



41ST OHIO VALLEY HISTORY CONFERENCE

THE KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY | FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY

The Ohio Valley History Conference (OVHC) is open to historians and advanced graduate students of all time periods and specializations, including public and digital history. With the theme of “Borders, Boundaries, and Belonging,” the conference encourages deeper examination of how borders—both physical and imagined—shape the social, cultural, political, and legal terrains of history.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, October 9

Location: Kentucky Historical Society (KHS)—Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History, Frankfort, Kentucky

5:30–7:30 pm reception

Ohio Valley History Conference opening reception at the Kentucky Historical Society (Commonwealth Hall)

Friday, October 10

Location: Kentucky Historical Society (KHS)—Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History, Frankfort, Kentucky (all panels)

8:00 am

Registration and breakfast (Commonwealth Hall, Brown-Forman Room A, First Floor)

9:00–10:15 am panels

1. War and Religion in Europe (Classroom 1, First Floor)
 - a. “Villains and Heroes in the Arginusae Affair,” George Pesely (Austin Peay State University)
 - b. “The Carolingian Franks, Byzantium, and the Politics of Iconography,” Shane Tanner (Murray State University)
 - c. “Eastern and Western Christian Art in the 1500s: Theological, Political, and Cultural Borders,” Sarah Burger (Kent State University)
 - d. Moderator: Molly Shaddix (Kentucky Historical Society)
2. Authoritarian Legacies, Economic Cooperation, and the Search for Stability in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries (Brown-Forman Room B, First Floor)
 - a. “The Overthrow of Ngo Diem and the Mirage of Strongman Stability in Recent American Foreign Policy,” Richard Garlitz (University of Tennessee at Martin)



- b. "Freeing Trade and Leasing Liberty: Morgan Bankers and the Battle against Transatlantic Economic Nationalism," Olga Koulisis (Murray State University)
 - c. "Sins of the Father: Acknowledging Authoritarian Beginnings as Political Evolution," Adnan Rasool (University of Tennessee at Martin)
 - d. Moderator: Renee LaFleur (University of Tennessee at Martin)
- 3. Governors, Newspapers, and Pin-ups: Unconventional Historical Sources and the Cultural Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (Classroom 2, First Floor)
 - a. "Marketplace for Murder: Black Writers and Re-Writing the History of Dissection," Laura Elizabeth Smith (Tennessee Technological University)
 - b. "Calibrating Bodies: Pin-ups, Gender, and the India-Burma Theater During World War II," E. Allen Driggers (Tennessee Technological University)
 - c. "Zebulon B. Vance's Winding Path through the Civil War Era," Philip C. Davis (Tennessee Technological University)
 - d. Moderator: Kent T. Dollar (Tennessee Technological University)

10:30–11:45 am panels

- 4. Nineteenth Century Parties and Politics (Classroom 1, First Floor)
 - a. "The Age of Chilton: Thomas Chilton and the Kentucky Origins of the Second Party System," Jacob T. Wood (Kentucky Historical Society)
 - b. "Fearocracy: Violence, Conspiracies, and Reactionary Laws in Tennessee, 1831–1838," Seth Whitty (University of Houston)
 - c. "The Formation of the Republican Party in Kentucky, 1866–1895," Durbin Tinsley (Eastern Kentucky University)
 - d. Moderator: Andrea Sutherland (Northern Kentucky University)
- 5. War and Memory in Europe (Library Collaboration Space, Second Floor)
 - a. "Human Material: The Wehrmacht's Mobilization of Military Prisoners during World War II," David Snyder (Austin Peay State University)
 - b. "A Static Past? German Public Memory's relationship with Memorials and Remembrance," Thomas Hudson (Middle Tennessee State University)
 - c. Moderator: David Snyder (Austin Peay State University)
- 6. Race and Political Pragmatism in the Twentieth Century US (Brown-Forman Room B, First Floor)
 - a. "Something Worth Fighting For: Race and the Democratic Party during World War II," Christa Kieffer (Cottey College)
 - b. "How the Cold War Shaped the Lived Experiences of W. E. B. Du Bois and Shirley Graham Du Bois, 1950–1966," Isaac Andoh (East Tennessee State University)
 - c. "Crossing the Line: Louie D. Newton's Unpopular Support for Minorities in the Twentieth Century," H. Michael Shultz Jr. (Forge Theological Seminary)
 - d. "Serving the San Franciscans' Heart and Soul: How San Francisco's Red Guard Party Practically Applied Black Panther Maoism to Create Individuality in Asian America, 1967–1969," Andrew Chan (University of Kentucky)
 - e. Moderator: Austin Zinkle (University of Kentucky)

7. Doing Public History (Classroom 2, First Floor)
 - a. "Kentucky Newspapers: A Primary Go-To Source," Reinette Jones (University of Kentucky) and Kopana Terry (University of Kentucky)
 - b. "From Analog to Accessible: Public Engagement with Oral Histories on Cassette," Michael Kilmore (Kentucky Historical Society)
 - c. Moderator: Andy Dickson (Kentucky Historical Society)

Noon–1:15 pm

Lunch (on your own)

Frankfort has a variety of restaurants in the downtown area a short walking distance from KHS.

