BORDERLANDS, MARGINAL SPACES, & AGRICULTURE IN-BETWEEN

The Agricultural History Society Annual Meeting
Las Cruces, New Mexico
June 6-8, 2024
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Local Arrangements
Leah Tookey

Special Thanks
Wayne Anderson
Leah Tookey
Anna Barber
Albert Herrera, Visit Las Cruces
Peter Kopp
Department of History, Boston University
Tim Bowman
Welcome to Las Cruces, New Mexico, the ancestral homeland of the Piro/Manso/Tiwa peoples.

Las Cruces is situated in the beautiful Mesilla Valley with the Rio Grande River providing water for people of the Valley. Indigenous people have farmed this area for more than 4,000 years, although it was not until the Elephant Butte Dam was built in 1916 that local farmers were able to make market agriculture profitable. Today, New Mexico truly is an agricultural state!

Early farmers in the area produced a variety of traditional crops like corn, beans, squash, and chile. (Yes, that’s how we spell it.) However, when more water was available, local farmers raised cotton, alfalfa and grass hay, table crops such as cabbage and onions, and pecans. These crops have helped make the Mesilla Valley a highly successful agricultural region.

Spanish settlers arrived in New Mexico in the early 1600s and brought livestock with them. Corriente (common) cattle, Churro sheep, and goats proved to be hardy enough to survive the harsh conditions found in Southern New Mexico. Today, ranchers raise mostly Hereford and Angus beef cattle and Holstein dairy cattle, however you can find most breeds in New Mexico including Brangus and American Brahman, which are particularly suitable for this arid region.

While many people think that chile is New Mexico’s biggest cash crop, it’s not even close. Milk is the biggest money maker in the state followed by beef, onions, pecans, and hay. Still, New Mexico is the second leading state for growing chile, fifth for onions, ninth for milk, fourth for cheese, and third for Angora goats. Chile and cotton take lots of water so their production has been steadily falling. In fact, as you can imagine, severe drought is a constant concern for all ranchers and farmers in the state.

The first vineyards and wine making in the New World were in New Mexico. Franciscan monks brought grape vines to the area in the 1600s and planted them in order to make sacramental wine. Today, there are several wineries located in the Mesilla and Hatch Valleys near Las Cruces. If you are traveling in the area before or after the conference, I highly recommend a trip to Luna Rosa in Mesilla for a great pizza and taste of the wines made in Southern New Mexico. If beer is your thing, there are many artisan breweries in the area as well.

Las Cruces is home to several museums, hiking trails, amazing restaurants, cultural and natural history sites, and lots of really nice people. I hope you have a wonderful visit!

Leah Tooke
Museum Curator, Retired
Iowa State University, ’03

If you experience an incident of harassment or other unprofessional conduct, please contact a member of the Conduct Team: Sara Morris semorris@ku.edu, Wayne Anderson Wayne-Anderson@uiowa.edu, or Joe Anderson jlanderson@mtroyal.ca.
Agricultural History Society Annual Meeting  
June 5-8, 2024  
Las Cruces, New Mexico

CONFERENCE AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday, June 5
8:30-4:00 Graduate Workshop (by invitation)
4:00-6:00 AHS Executive Committee Meeting (for members of the committee)
6:00-8:00 Opening Reception at Farm and Ranch Museum (open to all)

Thursday, June 6
8:15-8:30 Welcome
8:30-10:00 Opening Plenary Roundtable: Settler Colonialism and Unruly Responses to Agricultural Practices
10:00-10:30 Coffee Break
10:30-12:00 Presidential Address
12:00-1:30 Lunch at Mezcla (included in registration)
1:30-3:00 Session I
   A. Films: A Source and a Means of Conveying Historical Knowledge for Rural Historians
   B. Technological Transfers in China and Beyond: A Transnational History (1850-1990)
   C. Rural Black Georgia Resistance at the Turn of the Century
   D. Roundtable Book Discussion on Interpreting Science at Museums and Historic Sites by Debra Reid, Karen-Beth Scholthof and David Vail
   E. Biography and Biology: Agricultural Scientists and their Impacts
3:00-3:30 Coffee Break
3:30-5:00 Session II
   A. Roundtable: Agriculture on the Large and Small Screen
   B. Busting the Stereotypes: New Angles on Agriculture in Texas
   C. Farm Trade and Foreign Policy
   D. Field Research: Wildlife, Periphery, and Bugs
   E. Voices on Borders

