

J. Justin Castro

Professor of History

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Professional Career

July 2022-Present	Professor of History, Arkansas State University
May 2018-June 2022	Associate Professor of History, Arkansas State University
August 2013-June 2018	Assistant Professor of History, Arkansas State University
July 2019-September 2023	Chair, Department of History, Arkansas State University
July 2022-December 2022	Interim Chair, Department of Criminology, Sociology & Geography, Arkansas State University

Education

- Doctor of Philosophy in History, May 2013
University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma
- Master of Arts in History and Museum Studies, May 2008
University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, Oklahoma
- Bachelor of Arts in History, December 2005
Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Scholarship

Works in Progress

A Social History of Technology and Society in Latin America. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. Under contract, currently writing.

"The Rise of Professional Engineering in the Americas." In *Handbook of the History of Technology in the Americas*. Edited by Edna Suárez-Díaz, Gisela Mateos, Amy Slayton, and Jesse Smith (Under contract, Routledge).

Monographs

Apóstol del progreso: Modesto C. Rolland. El progresismo global y la ingeniería en el México posrevolucionario La Paz, BCS: Alternativa Editorial, 2020. [Translation of *Apostle of Progress*].

Apostle of Progress: Modesto C. Rolland, Global Progressivism, and the Engineering of Revolutionary Mexico. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2019.

Radio in Revolution: Wireless Technology and State Power in Mexico, 1897-1938. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2016.

Edited Volumes

With James Garza, eds. *Technocratic Visions: Engineers, Technology, and Society in Mexico*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2022.

With Robert Jordan, eds. *Industrialization, Technology, and Sustainability: A World History Reader*. San Diego: Cognella, 2016.

Research Articles

With Nathanael Grimes. "The Less Imperial Path: The Mississippi Valley, U.S. Expansionism, and Engineer James B. Eads's Failure to Build a Ship Railway." *The Historian* 82, no. 2 (Summer 2020): 156-81.

"Un estadio para Estridentópolis: Modesto C. Rolland y su visión moderna de Xalapa." *Balajú. Revista de Cultura y Comunicación de la Universidad Veracruzana* 3, no. 5 (August-December, 2016): 3-17.

"Modesto C. Rolland and the Development of Baja California." *Journal of the Southwest* 58, no. 2 (Summer 2016): 261-92.

"Mexicans and Arkansas Cotton: Braceros, Race, and Civil Rights in the Post-World War II South." *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 75, no. 1 (Spring 2016): 27-46.

"Sounding the Mexican Nation: Intellectuals, State Building, and the Culture of Early Radio Broadcasting." *The Latin Americanist* 58, no. 3 (September 2014): 3-30.

“Radiotelegraphy to Broadcasting: Wireless Communications in Porfirian and Revolutionary Mexico, 1899-1924.” *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos* 29, no. 2 (Summer 2013): 335-365.

with Lindsay Compton. “The Life and Times of the First Applicants to Platt National Park.” *Chronicles of Oklahoma* 91, no. 2 (Summer 2013): 150-171.

“From the Tennessee River to Tahlequah: A Brief History of Cherokee Fiddling.” *Chronicles of Oklahoma* 87, no. 4 (Winter 2009-2010): 388-407.

“Amazing Grace: The Influence of Nineteenth Century Christianity on Oklahoma Ozark Music.” *Chronicles of Oklahoma* 86, no. 4 (Winter 2008-2009): 446-468.

Historiographical Essays

“Engineering History in Latin America: A Review of Spanish-Language Books,” *Technology and Culture* 65, no. 2 (May 2024): 651-66.

“History of Technology and Society in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Latin American.” *History Compass* (February 2020),
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/hic3.12609>

“Media in Twentieth-and Twenty-First-Century Latin America.” *Latin American Research Review* 49, no. 2 (Summer 2014): 273-281.

Book Chapters

“Introduction: Engineering and Technocratic Visions in Mexico.” In *Technocratic Visions: Engineers, Technology, and Society in Mexico*. Edited by J. Justin Castro and James A. Garza. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2022, 3-20.

“Technocratic Diplomacy: Constitutionalist Engineers as Diplomats to the United States.” In *Technocratic Visions: Engineers, Technology, and Society in Mexico*. Edited by J. Justin Castro and James A. Garza. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2022, 113-33.

“La radio en América: Recorrido por su desarrollo, 1890-1930.” In *Comunicación y tecnología en el tiempo: Un breve historia material*. Edited by Sandra B. Sánchez López and Jimena Zuluaga Trujillo. Bogotá: Universidad de los Andes Press, 2019, 103-18.