1:15–2:30 pm panels

8. Race and Gender in Tennessee (Classroom 1, First Floor)
 - a. "Connectivity and Organization: The Role of Women's Clubs and Education in the Woman Suffrage Movement in Tennessee," Micki Harris (University of North Alabama)
 - b. "'Not Too Young to Have an Opinion': *The Nashville Tennessean's* Youth Column and Postwar American Politics," Susan Eckelmann (University of Tennessee Chattanooga)
 - c. "Ladies' Rest Rooms: Public Private Spaces in Twentieth Century Clarksville, Tennessee," Cate LiaBraaten (Austin Peay State University)
 - d. Moderator: Chase H. McCarter (Kentucky Historical Society)
9. US Environmental History (Brown-Forman Room B, First Floor)
 - a. "A Poor Cow at the Door': Milk Sickness as Environmental and Social Problem in Antebellum Kentucky," J. Matthew Ward (Quincy University)
 - b. "Multiple Eliminations: A Case Study of Mosquito Cleansing in Oxford Mississippi," Oyedele Oluokun (University of Mississippi)
 - c. "After Industry: Art and Environmental History in the Post-Industrial Landscape," Mark Watson (Clayton State University)
 - d. Moderator: Paolo D'Amato (University of Kentucky)
10. Cultural Identity and International History (Classroom 2, First Floor)
 - a. "New Neighbors from Across the Sea: An Analysis of Relations between Norman Italy and Constantinople in the 11th Century," Marven Corrielus (University of Notre Dame)
 - b. "A Terror on History: Investigating the Lessons Learned from Daesh's Destruction of Cultural Heritage," Joseph Towell (University of Louisville)
 - c. Moderator: Jim Seaver (Kentucky Historical Society)

2:45–4:00 pm panels

11. Politics and Memory in the Early Republic (Brown-Forman Room B, First Floor)
 - a. "What's The Use? The Discipline of History and Three American Founders," Christopher Beckham (Morehead State University)



- b. "From Periphery to Center: National Belonging and Presidential Funerals in the Antebellum Ohio Valley," Stephanie K. Lawton (University of the Cumberlands)
 - c. "Born from Tomahawk Slashes and Desirable Soil: The Development of Maryville, Tennessee in the Early Nineteenth Century," Christian D. McCall (Tennessee Technological University)
 - d. Moderator: Jacob T. Wood (Kentucky Historical Society)

- 12. "Insights into the Pacific War 1941–1945: Frank Merrill, JFK, and Sun Tzu" (Classroom 2, First Floor)
 - a. "What I did for my Country: JFK and World War II," Rhonda L. Smith-Daugherty (Alice Lloyd College)
 - b. "'Chief of Staff' Major General Frank D. Merrill, U.S. Army, the War in China-Burma-India, and the Battle of Okinawa, 1944–1945," Leo J. Daugherty III (U.S. Army Cadet Command, Fort Knox, KY)
 - c. "Dying for the Myth: Bushidō, Samurai Culture, and the Making of Imperial Japan's War Ethos," David Buckner (Mountain Empire Community College)
 - d. Moderator: Douglas Herman (Big Sandy Community and Technical College)
 - e. Commentator: Jeffrey Roberts (Tennessee Technological University)

- 13. Roundtable: "Legal challenges, Redress, and Historicizing Racial Violence in Twentieth Century Kentucky with the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice-Kentucky Clinic" (Classroom 1, First Floor)
 - a. D'Iorah Hughes (University of Kentucky)
 - b. Austin Zinkle (University of Kentucky)
 - c. Claire Gussler (University of Kentucky)
 - d. Qwenton Briggs (Steptoe and Johnson PLLC)

4:15–5:15 pm

Optional marker walking tour of downtown Frankfort (Meet in Commonwealth Hall, First Floor)

Frankfort History on a Stick: A Walking Tour of the Capital City's Historical Markers

Did you know Franklin County has the fourth-highest concentration of roadside historical markers in the state? Join us for a walking tour of some of our favorite historical markers and associated sites conveniently located around downtown Frankfort. In addition to these stories, we'll share some fun facts about the Kentucky Historical Society's Historical Marker Program through the year. We encourage you to wear good walking shoes and dress for the weather.