Friday, June 7
8:30-10:00 Session III
   A. Placemaking Amidst Dispossession: Southern and Midwestern Black Farmers on the Edge
   B. Silk and Strategies
   C. Getting There: Growing and Connecting Places
   D. The Challenges of Organizing Farmers
   E. The Political Reach of Agricultural Science
10:00-10:30 Coffee Break
10:30-12:00 Session IV
   A. The Politics of Disseminating Agricultural Knowledge
   B. Roundtable Book Discussion on The Oxford Handbook of Agricultural History
   C. Missionaries at the Margins: Religion and Farm Reform in Modern North America
   D. Paying the Price for Pesticides and Fertilizers
   E. Slavery, Anti-slavery, and Agricultural Reform on Southern Farms

12:30-5:30 Optional Tour

Saturday, June 8

8:30-10:00 Session V
   A. Drawing Borders on Land and People
   B. Valuing Farm Labor on the Move and In Place
   C. Political Border or Agricultural Border?
   D. Possession and Dispossession in Rural America

10:00-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-12:00 Session VI
   A. Where do Animals Belong?
   B. Elite and Popular Cosmopolitanisms in Brazilian Agriculture
   C. Historical Memory as Borderlands

12:00-1:30 Lunch at Mezcla (included in registration)

1:30-3:00 Session VII
   A. Making Place in Rural America
   B. Racial Boundaries on the Farm
   C. Systemizing the Unknown or Unappreciated

3:00-3:30 Coffee Break

3:30-5:00 Session VIII – Closing Plenary
   Are You an Agricultural Historian or Do You Work for a Living? Thinking Big about the Agricultural Historian Profession

5:30-6:30 AHS Business Meeting

6:30-8:00 Awards Reception

8:00-9:00 Post-Conference Unwind
FULL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Wednesday, June 5
8:30-4:00 Graduate Workshop, San Rafael B (by invitation)
4:00-6:00 AHS Executive Committee Meeting, San Rafael A (for members of the committee)
6:00-8:00 Opening Reception, New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum (open to all-free shuttles-Las Cruces Shuttle company-depart from entrance of Hotel Encanto starting at 5:30)

Thursday, June 6
8:15-8:30 Welcome, San Andreas Ballroom

8:30-10:00 Opening Plenary, San Andreas Ballroom

Roundtable: Settler Colonialism and Unruly Responses to Agricultural Practices
Moderator: Cherisse Jones-Branch, Arkansas State University
Alyssa Kreikemeier, University of Idaho
Ligia Arguilez, University of Texas at El Paso
Kerri Clement, Weber State University
Perri Meldon, Boston University
Colin Samson, University of Essex
Honora Spicer, Harvard University

10:00-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-12:00 Presidential Address, San Andreas Ballroom
“‘To Scratch and Crow Under Our Own Vine and Fig Tree’: The National Federation of Colored Farmers, The Modern Farmer, and the Farm Bureau, 1929-1948”
Cherisse Jones-Branch, Arkansas State University

12:00-1:30 Lunch at Mezcla (included in registration)