“Mexicans and Arkansas Cotton: Braceros, Race, and Civil Rights in the Post-World War II South.” In *¿Que Fronteras? Mexican Braceros and a Re-examination of the Legacy of Migration*, 2nd ed. Edited by Paul López. Dubuque: Kendall Hunt, fall 2018, online. Re-publication of *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* article.

“Scientists and Inventors, Empires, and Latin American Nation States: Early Global Wireless Communications.” In *Industrialization, Technology, and Sustainability: A World History Reader*, by J. Justin Castro and Robert Jordan, eds. San Diego: Cognella, 2016, 129-46.

“On the Illinois: The Making of Modern Music and Culture in the Oklahoma Ozark Foothills.” In *Main Street Oklahoma: Stories of Twentieth Century America*. Edited by Linda Reese and Patricia Loughlin. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2013, 239-56.

Professional Blogs

“The Linda Hall Library of Science, Technology, and Engineering.” *Research Corner*. A H-Net, LatAm blog, ed. by Gretchen Pierce, October 17, 2021.

Encyclopedia Entries

Encyclopedia of U.S. Military Interventions in Latin America. Edited by Alan McPherson. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2013.

“Airplanes, Use of,” “Filibusters in Mexico,” “Gompers, Samuel,” “Music and Intervention,” “Nicaragua, Intervention and Occupation of (1912-1925),” “Pershing, John,” “Vanderbilt, Cornelius,” “Zelaya, José Santos, Overthrow of (1909).”

Recent Contributions to Newspapers, Radio, Television, Podcasts

“The Bracero Program,” *AR History*, podcast, May 6, 2021.

“Who Was the Person Behind the Name of the Castro District?” *Crosscurrents*, KALW Public Media/91.7 FM Bay Area, June 16, 2020.

Create@state Podcast episode about the History of Women and Video Games with Tara Loperano, KASU-Jonesboro, November 24, 2019.

“A Disservice to History,” *Jonesboro Sun*, May 22, 2019.

Create@state Podcast episode about Engineer James Eads and the Tehuantepec Ship Railway with Nathan Grimes, KASU-Jonesboro, May 9, 2019.

Book Reviews

Review of Pete Soland's *Mexican Icarus: Aviation and the Modernization of Mexican Identity, 1928-1960* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2023), *Hispanic American Historical Review* 104, no. 2 (Spring 2024): 362-63.

Review of Jaclyn Ann Sumner's *Indigenous Autocracy: Power, Race, and Resources in Porfirian Tlaxcala, Mexico* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2024), *H-Net Reviews*, H-Environment (March 2024): <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=60090>

Review of Christopher Chávez's *The Sound of Exclusion: NPR and the Latinx Public* (Tucson: University of Arizona, 2021), *New Mexico Historical Review* 98, no. 4 (winter 2023): 514-15.

Review of Germán Vergara's *Fueling Mexico: Energy and Environment, 1850-1950* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021). *H-Net LatAm Reviews* (January 2022), <https://networks.h-net.org/node/23910/reviews/9532925/castro-vergara-fueling-mexico-energy-and-environment-1850-1950>

Review of Jeffrey D. Sachs, *The Age of Globalization: Geography, Technology, and Institutions* (New York: Colombia University Press, 2020). *The Middle Ground Journal: World History and Global Studies* 22, no. 3 (Fall 2021), 31-33.

Review of Wilson Miño Grijalva's *Ferrocarril y modernización en Quito: Un cambio dramático entre 1905 y 1922* (Quito: Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, 2018), *Technology and Culture* 62, no.2 (April 2021): 628-29.

Review of Derek W. Vaillant's *Across the Waves: How the United States and France Shaped the International Age of Radio* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2017), *American Historical Review* 125, no. 2 (Summer 2020): 624-26.

Review of Sonia Robles's *Mexican Waves: Radio Broadcasting Along Mexico's Northern Border, 1930-1950* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2019), *H-Net LatAmReviews* (January 2020), <https://networks.h-net.org/node/23910/reviews/5682586/castro-robles-mexican-waves-radio-broadcasting-along-mexicos-northern>.

Review of Jeffrey M. Schulze's *Are We Not Foreigners Here? Indigenous Nationalism in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2018), *Chronicles of Oklahoma* 97, no. 3 (Fall 2019): 362-63.

Review of Daniel Rood's *The Reinvention of Atlantic Slavery: Technology, Labor, Race and Capitalism in the Greater Caribbean* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), *Itinerario: International Journal on the History of European Expansionism and Global Interaction* 43, no. 2 (August 2019): 368-69.