5:30–7:30 pm

Dinner and keynote address (Brown-Forman Room, First Floor)

Dr. Eladio Bobadilla is assistant professor of history at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Bobadilla is a historian of social movements in the United States, whose research focuses on the intersections between class, race and ethnicity, immigration, and politics. His forthcoming book— *Dangerous Migration: Mexican*



Labor and the Fight for Immigrant Rights—will be published as part of the Working Class in American History series by the University of Illinois Press.

Saturday, October 11

Location: Kentucky Historical Society (KHS)—Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History, Frankfort, Kentucky (all panels)

8:30 am

Breakfast (Brown-Forman Room A, First Floor)

9:00–10:15 am panels

14. Urban Kentucky Histories (Classroom 1, First Floor)
 - a. “A Woman of Athens: Maria Gist Gratz (1795–1841),” Jeremy Popkin (University of Kentucky)
 - b. “Eastern Kentucky Lunatic Asylum,” Anna Case (University of Kentucky)
 - c. “Nature as Responsibility: Women’s Organizations and the Rise of Urban Environmentalism in Progressive Era Kentucky,” Amy Malventano (Thomas More University)
 - d. Moderator: Stephanie M. Lang (Kentucky Historical Society)
15. Civil War Memory and Movement (Brown-Forman Room B, First Floor)
 - a. “Boundless Belligerents: How Kentucky Confederate Cavalrymen Defied Battlefield, Prison, and International Borders to Advance the Confederacy in the American Civil War,” Cassandra Jane Werking (University of Kentucky)
 - b. “James H. Bridgewater, Fear, and the Lost Cause Villainization of Federal Soldiers in Kentucky,” Chase H. McCarter (Kentucky Historical Society)
 - c. “Reinventing John Hunt Morgan: Kentucky Lost Cause Hero,” Benjamin Fitzpatrick (Morehead State University)
 - d. Moderator: Charles R. Welsko (Kentucky Historical Society)
16. Political Power and Religious Legitimization in Three Historical Contexts (Classroom 2, First Floor)
 - a. “Utilizing the Three Pillars of Confucianism, Buddhism, and Shinto for Political Legitimacy in Early Japan,” David Rands (Austin Peay State University)
 - b. “The Reciprocal Relationship between Crown and Cross in Medieval Europe,” Cameron Sutt (Austin Peay State University)
 - c. “Evangelical Protestantism and the Old Southern Slaveocracy,” Timothy Wesley (Austin Peay State University)
 - d. Moderator: Timothy Wesley (Austin Peay State University)

10:30–11:45 am panels

17. Indemnity, Resistance, and Violence: The Memories of Slavery and Black Resistance in the Civil War Era South (Brown-Forman Room B, First Floor)
 - a. “From Habeas to Indemnity: The Evolving Relationship between Fugitive Slave Law and Civil Liberties Litigation,” Daniele Celano (Kentucky Wesleyan University)
 - b. “Extracted from Paper and Stone: Leander Pickens and Adam Deval in Slavery, War, and Memory,” Charles R. Welsko (Kentucky Historical Society)
 - c. “The Bossier Massacre of 1868: The Ramifications of Black Disarmament,” J. Jacob Calhoun (Wabash College)
 - d. Moderator: Stephanie K. Lawton (University of the Cumberlands)

18. Twentieth Century US Pop Culture (Classroom 2, First Floor)
 - a. “Creating the Conventions of the Newspaper Comic Strip and Breaking the Borders of the 4th Wall in Bud Fisher’s Mutt and Jeff,” Donald Eberle (Independent Scholar)
 - b. “Marching Across Time and Space: The Military Industrial Roots of Popular Dance in the Ohio Valley Region,” Sammy Roth (University of California, Los Angeles)
 - c. Moderator: Matt Strandmark (University of Kentucky)

19. African American Life in the Ohio Valley (Classroom 1, First Floor)
 - a. “Black Communities in the Ohio Valley Region: How Filson Historical Society Intends to Amplify Their Voices,” Jacqueline Hudson (Filson Historical Society)
 - b. “Kentucky’s First Generation of Black Professionals and the Influence of Wilberforce University of Ohio, 1870–1900,” Margaret Sumner (The Ohio State University-Marion)
 - c. “Creating Belonging Across State Boundaries: The Black Chautauqua Movement in the Ohio Valley 1890–1940,” Cynthia Patterson (University of South Florida)
 - d. Moderator: Benjamin Fitzpatrick (Morehead State University)

Thank you to our OVHC sponsors, LSU Press and University of Tennessee Press.

The 2026 Ohio Valley History Conference will be held at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, Tennessee.