1:30-3:00 Session I
A. Films: A Source and a Means of Conveying Historical Knowledge for Rural Historians, San Augustin
Organizer and Chair: Peter Moser
Joe Anderson, Mount Royal University
Micheál Ó Fathartaigh, Dublin Business School
Diana Alejandra Méndez Rojas, National Autonomous University of Mexico
Peter Moser, Archives of Rural History
B. Technological Transfers in China and Beyond: Transnational Histories (1850-1990), Tularosa
Organizer: Hongyun Lyu, University of Toronto
Chair and Moderator: Jacob Eyferth, University of Chicago
“Racing Pigs: Sino-Western Genetic Exchanges in Three Pigs,” Niu Teo, University of Chicago
“Learning From Japan: Technology Transfer and the Evolution of China’s Bulk Power System (1972-1979),” Hongyun Lyu, University of Toronto

C. Rural Black Georgia Resistance at the Turn of the Century, San Rafael B
Organizer: Dawn J. Herd-Clark, Hillsborough Community College
Chair and Moderator: Kymara Sneed, Mississippi State University
“Moving the Masses: Black Resistance in Late 19th Century Early County, Georgia,” Kyle Harris, Florida A&M University
“Black Women, Ancestral Land, and Spirituality in the Late Nineteenth Century,” Felicia Jamison, University of Louisville

D. Roundtable Book Discussion on Interpreting Science at Museums and Historic Sites by Debra Reid, Karen-Beth Scholthof and David Vail, Soledad
Chair: James C. Giesen, Mississippi State University
Invited Panelists:
   Abeer Saha, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History
   Cameron L. Saffell, Museum of Texas Tech University
   Camden R. Elliott, Harvard University
Respondents:
   Debra Reid, The Henry Ford
   Karen-Beth Scholthof, Texas A&M University
   David Vail, University of Nebraska-Kearney

E. Biography and Biology: Agricultural Scientists and their Impacts, Guadalupe
Chair and Moderator: Dániel Luka, University of Pécs
“Corn from Trees: J. Russell Smith and the Resurgence of Agroforestry,” Brian Rumsey, University of Northern Iowa
“Left SR Influence and the Kuchka Uprising: Borderland Dynamics at the Outset of the Russian Civil War,” Peter Fraunholtz, Northeastern University

3:00-3:30 Coffee Break
3:30-5:00 Session II

A. Roundtable: Agriculture on the Large and Small Screen, San Augustin
Chair and Moderator: Margaret Weber, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Katherine Jellison, Ohio University
Debra Reid, The Henry Ford
Pamela Riney-Kehrberg, Iowa State University
Wayne Anderson, University of Iowa

B. Busting the Stereotypes: New Angles on Agriculture in Texas, Tularosa
Organizer: Rebecca Sharpless, Texas Christian University
Chair and Comment: Evan P. Bennett, Florida Atlantic University
“Production Value of Enslaved Labor in Antebellum Texas: Livestock, Cash Crops, and the Texas Frontier,” Deborah M. Liles, Tarleton State University
“Amber Waves on the Texas Prairie: North Texas and Wheat,” Rebecca Sharpless, Texas Christian University
“Southwest Texas Farmers on the Teat: The AAA’s Corn Hog Adjustment in the Winter Garden,” William V. Scott, Texas Tech University

C. Farm Trade and Foreign Policy, San Rafael B
Chair and Comment: Sarah Phillips, Boston University
“Manufacturing Democracy: Farm Subsidies as Food Security,” Lingxi Chenyang, University of Utah

D. Field Research: Wildlife, Periphery, and Bugs, Soledad
Chair and Moderator: Mart Stewart, Western Washington University
“Competing for Space: Beetles, Bugs, and Perspectives about Biodiversity on Southern Cotton Farms during the National Boll Weevil Eradication Campaign,” Bashira Chowdhury, Mississippi State University
“‘Like the Centers for Disease Control, Only for Wildlife’: The Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study and Wildlife Science as Extension Work,” Drew Swanson, Georgia Southern University

E. Voices on Borders, Guadalupe
Chair and Moderator: Mark D. Hersey, Mississippi State University
“The Modern Neoprohibitionist Culture War Against Wine,” Victor Geraci, Independent
Friday, June 7

