

Denise Holladay Damico, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of History and Environmental Studies  
Department of History and Political Science  
Saint Francis University  
505-463-9649 - [freehistory.space](http://freehistory.space) - [docholladay.net](http://docholladay.net) - [ddamico@francis.edu](mailto:ddamico@francis.edu)

**Education:**

Ph.D. in American History, Brandeis University, 2008

**Dissertation:** “*El agua es la vida*”: Water Conflict and Conquest in Nineteenth-Century New Mexico.

Master of Arts in American History, Brandeis University, 2006

Bachelor of Arts in History, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1999 *Magna Cum Laude*

**SCHOLARSHIP**

**In Press**

*Free History: U.S. History to 1877*, [freehistory.space](http://freehistory.space). Open source, scholarly U.S. History textbook, reviewed by one content editor (History alumna Madeline Berry, SFU class of 2016, ABD in History at Mississippi State), one copy editor (English alum Jack Weidner, SFU class of 2021; Technical Writer/Editor with Booz Allen Hamilton), and two peer reviewers who are U.S. History professors at other institutions.

Book chapter: “Aldo Leopold, Albuquerque, and the Rio Grande: Possibilities and Challenges for the Land Ethic in an Urban Context,” in *Evolving Ethics and Thinking Communities: Re-Reading Aldo Leopold and the Culture(s) of Sustainability*, Bill Forbes and Tereasa Trusty, eds., Stephen F. Austin State University Press (Peer-Reviewed, In Press, expected date of publication May 2022).

**Peer Reviewed Publications**

“Should the Liberal Arts Resist Marketability?”  
<https://societyforvalues.wordpress.com/2017/02/28/should-the-liberal-arts-resist-marketability/> in response to Dr. William Strosnider, “Community Engagement for the Liberal Arts?” on the *Forum for Engaging Values, Education, and Responsibility*, produced by the Society for Values in Higher Education, February 2017.

“Drought,” “Privatization of Water Services,” and “Water Law,” in the *Encyclopedia of Water Politics and Policy in the United States*, Steven L. Danver and John R. Burch, Jr., eds. CQ Press. A Division of SAGE, 2011.

“The Cebolleta Land Grant: Multicultural Contention and Cooperation.” *Natural Resources Journal*, Autumn 2008.

## **Book Reviews**

Review of David H. DeJong, *Diverting the Gila: The Pima Indians and the Florence-Casa Grande Project, 1916-1928*. Submitted to *Journal of Arizona History* October 2021, to be published in Spring 2022 issue.

Review of David Correia, *Properties of Violence: Law and Land Grant Struggle in Northern New Mexico*. *New Mexico Historical Review* 89:2 (Spring 2014), 240-241.

Review of David H. DeJong, *Stealing the Gila: The Pima Agricultural Economy and Water Deprivation, 1848-1921*. H-Water, H-Net Reviews. March, 2012.

URL: <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=31292>

## **Other Publications**

For the New Mexico Office of the State Historian website ([newmexicohistory.org](http://newmexicohistory.org)), entries on “Acoma Pueblo,” “The Arroyo Hondo Land Grant,” “The Mesilla Civil Colony,” “Guadalupe Miranda,” “Susan Magoffin,” “Santiago Valdez,” and “Benjamin Thomas.” (written 2007-2009)

For the non-profit Center for Land Grant Studies ([southwestbooks.org](http://southwestbooks.org)), entries on various New Mexican land grants. (written 2005-2009)

## **Conference Presentations**

“‘Bent on Trouble’: Irrigation, Adaptation, and Failure along the Rio Grande in Albuquerque,” Agricultural History Society Annual Meeting, virtual, June 2021

“Teaching the Humanities in the Trump Era,” at the Mount Aloysius College Conference on College Teaching, Cresson, PA, October 2018

“Drinking the Borderlands: The Margarita and the Commodification of Citrus, Tequila, and Cocktails in North America,” Agricultural History Society Annual Conference, St. Petersburg, FL, May 2018

“Is Civility Possible in the Climate Change 'Debate'?: An Interfaith and Interdisciplinary Panel on Pope Francis and Laudato Si,” Roundtable, Society for Values in Higher Education Annual Meeting, Oberlin, OH, July 2016

“A Confluence of Crises: One Example of Interdisciplinary Collaboration on Sustainability,” co-authored with William Strosnider (Environmental Engineering), Society for Values in Higher Education Annual Meeting, Bowling Green, KY, July 2015