Review of Kathryn Sloan's *Death in the City: Suicide and the Social Imaginary in Modern Mexico* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2017), *The Americas* 75, no. 4 (October 2018): 815-16.

Review of Robert F. Alegre's *Railroad Radicals: Gender, Class, and Memory in Cold War Mexico* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2014), *Hispanic American Historical Review* 98, no. 4 (Winter 2018): 748-49.

Review of Christine Ehrick's *Radio and the Gendered Soundscape: Women and Broadcasting in Argentina and Uruguay, 1930-1950* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015), *Hispanic American Historical Review* 98, no.1 (February 2018): 163-64.

Review of Alejandra Bronfman's *Isle of Noise: Sonic Media in the Caribbean* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016), *American Historical Review* 122, no. 4 (October 2017): 1276-77.

Review of Anna Rose Alexander's *City on Fire: Technology, Social Change, and the Hazards of Progress in Mexico* (Pittsburg: University of Pittsburg Press, 2016), *The Americas* 74, no. 3 (July 2017): 394-95.

Review of Mireya Loza's *Defiant Braceros: How Migrant Workers for Racial, Sexual, and Political Freedom* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016), *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 75, no. 4 (Winter 2016): 376-78.

Review of Matthew B. Karush's *Culture of Class: Radio and Cinema in the Making of a Divided Argentina, 1920-1946* (Lanham: Duke University Press, 2012), *Technology and Culture* 57, no. 4 (October 2016): 1022-23.

Review of Heather Fowler-Salamini's *Working Women, Entrepreneurs, and the Mexican Revolution: Coffee Culture of Cordoba, Veracruz* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2013), *The Latin Americanist* 60, no. 2 (June 2016): 293-94.

Review of Erica Cui Wortham's *Indigenous Media in Mexico: Culture, Community, and the State* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2013), *The Canadian Journal of Native Studies* 34, no. 1 (November 2014): 237-239.

Review of Greg Olsen's *Voodoo Priests, Noble Savages, and Ozark Gypsies* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2012), *Chronicles of Oklahoma* 91, no. 2 (Summer 2013): 239-40.

Review of Benjamin Radford's *Tracking the Chupacabra: The Vampire Beast in Fact, Fiction, and Folklore* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2011), *The Latin Americanist* 56, no. 2 (June 2012): 194-96.

Review of Richard E. Jensen, *Here You Have my Story: Eyewitness Accounts of the Nineteenth-Century Plains* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2009), *Chronicles of Oklahoma* 88, no. 4 (Winter 2010-2011): 496-97.

Invited Talks, Lectures, and Roundtables

“Ingeniero Modesto C. Rolland: su vida e obra en el contexto mundial,” Seminario Mexicano de Historia de la Construcción, Coordinación Nacional de Monumentos Históricos—Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia. Virtual and INAH TV YouTube, August 25, 2023.

Discussion about *Technocratic Visions: Engineering, Technology, and Society in Mexico*, Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine: Engineering Studies working group. Virtual, December 16, 2022.

“Mining, Sugar, and Textiles: A Reexamination of Sociotechnological and Environmental Transformation in Colonial Latin America.” Invited guest lecture. Georgia Tech University, School of History and Sociology, Atlanta, Georgia, November 7, 2022.

“Engineering the Mexican Revolution.” Invited guest lecture. Arkansas State University, Campus Querétaro, Querétaro, Mexico, September 29, 2022.

“Researching Latin America at the Linda Hall Library.” Roundtable with Ben Gross, Rocio Gómez, and Carlos Dimas. Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine: Science, Technology, and Medicine in Latin America Working Group, virtual, October 7, 2021.

“Latinx Communities in Arkansas History.” National Hispanic Heritage Month Lecture, Arkansas State University-Newport event sponsored by ASUN’s Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, virtual, September 21, 2021.

“Modesto C. Rolland, un apóstol del progreso, constructor del México moderno,” Conversatorio, Feria Universitaria del Libro Universidad Autónoma Baja California Sur, virtual, April 22, 2021.

“Introduction to *Technocratic Visions: Engineering, Technology, and Society in Mexico, 1876-1946*,” Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine: Technology Section, virtual, April 20, 2021.

“Engineering in Latin America,” Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine: Science, Technology, and Medicine in Latin America Working Group. Invited roundtable with Ted Beatty, Israel Solares, Luz María Uhthoff, and Cecilia Zuleta, virtual, February 25, 2021.