8:30-10:00 Session III

A. Placemaking Amidst Dispossession: Southern and Midwestern Black Farmers on the Edge, San Augustin
Chair and Organizer: Adrienne Petty, The College of William and Mary
“Claims and Contests in a Naval Reservation: Black Farming Families and Land Use after a 1918 Federal Taking,” Molly Robinson, The College of William and Mary
“The Patches in Between: Exploring the Agricultural Landscape through the lens of Black Farmers, Landscape Performance, and the Conservation Reserve Program,” Kelley Lemon, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
“Grave Liminality: Black Cemeteries and Property in the Santee-Cooper Basin, 1938-1942,” Kelsey A. Moore, Johns Hopkins University

B. Silk and Strategies, Tularosa
Organizer: Katherine Frederick, Texas State University
Chair and Moderator: Karen-Beth Scholthof, Texas A&M University
“Chahine’s ‘Blazing Sun’: An Egyptian Family Story,” Elizabeth Bishop, Texas State University
“Silk and Franco-Maronite Relations: Sericulture in Lebanon in the 19th Century,” Katherine Frederick, Texas State University
“Herbicides and Tactics: Agricultural Warfare in Vietnam,” Gabriel Odom, Texas State University

C. Getting There: Growing and Connecting Places, San Rafael B
Chair and Moderator: Sara Morris, University of Kansas
“An Ephemeral Effort: Promoting the Development of Southern New Mexico, 1880-1950,” Dylan McDonald, Monika Glowacka-Musial, and Jennifer Olguin, New Mexico State University
“Highway 66 Revisited: Parsing Myth from Memory in Search of a History for the Mother Road,” Jake Wolff, Temple University

D. The Challenges of Organizing Farmers, Soledad
Chair and Moderator: Andrew Baker, Texas A&M Commerce
“Collaborative Archiving of In-between Spaces: Florida Farmworker Community Support Organizations,” Suzanne Cady Stapleton, Margarita Vargas-Betancourt, and John Nemmers, University of Florida
“Decline of the Farmworkers’ Movement: The View from South Texas,” Andrew J. Hazelton, Texas A&M International University
E. The Political Reach of Agricultural Science, Guadalupe
Chair: Helen Anne Curry, Georgia Institute of Technology
“Hybrid Development: Plant Breeders, Soil Scientists, and the Roots of a Green
Revolution in Chile,” Joshua Frens-String, University of Texas
“The Afterlives of Early 20th Century Midwestern Rural Social Science and Contestations
over the Meaning of Indonesian Agrarian Democracy,” Zhe Yu Lee, University of
Wisconsin-Madison
"The Indore Method and a Labor Theory of Value: Sir Albert Howard, Compost, and
Indian Farmers," Mart Stewart, Western Washington University

10:00-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-12:00 Session IV
A. The Politics of Disseminating Agricultural Knowledge, San Augustin
Chair and Moderator: Jess Gilbert, University of Wisconsin–Madison
“Connecting Histories of Gender and Racial Segregation in Agricultural Education and
Extension Worldwide,” Margreet van der Burg, Wageningen University
“Deepening Connections to Land Through Agricultural Education in the Early Twentieth-
Century American West,” Emma Masterson, University of New Mexico
“Knowing Apples: Pomological Illustration and Intellectual Property,” Lauren Freese,
University of South Dakota

B. Roundtable Book Discussion on The Oxford Handbook of Agricultural History,
Tularosa
Chair and Discussant: Jeannie Whayne, University of Arkansas
Helen Anne Curry, Georgia Institute of Technology
Joe Anderson, Mount Royal University
Suzanne Moon, University of Oklahoma
Michael Decker, University of South Florida