“Steel, Class, and the Johnstown Flood of 1889,” Social Science History Association annual meeting, Toronto, November 2014

“The Land Ethic in an Urban Context,” poster presentation at annual meeting of American Historical Association, New Orleans, January 2013

“Aldo in Albuquerque,” presentation at annual meeting of International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture, Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA, August 2012 (travel funded by NEH Sustainability and Humanities Workshop which I attended in summer 2011)

“‘To Trace the History of a River’: Albuquerque and the Rio Grande,” American Society for Environmental History annual conference, Madison, Wisconsin, March 2012

“Community, Commodity, and Corporation: Local Use of and Response to Changing Water Law in Albuquerque, New Mexico,” American Society of Legal Historians annual conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2011

“Wet Dreams: New Mexico's Corporate Irrigation Boom and Bust,” American Society for Environmental History annual conference, Phoenix, Arizona, May 2011

“Padre Martínez: A Franciscan Priest Responds to the U.S. Conquest of the Southwest,” Faculty Research Luncheon, Saint Francis University, November 2009

“Which Public? Whose Domain?: Railroad Corporations and Pueblo Indian Land Loss in New Mexico,” as part of the panel “‘Railroading Opportunities?: Railroads and State Power in Western Landscapes,” Western History Association annual conference, Denver, Colorado, October 2009

“Water Pressure: Conflict, Control, and Corporations in Nineteenth Century New Mexico,” as part of the panel “Water is For Fighting: Water Conflicts, Conquest, and Expansion,” New Mexico Historical Society annual meeting, Santa Fe, New Mexico, May 2009 (panel organizer)

“The Image of Antonio José Martínez and the American Conquest of the Southwest,” poster presentation, American Historical Association annual meeting, Washington, D.C., January 2008

“A Boundary within the Borderlands: Acoma and Laguna Pueblos' Conflict over Land and Water,” Western History Association Conference, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, October 2007

“*Pueblo of Acoma v. Pueblo of Laguna: An Old Dispute in a New Venue*,” Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary History Conference, Boulder, Colorado, September 2006

“The Ojo del Gallo, the Surveyor General's Investigation into the 1876 Survey of Acoma Pueblo, and the Social World of Nineteenth Century New Mexico,” Scholar's Program talk, New Mexico State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, New Mexico, January 2006

“The Arroyo Hondo Grant and the Martínez Family,” Archives Week, New Mexico State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, New Mexico, October 2005 (invited speaker)

“Conquest, Water Conflict, and Continuity in Nineteenth-Century Taos, New Mexico,” Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary History Conference,” Boulder, Colorado, September 2005

### *Other academic experience*

External Program Reviewer, Cabrini University Department of History and Political Science, Spring 2021

Funded participant in “Civil War and American Memory” seminar at Yale University, June 2019, sponsored by Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History and Council of Independent Colleges.

Program Committee Co-Chair, annual meeting of Society for Values in Higher Education, Seattle, WA, July 2018

Invited participant, Acton Academic Colloquium: The Christian Tradition and Changing Views of the State,” Philadelphia, September 2017

Peer Reviewer for *Soundings* – reviewed one manuscript, summer 2017

Led four-day “Morning Group” on ““American Freedom, Individualism, and the Common Good: Experiencing Public History in Boston” at Society for Values in Higher Education meeting, Boston, MA, July 2017

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Saint Francis University, Loretto, PA**

**Associate Professor of History, 2015-present**

- History 103: U.S. History to 1877 (in regular rotation) (online and in person)
- History 104: U.S. History, 1877 to present (in regular rotation) (online and in person)
- History 201: Historians’ Craft (in regular rotation)
- History 210: African American History (in regular rotation) (online and in person)
- History 259: U.S. Environmental History (in regular rotation)
- History 301: History Seminar (in regular rotation)
- History 410: Toil and Trouble: Witchcraft in Transatlantic Context (in regular rotation)
- History 499: History Capstone (in regular rotation)
- Core 407: senior seminar class on ‘Mexicans, Americans, and Mexican Americans’ (spring 2019)

**Assistant Professor of History, 2010-2015**

- Courses listed above as well as -
- Hist 202: Gender in U.S. History
- Hist 208: Living on the Edge (of Empire): North America, 1600-1800
- Hist 210: African American History
- Hist 214: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: North American Borderlands

- Hist 336: Selected Topics in Latin American History
- Hist 405: Disaster! Environmental and Social Crises in World History
- Hist 495: Water Power: Water Control, Race, and Class in U.S. History
- Core 113: first-year seminar class on ‘Myth, Film, Race and American History’
- Core 113: first-year seminar class on ‘Water Wars: Power, Technology, and Violence’ (co-taught with Dr. William Strosnider, Environmental Engineering)

