



History Graduate Student Handbook

University of California, Riverside

History Graduate Student Association 2014-2015



Welcome!!

...to the History Department
...to UCR
...to graduate school!



This handbook was put together by Nicolette Rohr and Shawn Ragan, HGSA co-chairs for the 2014-15 school year, with the helpful input of current history graduate students. Please feel free to offer feedback on the information provided here so that it can be updated for future cohorts.

Getting Started...

- Join HGSA! Go to highlanderlink.ucr.edu to officially register as a member of the History Graduate Student Association. There is no cost to you but HGSA is eligible for more funding for events, food, etc. based on our number of members.
- Like **UCR History Graduate Student Association** and **UCR Public History Program** on Facebook for event reminders, grad student news, and all kinds of interesting info. You can also find information at hgsa.ucr.edu, the official web site of UCR History graduate students.
- Submit a brief bio and photo to be included on the HGSA web site. Please send your profile and photo to Heather VanMouwerik at hvanm001@ucr.edu. Profiles should be brief but may include links to a personal web site with more detailed information and a CV. Check out the HGSA page for examples.



HGSA CALL FOR ONLINE PROFILES

Purpose:

Online profiles are a great way to get your name out to promote your research interests in a professional and Google-searchable way. In addition, your GSA representatives want to compile a resource which documents your achievements and hard work.

Profiles:

The great thing about profiles are that they can be taken so many directions, hopefully reflecting you and your professional interests. So feel free to include whatever information you deem fit.

Generally, profiles should include the most stable aspects of your career: previous education, dissertation topic, awards and publications, and general research interests. The reason you should focus on "stable" items is that they last the longest—you do not want to worry about changing these too often. For a more dynamic profile, include links to your website, blog, professional twitter account, or any other social media you want people to associate with your research.

It only takes a minute to type up a blurb, attach any photo (I'll do the editing!), and email it to me (hvanm001@ucr.edu).

DON'T FORGET YOUR PHOTO!

Good Profiles Include...

1) Your current status in the department and your previous education

2) What your dissertation is on/will be on

3) Significant information: awards, publications, etc.

4) General research interests

FOR EXAMPLES SEE:

<http://hgsa.ucr.edu/members/>

SEND PROFILES TO:

Heather
Hvanm001@ucr.edu

Advice for your first year...

- Save the dates for HGSA socials, department colloquiums, brown bag dissertation talks, and other grad student and department events. These are great ways to get to know people and feel involved during your first quarter. Check the calendar at hgsa.ucr.edu/calendar/ for dates and info.
- Be sure you are familiar with the official departmental handbook for course requirements, exam information, etc. and clarify questions with the graduate assistant, Iselda Salgado, or grad advisor, Dr. Molly McGarry, especially when registering for new classes.
- Ask your advisor and other graduate students in your field about professional organizations and memberships. You may wish to join the American Historical Association first and follow up with other organizations soon. Most organizations offer significant membership discounts for graduate students and will help you to be more involved in your field and access a network of conference information and professional opportunities.
- The end of the quarter will probably be worse than you expect, even if you expect it to be bad. Try to mentally prepare yourself, and actually prepare yourself by getting a head start on papers, clarifying assignments, etc.
- You may want to start planning financially for the summer between your first and second years. The final fellowship stipend is dispersed at the beginning of spring quarter but the first paycheck for TAs is not paid until the beginning of November. In most cases, first year graduate students cannot TA during summer session prior to their first year as a TA.



Advice for being a student in the UCR History Department...

- check your email – it is the source of all important information, including departmental communication and notices for conferences and other opportunities; read emails about funding opportunities thoroughly and clarify anything you do not understand with Iselda or Prof. McGarry
- remember that it is your responsibility to understand and fulfill all requirements toward your degree – different students are on different tracks and may have different requirements (especially for languages, internships, etc.) so be sure you understand your specific requirements and clarify with Iselda or Prof. McGarry
- get to know the staff and be friendly with them
- be sure to get to know senior graduate students and feel free to ask them questions
- “Always be nice to Iselda.” ☺



Dissertation stagnating?
Procrastinating on a paper?
Article deadline fast approaching?

The Writing Space

WHO: History Graduate Students, all levels
WHAT: An informal, quiet place to write with your peers
WHEN: Every Monday, 3:00-5:00pm
WHERE: History Department Library

Often the hardest part about writing is just sitting down. The Writing Space allows you to set aside two hours every week—write it in your calendar—to do just that. So, bring your computer and a writing project; we'll supply the power strips, refreshments, and all the encouragement you need to get a bit of writing done.

Drop in
when you can
...
And stay as long
as you want!

For more information,
contact

Heather
hvanm001@ucr.edu

Advice on advisors and faculty

- Build close connections with faculty, even (or especially) those not in your fields.
- A faculty advisor that works for one may not going to work for another (and that's okay).
- Give good thought as to who can be on your dissertation committee from the time that you enter the program.
- Don't hesitate to consult with faculty when registering for courses.