C. Missionaries at the Margins: Religion and Farm Reform in Modern North America,
San Rafael B
Organizer: Alison Collis Greene, Emory University
Chair and Comment: Michelle Berry, University of Arizona
“The Refugee Home Society and the Religion of Farming in Ontario, 1851-1864,” MW
Dougherty, Toronto Metropolitan University
“Reforming Religion, Modernizing Migrants: A Religious History of FSA Migrant Camps in
New Deal California,” Jonathan Ebel, University of Illinois
“No Cedars of Lebanon: Missions and Timbering in an Eastern North Carolina Swamp,”
Alison Collis Greene, Emory University
D. Paying the Price for Pesticides and Fertilizers, Soledad
Chair and Moderator: Frederick Rowe Davis, Purdue University
“Malice Aforethought or Incidental Ingestion? Social Anxieties and Arsenic Poisoning in the Cotton South,” Andrew Baker, Texas A&M University–Commerce
“Paying for Chemicals: Landscapes of Credit in Post-WWII American Agriculture,” Adam Romero, University of Washington Bothell

E. Slavery, Anti-slavery, and Agricultural Reform on Southern Farms, Guadalupe
Chair and Comment: Drew Swanson, Georgia Southern University
“Resource Management and International Relations in Virginia's Early Agricultural Improvement Movement, 1798-1818,” James Cornelius, University of New Hampshire
“‘At Great Profit and Pleasure’: The Politics of Crop Diversification in Antebellum Mississippi,” Aiden T. Daly, Mississippi State University
“A Sugar Planter and the Courts in Antebellum Louisiana,” John Keeling, McNeese State University

12:30-5:30 Optional Tour (Bus departs at 12:30. Participants pick up lunch by 12:15 at Avenida, Pre-registration required)
8:30-10:00 Session V

A. Drawing Borders on Land and People, San Augustin
Chair and Moderator: Joshua Nygren, University of Central Missouri
“The Crooked Straight Line as Boundary: Provincial Borders and the Impositions of Colonialism in Rural Saskatchewan,” Signa A. Daum Shanks, University of Ottawa
“Properties of Empire: Environmental Histories of Law in Indian Territory and Oklahoma, 1890-1920,” Emma Herman, Harvard University
“The Fremont-Madison Irrigation District and the Campaign to Build the Teton Dam, 1960-1976,” Dylan McDonald, New Mexico State University

B. Valuing Farm Labor on the Move and In Place, Tularosa
Chair: Alison Collis Greene, Emory University
“Farmers Are More Like Migrant Workers Than They Think’: The Campbell’s Soup Boycott in Northwest Ohio, 1979-86,” Chase W. Fleece, Bowling Green State University
“Put Them Out!: Migrant Labor and the Colorado-New Mexico Boundary in the 1930s,” Derek R. Everett, Metropolitan State University of Denver/Colorado State University

C. Political Border or Agricultural Border?, San Rafael B
Chair and Comment: Jeremy Vetter, University of Arizona
“Periphery between the Iron Curtain and the Soviet Borderlands? Agriculture in Central Europe during the 1950s,” Dániel Luka, University of Pécs
“Inner Colonization as Agrarian Borderland Settlement: Max Sering and the German East, 1871-1945,” Robert L. Nelson, University of Windsor
“The Global Seeds of Empire: Plant Explorers in Russian Central Asia and Beyond,” John B. Seitz, Tennessee Wesleyan University

D. Possession and Dispossession in Rural America, Soledad
Chair and Moderator: Connie Lester, University of Central Florida
“Agricultural Gentrification and Loss at the U.S. Southwestern Urban Edge,” Amado Reyes Guzman, University of Arizona
“The Function of Dispossession: Farming and Fear in Rural Alabama during the Civil Rights Era,” Allie R. Lopez, Baylor University
“Rethinking Forty Acres and a Mule in African American History,” Frances H. O’Shaughnessy, University of Washington
10:00-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-12:00 Session VI

A. Where do Animals Belong?, San Augustin
Chair and Moderator: Joe Anderson, Mount Royal University
“‘A More Exotic Game Animal’: Hog Hunting Culture in the American South,” Charles E. Jones, Mississippi State University

