



## THE GREAT DEPRESSION • IN-PERSON WORKSHOP

Fort Worth • March 24, 2026

### HUMANITIES TEXAS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP Fort Worth Museum of Science and History

7:30–8:15 a.m.	Check-in and Breakfast
8:15–8:30 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks
8:30–9:15 a.m.	Causes of the Great Depression <i>Michael Brandl, The University of Texas at Austin</i>
9:20–10:05 a.m.	The Great Depression in Texas <i>Sean P. Cunningham, Texas Tech University</i>
10:05–10:25 a.m.	Break and Group Photo
10:25–10:35 a.m.	Humanities Texas Educational Resources
10:35–11:20 a.m.	Documenting the Great Depression through Photography <i>James Swensen, Brigham Young University</i>
11:25–12:10 p.m.	FDR and the New Deal <i>Jason Scott Smith, University of New Mexico</i>
12:10–1:15 p.m.	Lunch
1:15–3:15 p.m.	Afternoon Seminars
3:15–3:30 p.m.	Final Announcements

Image: *Power farming displaces tenants from the land in the western dry cotton area. Childress County, Texas Panhandle, Dorothea Lange, 1938.*  
Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA/OWI Collection, [LC-USF34- 018281-C].



## FACULTY

**MICHAEL BRANDL** has over three decades of experience teaching, writing, speaking, and consulting on topics dealing with macroeconomics and financial markets. He was on the faculty of the Department of Economics at The University of Texas at Austin, the McCombs School of Business at The University of Texas at Austin, the economics department and Fisher College of Business at The Ohio State University, and the Jones Graduate School of Business at Rice University in Houston. His textbook *Money, Banking, Financial Markets and Institutions* is now being prepared for its third edition through Cengage Learning and is used in leading universities and business schools around the world. He volunteers his time as a historical first-person interpreter and has written and performed over a dozen one-person historical interpretation performances. He, his wife, and their two rescued dogs split their time between Austin, Texas, and Columbus, Ohio.

**SEAN P. CUNNINGHAM** is professor of history and associate dean for administrative affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences at Texas Tech University (TTU). A recipient of Texas Tech's President's Excellence in Teaching Award and a member of its Teaching Academy, he specializes in twentieth-century U.S. political history, with a particular focus on Texas and the American Sunbelt. He is the author of *Cowboy Conservatism: Texas and the Rise of the Modern Right* (Kentucky, 2010), *American Politics in the Postwar Sunbelt: Conservative Growth in a Battleground Region* (Cambridge, 2014), and *Bootstrap Liberalism: Texas Political Culture in the Age of FDR* (Kansas, 2022). In addition to his responsibilities as a university administrator, Cunningham serves on TTU's Chair Mentoring Committee in collaboration with the university's National Science Foundation ADVANCE Grant; is TTU's Title IX liaison for academic affairs; is chair of the editorial board for Texas Tech University Press; was on the advisory board for Civil Counterpoints, a campus conversation series designed to stimulate thoughtful and respectful dialogue on volatile issues; and worked for the Provost's Faculty Success Advisory Committee from 2017–2022. He also proudly serves on the Historical Advisory Board for Texas History for Teachers (TX4T), a non-profit organization that provides social studies teachers and students in K–12 schools with access to evidence-based historical content and best-practices pedagogy resources related to the teaching of Texas history. Cunningham received his PhD in American history from the University of Florida in 2007 and now lives in Lubbock with his wife and two daughters. He currently serves as vice chair of the Humanities Texas Board of Directors.

**JASON SCOTT SMITH** is professor of history and Regents' Professor in Arts and Sciences at the University of New Mexico. He has published widely on aspects of American political history and political economy; his public-facing work includes op-eds in *The Washington Post* and *USA Today*, as well as appearances on American Public Media's Marketplace. He is the author of *Building New Deal Liberalism: The Political Economy of Public Works, 1933-1956* and *A Concise History of the New Deal*, both published by Cambridge University Press. Smith's research and teaching range from the nineteenth century through the global financial crisis of 2008. Before coming to UNM, Smith held fellowships at the Harvard Business School, where he was the Harvard-Newcomen Postdoctoral Fellow in Business History, and at Cornell University, where he served for two years as a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in American studies and visiting assistant professor of history and government. In 2017–18, he held the Mary Ball Washington Chair in American History at University College Dublin, Ireland, a U.S. Fulbright Scholar Award. His most recent publication, "The Rhetoric and Reality of Infrastructure during the Trump Presidency," appeared in Julian E. Zelizer, ed., *The Presidency of Donald J. Trump: A First Historical Assessment*. He completed his PhD at the University of California, Berkeley.

**JAMES R. SWENSEN** is professor of art history and the history of photography at Brigham Young University. His research interests include American photography, the art and photography of the American West, and the representation of pilgrimage. His work has appeared in *Art Journal*, *History of Photography*, *TransAtlantica*, *American Indian Quarterly*, and *The European Journal of American Culture*, among others. He is also the author of two books: *Picturing Migrants: The Grapes of Wrath and New Deal Documentary Photography* and *In a Rugged Land: Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, and the Three Mormon Towns Collaboration, 1953-1954*, which won the Juanita Brooks Best Book Award from the Utah Historical Society in 2019. He also co-authored (with Farina King and Mike Taylor) *Returning Home: Diné Creative Works from the Intermountain Indian School*.