**Visiting Assistant Professor of History, 2009-2010**

- Hist 103: U.S. History to 1877
- Hist 104: U.S. History, 1877 to the present
- Hist 340: The African American Experience in U.S. History
- Hist 350: Immigration and Ethnicity in U.S. History

**Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA**

**Visiting Assistant Professor of History, 2008-2009**

- Development of the United States, 1607-1877
- Development of the United States, 1877 to the present
- Colonies to Nation: North America, 1600-1800
- Building a Nation: The United States, 1800-1890
- Native American History, 1492-1890
- Water Power: Water Control, Race, and Ethnicity in the United States

**Central New Mexico Community College, Albuquerque, New Mexico**

- History of the United States I
- History of the United States II
- New Mexico History
- History of the American West

**GRANTS**

PA GOALS Grant, OER Development, to develop online text, “Free History: U.S. History to 1877,” applied May 2021 and received June 2021.

Co-author with Theresa Wilson, “Empowering Saint Francis University Humanities Faculty to Deliver Quality Online Instruction in Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic,” application for National Endowment of the Humanities CARES grant, May 2020 (not funded)

SFU Faculty Development Grant, for research trip to archives to Mexico (trip postponed indefinitely due to CoVid-19; grant funding retracted), Spring 2020.

School of Arts and Letters Faculty Research Grant, Spring 2017 (for archival research in Virginia).

SFU Faculty Development Grant, co-recipient with Maria Colmer, for pilot project on lecture capture technology, Spring 2015.

Funded participant in National Endowment of the Humanities Summer Institute, “Rethinking the Land Ethic: Sustainability and the Humanities,” Summer 2011

School of Arts and Letters Junior Faculty Research Grant, Saint Francis University, Summer 2010

Crown Summer Research Award, Brandeis University, Summer 2008

New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board Grant to the Center for Land Grant Studies, Summer 2007 and Summer 2008

Research Grant, Co-recipient with Malcolm Ebright and Pablo Padilla, Chamiza Foundation, August 2006

Fellowship, Office of the State Historian Scholar's Program, Fall 2005

Brandeis University Crown Fellowship in American History, 2001-2005

Research Grant, University of Colorado Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, Spring 1999

## **AWARDS**

Nominated for “Who’s Who” of Pennsylvania Professors, January 2021

Robert Spivey Award for Scholarship from the Society for Values in Higher Education, co-recipient with William Strosnider, for paper “A Confluence of Crises: One Example of Interdisciplinary Collaboration on Sustainability,” July 2015.

## **Saint Francis University Awards**

Francis the Builder Award, from Deans’ Council, for leadership during search for Dean of STEAM and during CoVid-19 pandemic, spring 2020

Inducted as Honorary Member of Saint Francis University chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success (an undergraduate honors society), fall 2018

Nominated for Distinguished Faculty Award, spring 2015, spring 2020 and spring 2021

Nominated for Swatsworth Award, spring 2014, spring 2015, spring 2016, spring 2019, and spring 2020

Advisor of the Year [for advising social sorority Delta Phi Epsilon], 2012-13

## PRESENTATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY

“Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month.” Presentation to staffers at Loretto Federal Correctional Institute, May 21, 2014

Co-presenter with Michael Vaughn (History, class of 2013) at the dedication ceremony for the Pennsylvania State Historical Marker at the site of the former state tuberculosis hospital in Cresson, PA. May 3, 2014 ([https://www.historicalmarkerproject.com/markers/HM1E61\\_cresson-tuberculosis-sanatorium\\_Lilly-PA.html](https://www.historicalmarkerproject.com/markers/HM1E61_cresson-tuberculosis-sanatorium_Lilly-PA.html))

“Women in the Workforce: A Proud History, a Bright Future.” Presentation with Susan Whisler, for Women’s Information Network, Cambria County Chamber of Commerce, February 19, 2014.

Reviewed historical fiction novel *Waterproof*, by Judith Redline Coopey, for WPSU (Penn State University’s public radio station in State College, PA), fall 2012. Review available at [http://wpsu.org/radio/single\\_entry/LL-4390/bookmark](http://wpsu.org/radio/single_entry/LL-4390/bookmark).

Organized SFU History Club production of a “History Short” for Cambria County Historical Society - “Saint Francis University Among the Pines.” February 2012.

