

Michael Kirkland Bess

Education

PhD, History, University of Texas at El Paso (December 2013)

- Dissertation Title: "Routes of Compromise: Road Building and Motor Transportation in Modern Mexico, 1920-1952"
 - Successfully Defended, November 2013
- Portfolio and Oral Defense passed unanimously, December 2011
- Major Fields: Latin American History, Mexico-U.S. Borderlands History
- Minor Fields: World History
- Areas of Interest: Technology, Mobility, Environment, Culture

MA, History, Georgia Southern University (2008)

BA, History, Franciscan University of Steubenville (2005)

Manuscript Abstract

"Routes of Compromise" explores the material and cultural impact of road building in Mexico (1920-1952), how the public responded to socio-economic transformations wrought by new infrastructure, and the role that state agencies and private companies played. It surveys public and private promotion of transportation infrastructure, the organizational culture of the state road-building bureaucracy, U.S.-Mexico bilateral relations related to technology transfer, and the significance of motor travel in Mexican popular culture.

Publications

"Pathways of the Golden Eagle: Themes of Mobility and Transport in Recent Scholarship of Mexico." *T2M: Mobility in History*, Volume 8, 2013.

"Obreros in the Peach State: The Growth of Georgia's Mexican Working-Class Community from a Transnational Perspective." *Life and Labor in the New South: Essays in Southern Labor History since 1950*, Robert Zieger, ed. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2012.

Forthcoming Publications

"Routes of Conflict: Building Roads and Shaping the Nation in World War II and Postwar Mexico, 1941-1952," *Journal of Transport History*, forthcoming June 2014.

Publications under Review

Grijalva Díaz, Ana and Michael K. Bess, "The Rise and Fall of the Cotton Empire in Georgia and Its Effects in the Development of Growing Cotton in Sonora, Mexico, 1900-1980," under review at *Georgia Historical Quarterly*.

Academic Awards, Fellowships & Grants

John Scholes Transport History Research Essay Prize, *Journal of Transport History* (2013)

Diana Natalicio Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, College of Graduate Studies, University of Texas at El Paso (Fall 2013)

Dissertation Writing Grant, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences, University of Texas at El Paso (Summer 2013)

Dodson Dissertation Research Grant, College of Graduate Studies, University of Texas at El Paso (Spring 2012)

George A. Krutilek Memorial Graduate Fellow, College of Graduate Studies, University of Texas at El Paso (Fall 2011-Spring 2012)

North American Mobility Project Grant, Center for International Studies, Georgia Southern University (Fall 2008)

Graduate Student Professional Development Research Grant, Georgia Southern University (Summer 2007)

George A. Rodgers, Jr. Scholarship in History, Department of History, Georgia Southern University (Spring 2007)

Editorial Experience

Peer Reviewer, for "Where are we going? A discussion on mobility history in Latin America," manuscript submitted to *T2M: Mobility in History* (February 2014)

Professional Experience

Visiting Scholar, Escuela para Estudiantes Extranjeros: Programa de Estudios Norteamericanos, Universidad Veracruzana, Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico (Fall 2008)

Professional Blog

Founding contributor, *Borderlands History*, initiated in the spring of 2012. The blog promotes a discussion of issues surrounding the history of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands as well as other borderlands regions. It features book reviews, author interviews, news announcements, and other discussions of borderlands topics, methodology, and theory: <http://borderlandshistory.wordpress.com/>

Teaching Assistantships

History of the U.S. to 1865 (HIST 1301): Assistant Instructor, responsibilities: grading, counseling, rubric composition, exam composition, review sessions, and online course management for Dr. Charles Ambler, Dr. Ernesto Chávez, and Dr. Adam Arenson, University of Texas at El Paso (Fall 2009-Spring 2010, Fall 2011, Fall 2012-Spring 2013)

History of the World after 1500 (HIST 2301): Assistant Instructor, responsibilities: grading, counseling, review sessions, online course management, and some lecturing for Dr. Paul Edison, University of Texas at El Paso (Fall 2010-Spring 2011)

Teaching Assistantships (continued)

World Civilization II (HIST 1112): Graduate Teaching Assistant, responsibilities: grading, test writing, review sessions, discussion groups, and some lecturing for Dr. Charles Crouch and Dr. Emerson McMullen, Georgia Southern University (Spring 2008, Spring 2007)

U.S. Comprehensive Survey (HIST 2110): Graduate Teaching Assistant, responsibilities: grading, review sessions, and some lecturing for Dr. Donald Rakestraw, Georgia Southern University (Fall 2006, Fall 2007)

Conference Papers

"The Fight for Access: Road Building, Legal Battles and the Environment in Post-Revolutionary Mexico, 1922-1938." Organized panel titled, Infrastructure and Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean. Conference of Latin American History, American Historical Association Conference, Washington, DC, 4 January 2014.

