

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
- Republished in *The Cuban Revolution and the New Left: Transnational Histories of Gender, Sexuality, and Family* (University Press of Florida, 2026)

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 Review of Juan Carlos Mezo González, *Gay Print Culture: A Transnational History of North America* (Hispanic American Historical Review)
Development *The Global History of HIV/AIDS* (in development with Routledge Press)
Forthcoming *Revolution in the Sheets: The Sexual Politics of Tolerance in Mexico* (University of California Press)

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

2026	Kenyon College Center for the Study of American Democracy (CSAD) Course Enhancement Grant for “Indigenous Latin America”
2021	Kenyon College Center for the Study of American Democracy (CSAD) Course Enhancement Grant for “Global History of HIV/AIDS”
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/CHAired

2025	Commentator, “Queer History in Late Twentieth Century Mexico.” 72 nd Annual Conference of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies (SECOLAS).
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

- 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

Making of the Contemporary World (Fall 2022)
 First-Year Seminar: The Columbian Exchange (Spring 2027)
 Early Latin America (Yearly)
 Modern Latin America (Yearly)
 History of Mexico (Fall 2023, Fall 2026)
 Global History of HIV/AIDS (Fall 2021, Fall 2022)
 Gender & Sexuality in Latin America (Spring 2023, Spring 2026)
 The History of Sexuality (Spring 2022, Spring 2024)
 The Mexican Revolution (Spring 2024)
 Indigenous Latin America (Spring 2026)
 Puerto Rico & its Diaspora (Spring 2027)

Washington University in St. Louis

Global History of HIV/AIDS

Duke University

Global History of HIV/AIDS
 Introduction to LGBTQ Studies

THESIS COMMITTEES/SUMMER SCHOLARS

Kenyon College

- 2026 Luke Finley-Gillis, Summer Scholar
- 2026 Yaell Urrunaga Adrianzen, Summer Scholar
- 2026 Camila Ardilla (International Studies)(External Reader)
- 2026 Samuel Howell (International Studies)(External Reader)

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

SERVICE - KENYON COLLEGE

2026 - Present Faculty Vice-Chair, Faculty Executive Committee (EXEC), Kenyon College
2026 Letter Writer, Promotion to Full Professor, Nurten Kilic-Schubel (History), Kenyon College
2026 Letter Writer, First Post-Tenure Review (FPTR), Austin Porter (Art History), Kenyon College
2026 Search Committee, Chemistry, Kenyon College
2025 - 2026 Student Conduct Review Board, Kenyon College
2024 - Present Summer Scholars Selection Committee, Kenyon College
2023 - Present Advisory Board, Program in Latino/a Studies, Kenyon College
2023 - Present Advisory Board, Program in Gender & Sexuality Studies, Kenyon College
2022 - 2024 Faculty Lectureships Committee, Kenyon College
2023 Search Committee, History & Program in International Studies, Kenyon College
2023 Search Committee, Program in Women's & Gender Studies, Kenyon College
2023 Curriculum Committee, Department of History, Kenyon College
2022 Robert L. Baker Prize Committee, Department of History, Kenyon College

SERVICE - EXTERNAL

2026 - 2027 Lewis Hanke Prize Committee, The Conference on Latin American History (CLAH)
2026 - Present Committee on LGBTQ Status in the Profession, American Historical Association (AHA)
2025 - Present Governing Board, LGBTQ+ History Association
2026 - Present Manuscript Reviewer, *The Americas: A Quarterly Review of Latin American History*
2025 - Present Manuscript Reviewer, *Transgender Studies Quarterly* (TSQ)
2023 - Present Manuscript Reviewer, *Hispanic American Historical Review* (HAHR)
2023 - Present Manuscript Reviewer, *Latin American Research Review* (LARR)
2025 - 2026 Gregory Sprague Prize Committee, LGBTQ+ History Association
2022 - 2024 Program Committee, The Conference on Latin American History (CLAH)
2022 - 2024 Sturgis Leavitt Prize Committee, Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies (SECOLAS)

LANGUAGES

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

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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