“Native Americans and the Vietnam War.” Presentation to staffers at Loretto Federal Correctional Institute, November 2011

“The Warrior Tradition: Native Americans in U.S. Military Service.” Presentation to staffers at Loretto Federal Correctional Institute, November 2010

## PRESENTATIONS ON CAMPUS

Organized two events for Martin Luther King Day 2021:

- “Dr. King’s Legacy Today with Coach T and Dr. D.” asynchronous CES event for Martin Luther King Day – available at [docholladay.net](http://docholladay.net)
- “The Relationship between Dr. King and Malcolm X.” hosted by Denise Holladay Damico, featuring History alum Jalen Wells – asynchronous CES event for Martin Luther King Day – available at [docholladay.net](http://docholladay.net).

In conjunction with "Rainbow Day," on Friday, March 26, 2021, presented a virtual CES event, "LGBTQ+ History with SEAL," available at <https://docholladay.net/?p=209>.

"Women in Power: A Short, Incomplete History" as part of the student-run Women's March on Tuesday, March 30, 2021.

“Going Low: A Long Tradition in U.S. Presidential Politics, Saint Francis Annual Ethics Forum, “Ethical Issues of the 2016 Presidential Election,” November 2016

Co-author with Dr. Maria Colmer (formerly Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy, SFU), of poster “Technology in the Classroom at SFU: Advantages and Disadvantages of One Form of LectureCapture,” presented at SFU Faculty Development Committee session, April 2016.

“Francis: The Pope, The Saint, The University,” Saint Francis Annual Ethics Forum, “On Care for Our Common Home,” October 2015

## **SERVICE**

### **Service to the Department of History and Political Science**

Chair, Fall 2017-present

Interim Chair, Fall 2016

History Program Coordinator, 2015-2017

History Program Recruitment Coordinator, 2010-2016

### **Faculty Senate and Committee Service at Saint Francis University**

#### **University Committees**

Committee on Tenure, Fall 2015, Fall 2020, Fall 2021

Sabbatical Leave Committee, Fall 2018, Fall 2021

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Planning Committee, 2021-2022

Committee on Race and Equality, 2020-2021

Community Engaged Faculty Teaching Group, spring 2020

Francis WorldWide Advisory Committee, 2019-2020

“America250PA” Committee, 2019-2020

Pre-Professional Committee, 2016

Speaker Policy Ad Hoc Committee, Summer 2015

“Francis the Builder” Working Group, Middle States Self Study, 2013-2014

Chair, Committee on Resources, Academic and Library, 2010-2015

Infonet Committee, 2011-2015

Distance Education Committee, 2012-13

Faculty Mentor to new faculty in Nursing, 2021-2022

Faculty Mentor to new faculty in Biology, 2015-2016

Faculty Salary and Benefits Committee, Fall 2014-Summer 2015

Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee, 2012-2014

University Recruitment Task Force, 2012-2014

**Faculty Senate Service:** Faculty Senator, Fall 2014-2020, Fall 2021 to Present

Faculty Senate President, 2018-2019

Faculty Senate Vice President, 2015-2016

Faculty Senate Committee on Committees, 2014-2019

Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Summer 2015

#### **Search Committees:**

Theatre, Spring 2020

**Co-Chair**, Search Committee for the Dean of the School of STEAM, 2019-2020

Water Polo Head Coach, Fall 2017



Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering, Fall 2016  
Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering, Spring 2016  
**Chair**, Public and Modern U.S. History, Spring 2015  
Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering, Fall 2014  
Asian History, 2012-13  
Environmental Engineering, 2012-13  
Biology, 2011-12  
Special Education, 2010-11

**Service to Student Organizations:**

Faculty Athletics Mentor, Women's Water Polo, 2016-present  
Advisor, History Club, 2009 – present  
Advisor, SEAL Club, 2017-present  
Advisor, Delta Phi Epsilon social sorority, 2012 – 2016

**Other Service**

SFU "Movember" Team, 2017, 2018, 2020  
Member of Cambria County Historical Society Board of Trustees, 2012-2016  
Volunteered as coordinator of canned goods drive with Ebensburg Area Running Club's Turkey Trot, 2011-2019  
Coordinated RED Day activity with my Environmental History course – weeding and landscaping at the Railroaders' Museum in Gallitzin, PA, October 2017

**MEMBERSHIPS**

American Historical Association, 2007-present  
American Society for Environmental History, 2009-present  
Agricultural History Society, 2018-present  
Society for Values in Higher Education, 2015-2019