“Apóstol del progreso: Modesto C. Rolland, el progresismo global y la ingeniería en el México posrevolucionario,” Instituto Sudcaliforniano, virtual, December 9, 2020.

“Revolutionary Frustrations: Modesto Rolland and the Engineering of the Mexican Revolution.” University of Nebraska, Institute for Ethnic Studies and Latina/o and Latin American Studies Program, Lincoln, Nebraska, September 24, 2019.

Book talk for *Radio in Revolution*. University of Central Oklahoma, Department of History and Geography, Edmond, Oklahoma, March 6, 2017.

“Mexican Agricultural Laborers in Arkansas and Transnational Influences on U.S. Civil Rights.” University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Center for Arkansas History and Culture, Latino Americans Series, Little Rock, Arkansas, March 10, 2016.

“La radio en la Revolución Mexicana.” *Comunidad en Internet de Historia de Ciencia y la Tecnología en América Latina*, webinar, October 6, 2015.

“Mexican Braceros, Arkansas, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.” Arkansas State University, Arkansas Rural Culture Lecture Series, Jonesboro, Arkansas, November 5, 2014.

“Current and Future Issues for Latinos in the US South.” Ozarka College, American Voices Series, Melbourne, Arkansas, March 12, 2014.

“Wireless Communications and the Mexican Revolution.” Northeastern State University, T. L. Ballenger Seminar Series, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, April 26, 2013.

Recent Conference Presentations and Roundtables

Chair and commenter, “Peruvian Prisoners, Mexican Miners, and a Man of God: Nuclear History and Morality in the US-Mexican Borderlands, Rocky Mountain Conference for Latin American Studies, Santa Fe, New Mexico, April 1, 2023.

Panel chair and organizer, “The Comforts and Contestations of Power: Latin American Wind, Water, and Nuclear Energy in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries,” Society for the History of Technology, New Orleans, November 11, 2022.

“The Ávila Camacho Years and the Retreat of State Broadcasting.” Panel chair and organizer: “Airwaves, Olympics, and El Santo: The Politics and Culture of Broadcasting and Film in Mid-Twentieth-Century Mexico.” Rocky Mountain Conference for Latin American Studies, Las Cruces, New Mexico, April 8, 2022.

“Professional Networks and the Politics of Science and Technology in Latin American History.” Roundtable. Latin American Studies Association, Guadalajara (virtual), May 14, 2020.

“Anti-Reelectionist Engineers before and after the Mexican Revolution.” Conference on Latin American History, Chicago, January 5, 2019.

“Technocratic Diplomacy: Constitutionalist Engineers as Diplomats to the United States during the Mexican Revolution.” Reunión Internacional de Historiadores de México, Guadalajara, Mexico, October 17-20, 2018. Also, chair of the panel, “Modernizando México: Ingenieros, ideales tecnocráticos y transnacionalismo a fines del siglo XIX y principios del XX.”

“Global Progressivism and the Mexican Revolution.” Midwest World History Association, Edmond, Oklahoma, September 23, 2017.

Presenter and panel chair. “Trains, Plains, Radio, and Nuclear Power: Reframing Histories of Technology from a Latin American Perspective.” Latin American Studies Association, Lima, Peru, April 29, 2017.

“El papel jugado por la insurrección de Adolfo de la Huerta (1923-1924) en la conformación del sistema de radiodifusión de México.” Asociación de Investigadores de la Comunicación, México, DF, October 5, 2016.

Grants, Honors, and Awards

Elaine Lane International Travel Award, Arkansas State University, \$1,000, 2024.

Edwin Lieuwen Award for the Promotion of Excellence in the Teaching of Latin American Studies, Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies, April 2, 2023.

Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering, and Technology Residential Fellowship, \$4,200, 2020-21.

Andrew Carnegie Fellow Nominee, 2020. Project: “Networking the Americas,” \$181,140. Not selected.

Eleanor Lane International Travel Award, Arkansas State University, \$1,000, 2019.

Arkansas State University Faculty Award for Excellence in Scholarship, \$2,500, 2017.

Nathan Deutsch Faculty Development Award, Arkansas State University, \$500, 2015.

Arkansas State University Faculty Research Award, \$6,200, 2014-15.

Hoving Fellowship, University of Oklahoma, \$5,000/year, 2009-13.

