



TEXAS HISTORY: COTTON, CATTLE, AND RAILROADS • WEBINAR SERIES
Spring 2024

HUMANITIES TEXAS TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEBINAR SERIES

All times are listed in Central Time.

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|------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| January 22
5:00–6:30 pm | ----- | Indian Wars |
| January 29
5:00–6:30 pm | ----- | Cattle Drives |
| February 5
5:00–6:30 pm | ----- | The Problem of Cotton |
| February 12
5:00–6:30 pm | ----- | The Populist Movement |

[Railroad crew working on second track], photograph, [1890..1899]; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph125065/>: accessed January 16, 2024), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public

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FACULTY DIRECTOR

ANDREW J. TORGET is a historian of nineteenth-century North America at the University of North Texas, where he holds the University Distinguished Teaching Professorship. An award-winning speaker, he has been featured at Harvard, Stanford, Rice, Duke, Johns Hopkins, and the Library of Congress. The author or editor of five books, his most recent, *Seeds of Empire*, won twelve book prizes and awards and was hailed by *Texas Monthly* as “the most nuanced and authoritative rewriting of Texas’s origin myth to date.” In 2018, he set a Guinness World Record for the World’s Longest History Lesson, which was seen online by more than 30 million people. *The Dallas Morning News* named him a finalist for their “Texan of the Year” award in 2021 for the “uncommon, inspirational impact” of his work, and the Whiting Foundation awarded him their Public Engagement Fellowship in 2022. In 2023, he served as a U.S. Fulbright Scholar to Germany and visiting professor of history at the University of Bremen, where he was just recently named a finalist for the Berninghausen Prize for Outstanding Teaching.

MASTER TEACHERS

JAY FERGUSON has been teaching Texas history in Round Rock ISD for the past ten years and currently serves on the leadership team—and as Department Chair—at Canyon Vista Middle School. He has written curriculum for his district’s pre-AP courses and served as co-creator of the Mexican American studies curriculum, a new high school course. He is currently serving as a lead educational consultant for the “Texas History for Teachers” project based at the University of North Texas.

CHASSIDY OLAINU-ALADE is a career social studies educator and curriculum expert. She holds a bachelor’s degree in history and secondary education from Louisiana State University, as well as an MEd in secondary social studies from Texas Southern University. A major focus of her coursework and area of research has been African American studies and the history of American South. Chassidy moved to Texas in 2006 and served as a classroom teacher of eighth-grade American history for seven years before becoming an instructional coach for secondary social studies. As the former secondary social studies coordinator for Fort Bend ISD, she led the creation and implementation of FB-1, the locally adopted standard to address local history within the district curriculum. Presently she serves as the coordinator for community and civic engagement in Fort Bend ISD where she is a leader and advocate for the education of the convict leasing system and memorialization of the Sugar Land 95. In 2022, she was named the Mel Miller Social Studies Leader of the Year by the National Social Studies Supervisors Association, following being recognized as the 2021 Texas Social Studies Leader of the Year by the Texas Social Studies Supervisors Association. In addition to her advocacy, she develops instructional resources and exhibitions on topics related to African American history, including the period of convict leasing and other aspects of post-Reconstruction America. As a proponent of inquiry-based learning in social studies, she has a keen interest in developing curriculum based on primary source documents and archival resources.