"Conflict and Consensus on the Move: Modernity, Environment, and Agency in World War II and Postwar Mexico, 1941-1952." 10th Conference of the International Association for the History of Transport, Traffic, and Mobility, Madrid, Spain, November 18, 2012

"Building Across the Divide: Roads and Railroads along the U.S.-Mexico Border, 1880-1950." Western Historical Association Semi-Centennial Conference, Oakland, California, October 15, 2011

"'Good Roads, Strong Families': A Study of Gender Representation in Road Building and Automobile Culture in Post-Revolutionary Mexico, 1925-1945." Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies Conference, Santa Fe, New Mexico, April 9, 2011

"Carreteras Revolucionarias: Road Building and the Political Discourse in the State of Veracruz, 1938-1946." XIII Reunión de Historiadores de México, Estados Unidos y Canadá, Querétaro, QTO, Mexico, October 30, 2010.

"The Economic and Social Relationship between Mexico and the State of Georgia in Recent Migration Trends, 1970-2000." North American Studies Symposium, Escuela para Estudiantes Extranjeros, Universidad Veracruzana, Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico, October 24, 2008

"A Land Under Two Flags: Negotiating Identity in the Panama Canal Zone." Graduate Research Symposium, Georgia Southern University, April 7, 2008

"Transnational Trends, Regional Reflections: Mexican Immigration to the State of Georgia." The Consortium for Latino Immigration Studies Conference, University of South Carolina at Columbia, October 11, 2007

"Jobs, Family, Faith: Parallels between African-American Migration and Mexican Immigrant Communities in the United States after World War II." Graduate Conference in Afro-American History, University of Memphis, September 13, 2007

Travel Awards

- November 2012, College of Liberal Arts & Social Science and the Department of History, University of Texas at El Paso for the 10th Conference of the International Association for the History of Transport, Traffic, and Mobility, Madrid, Spain
- October 2011, College of Graduate Studies, College of Liberal Arts & Social Science, and the Department of History, University of Texas at El Paso for the Western Historical Association Semi-Centennial Conference, Oakland, California
- April 2011, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences and the Department of History, University of Texas at El Paso for the Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies Conference, Santa Fe, New Mexico
- October 2010, College of Graduate Studies, College of Liberal Arts & Social Science, and the Department of History, University of Texas at El Paso for the XIII Reunión de Historiadores de México, Estados Unidos y Canadá, Querétaro, QTO, Mexico, October
- February 2009, Georgia Association of Latino-Elected Officials, Third Annual Latino Forum

Master's Thesis

- "Across Imagined Boundaries: Understanding Mexican Migration to Georgia in a Transnational and Historical Context." Department of History, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA (2008)

Invited Lectures

- "Conducting Archival Research in Mexico." Department of History, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Georgia, March 5, 2009
- "Mexican Migration and Social Networks in Georgia." Third Annual Latino Forum, Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials, Gainesville, Georgia, February 20, 2009
- "Why Mexican Workers Migrate to the United States." Leadership Program on Diversity and Regionalism, Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce, Bluffton, SC, January 14, 2009

Professional Memberships

- Council of Latin American Historians
- American Historical Association
- Association of Historians of Transport, Traffic, and Mobility
- Rocky Mountain Council of Latin American Studies
- Western Historical Association
- International Historical Honor Society, Phi Alpha Theta

Professional Activities & Service

Book Reviewer, Borderlands History Blog (January 2014 – Present)
Junior/Senior Seminar, Panel Judge, University of Texas at El Paso (2011 - 2012)
History Day, Judge, University of Texas at El Paso (2010 - 2013)
History Day, Judge, Georgia Southern University (2007-2008)
English Instructor, Telesecundaria, San Andrés Tlalnahuayocan, Veracruz (2008)

Languages

Spanish: Extensive daily use in personal, professional, and academic communication
Portuguese for reading
French for reading

Personal Information

Born: [REDACTED]
Place of Birth: [REDACTED]
Citizenship: [REDACTED]

References

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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Información y datos personales eliminados con fundamento en los artículos 3, fracción II, 18, fracción II, 20, 21 y 42 de la LFTAIPG y 30 de su Reglamento