

Robert Franco
Department of History
Kenyon College
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EDUCATION

2020 Duke University, Ph.D., History
2017 Duke University, M.A., History
2014 University of Pennsylvania, B.A., History, *summa cum laude* & *Phi Beta Kappa*

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2021 – Present Assistant Professor, Department of History, Kenyon College
2021 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Washington University in St. Louis

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

2024 “The Bisexual Erasure of Emiliano Zapata: Obscenity and Censorship in Postrevolutionary Mexico.” *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies* 33: 2 (September 2024): 279-295.
2021 “Seropedagogy: Teaching the Global History of HIV/AIDS.” *Radical History Review* 140 (May 2021): 9-20.
2020 “Transgressing Che: Irina Layevska Echeverría Gaitán, Disability Politics, and Transgendering the New Man in Mexico, 1964-2001.” *Radical History Review* 136 (January 2020): 75-97.

- Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies Article Award
- Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies Sturgis Leavitt Award
- In preparation for republication in *Engendering the Revolution: Cuba and Beyond* (forthcoming from University Press of Florida)

2019 “Todos/as Somos 41: The Dance of the Forty-One from Homosexual Reappropriation to Transgender Representation in Mexico, 1945-2001.” *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 28:1 (January 2019): 66-95.

- Paul Vanderwood Prize, The Conference on Latin American History
- Honorable Mention, Audre Lorde Prize, Committee on LGBT History

WORKS IN PROGRESS

In Progress *Revolution in the Sheets: Sexuality and Tolerance in the Mexican Left*
In Progress “Cold War Conduct: Communist Private Life in Mexico, 1951-1960”

HONORS & AWARDS

2021 Richmond Brown Dissertation Prize, Latin American & Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association (LACS-SHA)
2021 Honorable Mention, Elsa Chaney Award, Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Gender & Feminist Studies Section
2020 Top 5% Undergraduate Instructors in Social Sciences, Duke University
2019 American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) Fellow
2016 Edward H. Moseley Paper Award, Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies (SECOLAS)

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

External

2025 American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship

- 2024 Career Enhancement Fellowship, Institute for Citizens & Scholars
- 2020 Ford Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
- 2020 Silas Palmer Research Fellowship, Hoover Institution Library & Archives, Stanford University
- 2019 Provost Predoctoral Fellowship for Excellence through Diversity, University of Pennsylvania
- 2018 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship (DDRA), U.S. Dept. of Education
- 2017 Mellon Fellowship for Dissertation Research in Original Sources, Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR)
- 2017 CLAGS Fellowship Award, CLAGS: The Center for LGBTQ Studies, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2017 Travel and Research Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation
- 2016 Tamiment Library Travel Grant, Center for the United States and the Cold War, New York University
- 2016 Richard E. Greenleaf Visiting Library Scholar, Latin American and Iberian Institute (LAI), University of New Mexico
- 2016 Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant, SSRC-Mellon Mays

Internal

- 2021 Center for the Study of American Democracy (CSAD) Course Enhancement Grant, Kenyon College
- 2020 Bass Instructional Fellowship, Duke University
- 2019 Dissertation Research Travel Award, Duke University
- 2019 Brown-Nagin Graduate Fellowship, Duke University
- 2017 James B. Duke International Research Fellowship, Duke University
- 2017 Human Rights Research Grant, Duke University Human Rights Center
- 2017 Mellon Foundation Field Research Grant, Duke University Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS)
- 2016 Tinker Field Research Grant, Duke CLACS
- 2015 Anne Firor Scott Research Award, Duke University
- 2015 Tuition Fellowship, School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University
- 2014 Dean's Graduate Fellowship, Duke University

CONFERENCES & PANELS ORGANIZED/CHAIR

- 2022 Chair, "Localized Postwar Queer Histories: Forging Community Across Urban and Suburban Space." Queer History Conference (QHC)
- 2019 Panel Organizer, "Scandalous Soundbites: Journalism and Media Archives in Twentieth-Century Latin America." Annual Meeting of the Conference on Latin American History (CLAH)
- 2016 Executive Organizing Committee, "Where I fare well, there is my home': Migration, Past and Present." Graduate History Conference, Duke University
- 2015 Panel Co-Organizer, "Fantasies of the Flesh: Histories of Gender, Race, and Sexuality." 50th Annual Conference of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 "Homophobia or Tolerance? Rethinking the Mexican Left's Sexual Politics." 4th Annual Queer History Conference

- 2024 “Scandalous Encounters: The Making of Mexico’s Gay and Lesbian Liberation Movement from Cuba to San Francisco.” 127th Annual American Historical Association Conference
- 2022 “The Bisexual Erasure of Emiliano Zapata.” 2nd Annual Queer History Conference
- 2021 “A Timely Revelation: Trans Temporality, Crip Time, and the Testimony of Irina Layevska Echeverría Gaitán.” 68th Annual Conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies
- 2021 “Revolutionary Rumors: Obscenity, Censorship, and the Bisexual Erasure of Emiliano Zapata.” Pandemonio 2021: Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies Conference.
- 2020 “Transgressing Che: Irina Layevska Echeverría Gaitán, Disability Politics, and Transgendering the New Man in Mexico.” European Association for American Studies Conference (Cancelled due to 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic).
- 2019 “Preserving Prejudice: Archives and Sexual Politics in Mexico.” The Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA) Conference.
- 2019 “We Must End Tolerance Here: Miguel Aroche Parra, Scandalous Media Homophobia, and Archiving Intolerance in the 1980s Mexican Left.” American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) National Conference.
- 2018 “La oveja rosada de la familia socialista: Homosexualidad y las divisiones entre la izquierda mexicana durante los años 1980.” XV Reunión Internacional de Historiadores de México.
- 2018 “The Carrier of the Syndrome of Death: Homosexuality, HIV/AIDS, and Leftist Sexual Politics in Mexico.” 38th Annual Conference of the Institute of Latin American Studies Student Association (ILASSA).
- 2017 “Las Sombras de los Cuarenta y Uno.” REDMUGEN: Coloquio Internacional de Historia de las Mujeres y de Género en México.
- 2017 “Cold War Conduct and Bad Behavior in the Mexican Communist Party, 1954-1958.” 64th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies (SECOLAS).
- 2016 “The Afterlives of the Famous 41.” 50th Annual Conference of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA).
- 2016 “Boys Gone Wilde: Homophobia and the Scandal of the Famous 41.” 63rd Annual Conference of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies (SECOLAS).
- 2015 “Take a Seat: Cross-Disciplinary Dialogue on Latin American Gender Quotas.” UNC- Duke Consortium in Latin American and Caribbean Studies Conference.
- 2015 “El Paraíso de las Mujeres: Women’s Suffrage in Ecuador, 1895-1929.” Tulane University Latin American Graduate Organization (LAGO) Conference.