Courses Taught

Introduction to History and Social Studies (FYE course)
History of Technology (undergraduate and graduate)
Gender and Video Games (graduate)
World History since 1500
World History since 1500, technology and society gen ed theme
Modern Revolutions
History of Mexico (undergraduate and graduate)
The Mexican Revolution (undergraduate and graduate)
Latin America, National Period
Latin America, Colonial Period
Popular Culture in Latin America
Latinos in the US South (graduate)
Museum Collections Management
Museum Fundamentals I: Collections and Law
Borderlands Heritage (graduate)
Senior Seminar (Twentieth Century, Globalization)
Practice of History (undergraduate methods course)
Introduction to Graduate Study of History (graduate)
Special Topics in History Education: Culture Wars and the Philosophy of History (Graduate)
Teaching College-Level History (Graduate)
History and Scale (Graduate)

Student Mentorship

MA Theses Chaired

Abigail Pucik, "Not Damsels in Distress: Women and the Video Game Industry," Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR, Fall 2021.

Zane Brown, "Modern Contradictions: Missionaries, Anthropologists and Southern Plains Indigenous Communities," Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR, currently completing.

Committee member on several other MA theses and affiliated faculty and instructor in Arkansas State's Heritage Studies PhD program.

Undergraduate Projects Mentored

Jared Allinson, Undergraduate Research Award, "Changing Conceptions of Nature and US Economic Interests in Mexican California," (2022).

Nathanael Grimes, Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship, "James Eads, US Expansionism, and the Tehuantepec Ship Railway" (2016-17).

Academic Service

Administrative and Advising Work: History Department Graduate Program Director (January 2024-present), Department of History Chair (July 2019-September 2024), Interim Chair of Criminology, Sociology, and Geography (July 2022-December 2022), Director of Undergraduate Studies (2016-18), BSE Social Science program advisor (2013-19), Faculty advisor for Phi Alpha Theta history honors society, Eta-Chi chapter (2016-18, 2024-present).

Department and Program Committees: MA Online History Degree Committee (2025-present); Heritage Studies PhD Program Committee (2013-present); Heritage Studies Committee on GA Use (2022-present); History Instructor Hiring Committee (chair) (2019); Curriculum Committee (2017-18); Assessment Committee (2017-19); Scholarship Committee (chair) (2016-18); BSE Undergraduate Committee (2014-19); Graduate Studies Committee (2016-19); Program Review Committee (2016); Modern Europeanist/Digital Humanities Hiring Committee (2016); Library Committee (2014-15); Faculty Achievement Award Committee (2015); BSE Director Hiring Committee (2014).

College Committees: College of Liberal Arts and Communication DEIB Plan Committee (2022-24); CLAC Leadership Committee (2019-present); Criminology, Sociology & Geography Department External Chair Search Committee (chair) (2022); Scholarship Committee (2016-18), Recruiting Committee (2015-18); Faculty Achievement Award Committee (2015).

University Committees and Service Work: Graduate Council (2024-present); Heritage Sites Board of Advisees (2023-present), Academic Budget Committee (2022-23); Provost's Cyber Infrastructure Advising Committee (2022-23); Co-Chair of the University Chairs' Council (2021-22); University Planning Committee (2021-22); Education and Technology Committee (Chair, 2021); Affiliate Faculty with the Center for No Boundary Thinking (2020-present); Faculty Research and Awards Committee (2016-19, Chair 2019); Strategic Planning Committee on Research (2019).

Professional Service Outside the University

Service to Professional Journals: Global Correspondent and Contributing Editor for *Technology & Culture* (2021-present); Associate Editor for *Engineering Studies* (January 2023-present).

Prize Committees: Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies—Thomas McGann Book Prize in Modern Latin American History (2021-22); Conference on Latin American History—Lewis Hanke Prize Committee (2019-20); Latin American Studies Association, Mexico Section—Best Article Committee (2016-17).

Recent Peer Review Work: Book Manuscripts for Brill, Oxford, Routledge, Nebraska, Westview, W.W. Norton & Company, and Texas; Journal articles for *Technology & Culture*, *Engineering*

Studies, The Americas, European Review of Economic History; The Global South, Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies, Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos; a grant for the National Science Foundation's Science and Technology Studies (STS) Program (fall 2021).

Tenure Review Work: Outside tenure application reviewer for Tulane University (fall 2023).

Current Professional Associations

American Historical Association

Arkansas Association of College History Teachers

Conference on Latin American History

Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine

 Engineering Studies Working Group

 History of Science, Technology, and Medicine in Latin America Working Group

 History of Technology Working Group

International Network for Engineering Studies

Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies

The Society for the History of Technology

 Prometheans, engineering studies special interest group

 Mercurians, history of communications special interest group