B. Elite and Popular Cosmopolitanisms in Brazilian Agriculture, Tularosa
Organizers: Matthew Abel, Kenyon College and Roberto Saba, Wesleyan University
Commentator: Heather Roller, Colgate University
“Relocating the Frontier: Framing Agrarian Conflict in the Brazilian Amazon,” Matthew Abel, Kenyon College
“From the Global South to the Global West: Brazil at the Louisiana Purchase Exhibition, St. Louis, 1904,” Roberto Saba, Wesleyan University
“Practice Makes Perfect: Teaching Agriculture Knowledge in Japanese Brazil,” Andre Kobayashi Deckrow, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

C. Historical Memory as Borderlands, San Rafael B
Organizer: Nancy K. Berlage, Texas State University
Chair: Katherine Jellison, Ohio University
“Agricultural Colleges, Cooperative Demonstration, Screens, Contour Ploughing and Canning: Modernizing and Forgetting in Histories of Farmers’ Organizing and Agricultural State Building,” Mary Summers, University of Pennsylvania
“Remembering, and Not Remembering, the Farm Crisis of the 1980s.” Pamela Riney-Kehrberg, Iowa State University
“WUR’s portrait gallery of white male rectors: reflections on integrating inclusivity in cultural heritage.” Margreet van der Burg, Wageningen University

12:00-1:30 Lunch at Mezcla (included in registration)
1:30-3:00 Session VII

A. Making Place in Rural America, San Augustin
Chair and Moderator: Katherine Jellison, Ohio University
“The Old Farm Won’t Be Given Over to Strangers’: Farm Women and the Many Preservations of Thread Creek Farm,” Maxwell Harrison, Iowa State University
“Making the Barn a Home: Southwestern North Dakota’s Farmhouse Architecture and ‘Making It’ on the Edge of the American West,” Travis Olson, University of Wisconsin—Madison
“A Highway Runs through It: Ames, Iowa State University, and the Extension of Sixth Street into Modernity,” Michael Belding, Iowa State University
“Covering Crisis: The Des Moines Register and the Farm Crisis,” Michael B. Knock, Clarke University

B. Racial Boundaries on the Farm, Tularosa
Chair and Moderator: Cherisse Jones-Branch, Arkansas State University
“Born to Suffer: The Racialized Treatment of Agricultural Workers in the Bracero Program,” Annaliese Martinez, University of Texas at Austin
“Contesting Racial Borders in the Future Farmers of America,” Rachael A. Storm, History Colorado

C. Systemizing the Unknown or Unappreciated, San Rafael B
Chair and Moderator: Albert Way, Kennesaw State University
“Making Soil a System: Unraveling Hans Jenny’s State Factor Model of Soil Formation,” Sara Tridenti, Princeton University

3:00-3:30 Coffee Break

3:30-5:00 Session VIII – Closing Plenary, Tularosa/San Augustin

Are You an Agricultural Historian or Do You Work for a Living? Thinking Big about the Agricultural Historian Profession
Chair: Bart Elmore, Ohio State University
Wayne Anderson, University of Iowa
David Vail, University of Nebraska at Kearney
Margaret Weber, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Nicole Welk-Joerger, American Board of Internal Medicine

5:30-6:30 AHS Business Meeting, Tularosa
6:30-8:00 Awards Reception, Guadalupe/Soledad/San Augustin
8:00-9:00 Post Conference Wind-Down
Agricultural History is the journal of record in its field. As such, it publishes articles that explore agriculture and rural life over time, in all geographies and among all people. Articles in Agricultural History use a wide range of methodologies to illuminate the history of farming, food, agricultural science and technology, the environment, rural life, and beyond. The journal includes innovative research, timely book and film reviews, and special features that unite diverse historical approaches under agriculture-related themes.

Members of the Agricultural History Society with an electronic membership have access to Agricultural History online. Learn more about the journal at dukeupress.edu/aghist.