukee.
- April 2002 Panelist, "State of the Art: Urban History," annual meeting of the **Organization of American Historians**, Washington, D.C.
- Nov. 2001 Panelist, "The State of Scholarship on Los Angeles History," for the conference, "The Future of Los Angeles History," **Haynes Foundation**, Huntington Library, San Marino.
- Oct. 2001 Commentator on panel, "Negotiating Religious Space in the City of Angels," annual meeting of the **Western History Association**, San Diego.
- Aug. 2001 Presenter, "The Dry Decade? Exploring the History of Alcohol Consumption Rates during Prohibition," annual meeting of the **American Historical Association, Pacific Coast Branch**, Vancouver, British Columbia.
Chair of panel, "Vernacular Cityscapes in the American West," at same conference.
- April 2001 Panelist, "The City of the Twentieth Century: Conceptualizing the History of Los Angeles," panel discussion, annual meeting of the **Organization of American Historians**, Los Angeles.
- May 2000 Presenter, "Racializing Local Politics: South Gate in the Postwar Era," at the **Los Angeles History Research Group**, Huntington Library, San Marino.
- Aug. 1999 Presenter, "Toilers, home owners, suburbanites: sorting out class identity in the blue-collar suburbs of Los Angeles, 1920-1965," annual meeting of the **American Historical Association, Pacific Coast Branch**, Maui, Hawaii.
- June 1999 Invited lecturer, "Working-Class Suburbs of Los Angeles: Settings and Meanings," Distinguished Lecturer Series, **Institute for Continued Learning, U.C. San Diego**.
- May 1999 Presenter, "Making the suburban crisis in working class Los Angeles," at the conference "Unimagined Futures: The Racial Economy of Postwar Metropolitan California," **Stanford University**, Palo Alto, California.
- Mar. 1999 Invited lecturer, "L.A.'s Working Class Suburban Landscape, 1900-1940," Seminar on Economics and Urban Studies, **Portland State University**, Portland, Oregon.
- Apr. 1997 Presenter, "Incubating the Silent Majority: Community and Political Life in a Working-Class Suburb of Los Angeles, 1945-1965," annual meeting of the **Organization of American Historians**, San Francisco.
- Apr. 1997 Invited lecturer, "Where the Working Man is Welcomed: Life and Politics in L.A.'s Blue Collar Suburbs, 1920-1960," History Department Forum, **Claremont Graduate School**, Claremont, California.
- Jan. 1997 Presenter, "Finding meaning in L.A.'s Working Class Suburbs," at the Scholars and Seminars Program, *Perspectives on Los Angeles: Narratives, Images, History*, **Getty Research Institute**, Santa Monica, California.
- Aug. 1995 Presenter, "A risky business: class, consumption, and community in a working-class suburb of Los Angeles, 1920-1947," annual meeting of the **American Historical Association, Pacific Coast Branch**, Maui, Hawaii.

Organized the panel, “Struggles in Paradise: The Quest for Unity and Loyalty in 20th Century Los Angeles,” at the same conference.

- May 1995 Presenter, “Crabgrass Comrades: Workers and Labor Organizing in the Social Context of Los Angeles, 1920-1940,” annual meeting of the **Southwest Labor Studies Association**, Los Angeles.
- Mar. 1995 Presenter, “Exploring the History of Women’s Alcohol Drinking in the U.S.,” the Women’s Works-in-Progress Series, **Women’s Studies Program, ASU West**, Phoenix.

TEACHING FIELDS:

History of the American City; History of North American Suburbanization; History of Urban Community in America; California History; Los Angeles History; American Social History; Work, Leisure, and Community in America; Booze in America: The History and Culture of Alcohol; History of the Built Environment in the U.S.; American History Survey; Research and Writing, Advanced Expository Prose, Creative Nonfiction Writing; Historic Preservation/Heritage Studies.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE:

- 2005-06 Undergraduate Committee, Dept. of History, UCSD
2004-05 Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Dept. of History, UCSD
2002-03 Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Dept. of History, UCSD
2001-02 U.S. Women’s History Search Committee, UCSD
2001-02 Lectures Committee, Department of History, UCSD
2000-02 Academic Senate, History Department Representative (alternate), UCSD
1998-99 Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Department of History, UCSD
1998 Environmental Studies Program retreat, History Dept. representative
1995-96 Curriculum Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, ASU West
1995-96 Chair, American Studies Speakers Series Committee, ASU West
1995-96 Chair, Faculty Advisory Board & Writing Prize Committee, *Palo Verde* literary magazine, ASUW
1995-96 ASU West Representative, History Articulation Task Force, Arizona Higher Ed. System
1995-96 Native American Search Committee, American Studies, ASU West
1994-96 American Studies History Curriculum Committee, ASU West
1994-96 American Studies Writing Certificate Committee, ASU West
1994-95 Chair, American Studies Writing Prize Committee, ASU West

INTERVIEWS, OTHER MEDIA COVERAGE (partial):

“Suburbia in America,” MidAtlantic Podcast with Roifield Brown, broadcast date Fall 2021.

“California: Paradise Lost,” BBC Radio 4, host Adam Smith, producer Phil Tinline. Interviewed on the history of South Gate and Los Angeles. March 23, 2015.
Listen at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05mr9m9>

“The Day of the Locust,” BBC Radio 3, host Adam Smith, producer Phil Tinline. Interviewed on the history of southern California. February 22, 2015.
Listen at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b052zwd6>

“Southeast Blues: L.A.’s Working Class Strugglers Come in All Colors,” article about *My Blue Heaven* in *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, (Dec. 8, 2002), 6. Feature article on *My Blue Heaven*.

“Life & Times,” interview with Jess Marlow and Val Zalvala, KCET Public Television, Los Angeles. Interviewed on *My Blue Heaven*, Sept. 30, 2002.

“Talk of the City, with Kitty Felde,” KPCC, 89.3 FM. One-hour call-in show that focused on *My Blue Heaven*, August 23, 2002.

“The Unfinished Nation,” produced by Intelcom for PBS, cable, and web-based courses. Interviewed on American urban history, August 7, 2002.

“These Days in San Diego,” KPBS, 89.5 FM. One-hour call-in show that focused on the topic, “postwar suburbanization,” October 2, 2000.

“Conversations,” UCSD-TV, April 1998.

“Metro Farming Film Project,” documentary by Dan Tripoli, August 1998.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

American Historical Association
Organization of American Historians
Urban History Association
L.A. History & Metro Studies Group (lead coordinator)
Western History Association