INVITED TALKS, WORKSHOPS & LECTURES

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- 2024 “The Test of Tolerance: Sexual Liberty and Dual Militancy in the Mexican Left.” Research Initiative on the Global History of Sexualities, Columbia University.
- 2021 “Expulsión y esperanza: Mario Rivas, el Partido Comunista Mexicano y la homosexualidad en la izquierda mexicana.” Seminario Permanente de Historiografía y Teoría de los Estudios de Género, FES Acatlán – UNAM.
- 2021 “Open Veins: HIV in Cuba, Brazil, and Mexico.” Latin American & Latino Studies External Speaker Series, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2020 “Tolerating the Lavender Menace: Sexual Politics in the Mexican Left, 1978-1983.” MMUF Invited Lecture Series, Bryn Mawr College.

- 2020 “Revolutionary Transitions: Armed Struggle, Trans Life, and Disabled Resolutions in the Life of Irina Layevska Echeverría Gaitán.” Humanistic Studies Lecture, Maryland Institute College of Art.
- 2020 “How to Get Away with Expulsion: Tolerance and Sexual Politics in Mexico’s Left.” Mexico Lecture Series, Dartmouth College.
- 2020 “Expelling Contagion: Sexual Diversity and Gender Dissidence in Mexico’s Revolutionary Left.” Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies, University of Toronto.
- 2020 “A Timely Revelation: Trans Temporality, Crip Time, and the Testimony of Irina Layevska Echeverría Gaitán.” Alice Paul Center for Research on Gender, Sexuality & Women, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2019 “A Tale of Two Expulsions: Mario Rivas, Irina Layevska Echeverría Gaitán, and Subversive Sexualities in the Mexican Left.” Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame.
- 2018 “Cincuenta Sombras de Rojo: Diversidad Sexual y los Límites de la Tolerancia en la Izquierda Mexicana.” Seminario Permanente de Historia Contemporánea y del Tiempo Presente en México, Instituto de Investigaciones Dr. José María Luis Mora-CIESAS.
- 2017 “Imagining Socialismo Sin Sexismo: Visualizing Gender, Erasing Sexuality, and Constructing Militancy in the Mexican Communist Party.” University of New Mexico, Latin American and Iberian Institute.

TEACHING

Kenyon College

History of Mexico (Fall 2023)
 Early Latin America (Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2024)
 Modern Latin America (Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023)
 The History of Sexuality (Spring 2022, Spring 2024)
 Global History of HIV/AIDS (Fall 2021, Fall 2022)
 Making of the Contemporary World (Fall 2022)
 Gender & Sexuality in Latin America (Spring 2023)
 The Mexican Revolution (Spring 2024)

Washington University in St. Louis

Global History of HIV/AIDS

Duke University

Global History of HIV/AIDS
 Introduction to LGBTQ Studies

THESIS COMMITTEES

Kenyon College

2023 Alice Riley (Secondary Reader)
 2022 Clare McMahon (Secondary Reader)

SERVICE

2025 – Present Governing Board, LGBTQ+ History Association
 2023 – Present Advisory Board, Program in Latino/a Studies, Kenyon College
 2023 – Present Advisory Board, Program in Gender & Sexuality Studies, Kenyon College
 2023 – Present Manuscript Reviewer, Hispanic American Historical Review (HAHR)
 2023 – Present Manuscript Reviewer, Latin American Research Review (LARR)
 2022 – 2024 Faculty Lectureships Committee, Kenyon College
 2022 – 2023 Search Committee, History & Program in International Studies, Kenyon College
 2022 – 2023 Search Committee, Program in Women’s & Gender Studies, Kenyon College

2022 – 2023 Curriculum Committee, Department of History, Kenyon College
2022 – 2024 Program Committee, The Conference on Latin American History (CLAH)
2022 – 2024 Sturgis Leavitt Prize Committee, Southeastern Council of Latin American
Studies (SECOLAS)
2022 Robert L. Baker Prize Committee, Department of History, Kenyon College

LANGUAGES

Spanish – Fluent (Reading, Writing, and Speaking)
Portuguese – Proficient (Reading, Writing); Basic (Speaking)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Association of Hispanics in
Higher Education (AAHHE)
Southeastern Council of Latin American
Studies (SECOLAS)
American Historical Association (AHA)
Conference on Latin American History
(CLAH)
Latin American Studies Association (LASA)
LGBTQ+ History Association
Latin American and Caribbean Section of
the Southern Historical Association (LACS)
Rocky Mountain Council for Latin
American Studies (RMCLAS)