Words of Advice for Graduate School

- Check your email!!!
- Come to things! Graduate work is often isolating and, although it is certainly time-consuming, you should try to fight the loneliness and take a break from your hard work by getting involved and seeing people. In the words of one graduate student, “Go to all the events, do all the things, and meet all the people. You'll stay happier and feel so much less isolated and alone, which can be a big problem given the workload and (often) lack of local friends.” Look for event info on the HGSA web site and Facebook page and in emails. There is a lot going on. Show up!
- Go to colloquia and symposia around campus. Look for email announcements of lectures and events in other departments.
- Build community with your cohort and fellow graduate students.
- If you need help don't be afraid to ask for it. This includes calling on professors, fellow graduate students, librarians, the counseling center, Grad Success...there are a lot of resources available to you.
- Be diligent about requirements. Communicate regularly with Iselda and the grad advisor about your progress towards completing coursework and exams.
- Check your mailbox regularly.
- Stay up to date on grants and funding opportunities by reading all emails about departmental, university, and external funding opportunities carefully. Also seek out funding opportunities related to your field through professional organizations and other institutions.
- Speak up in seminar and share your thoughts and opinions. Beware of “imposter syndrome” – you belong!
- If our department does not offer a class that you need, you can take classes in other departments on campus as well as at other UCs.
- Avoid paper extensions and incompletes if possible. They may be useful but may also end up putting you farther behind.
- Present and publish. In your first year, don't worry as much about presenting as attending conferences (you can find local conferences in Southern California) to help make you better prepared for future papers.
- Be wary of rumors and misinformation that can be spread, despite good intentions. This seems to be an issue in all graduate departments. It is best to do your own research, ask questions of the appropriate people, and take all complaining with a grain of salt.
- Get involved. Consider joining a working group, like Book History or Critical Digital Humanities, and becoming active in HGSA.
- You will undoubtedly have a lot of work to do, but try to give yourself some times and spaces away from work.
- Enjoy! Not everyone gets to spend a few years of their lives reading, writing, thinking, and discussing ideas. Don't forget to enjoy the journey.

Resources

Graduate Division

- **Grad Success** offers extensive programming to support graduate students through the Graduate Student Research Center, Graduate Student Mentorship Program, Teaching Assistant Development Program, Graduate Quantitative Methods Program, and Graduate Writing Center.
- Grad Success has several **workshops** for graduate students every quarter. Be sure to watch out for the schedule and try to attend them when possible. Watch for weekly emails from Grad Success about events and resources for graduate students.
- Grad Success hosts weekly **Grad Student Socials** Wednesdays from 3-4 in the HUB Grad Student Lounge. Free food and coffee! Also a good chance to meet students from other departments.
- Grad Division posts general news and opportunities for graduate students through **The Graduate Student Community on iLearn**. If you wish to share information or an event of interest to graduate students, you can email kara.oswood@ucr.edu and ask for it to be posted to the Graduate Student Community on iLearn.

Graduate Student Association

- Two graduate students from the History Department serve as representatives to the campus-wide Graduate Student Association. These representatives (Shawn Ragan and Nicolette Rohr for the 2014-15 school year) attend monthly meetings of the Graduate Student Association as well as meetings with the History Graduate Advisor and faculty. You can contact them with concerns you wish to be addressed both in the department and campus. GSA representatives are nominated and elected in the spring quarter to serve during the following year.
- GSA offers funding for graduate student events. If you are planning a colloquium, conference, etc., consider submitting a proposal for GSA approval. Ask the GSA reps/HGSA co-chairs for more information.
- **Conference Funding – GSA Conference Travel Grants:** The UCR Graduate Student Association offers small travel grants to assist UCR graduate students in attending professional conferences. More funding is awarded to graduate students presenting at conferences, however small grants are also available for conference attendance. These grants can be used to cover travel and registration expenses but cannot be used to cover meals, presentation materials, or incidental expenses. To apply, pick up a current application from the GSA office (203 Commons) or download it from the forms page at gsa.ucr.edu. The application should be turned in to the GSA office by the first of the month in the month preceding the conference end date. **Please note that the funding process can be somewhat difficult and it is important to follow all dates and deadlines and remember that you can appeal decisions if you are denied funding.**

UCR Libraries

- Library workshops offered throughout the year can be very helpful.
- The people at Inter-Library Loan are nice and helpful, and likely to be of tremendous help during some point in your research. In the words of one graduate student, “ILL is your greatest ally.”
- The library has book carts you can check out to transport the tons of books you will undoubtedly be checking out.
- You can place your books on hold via the library website – this saves the time of looking for them yourself, which can be a major help.
- Set up your VPN as soon as possible to access materials from off campus.
- You can request library purchases for materials the library does not currently have.
- Check out the massive microfilm collection (the digital readers are awesome).
- Rivera has overhead book scanners that are awesome and fast. Take a flash drive with you to save your scans.

Printing and Computer Use

- Students are entitled to 200 free pages of printing each quarter in the computer labs (closest one is in Watkins, second floor).
- You can use the computers and printers in the History Dept. at any time. Ask Iselda for a key to the lab. Look for the password on the back of the monitor.

Funding

- **The History Department** offers travel grants for research trips. Look for the application in spring quarter. These can be of tremendous assistance in completing research travel. Be sure you have applied for funding from other sources as the application asks for this information.
- The **Center for Ideas and Society** sponsors several programs throughout the year and also administers the **Humanities Graduate Student Research Grant**. Look for an email call for this application, usually in winter or spring quarter. Awards up to \$1500.00.
- The Graduate Division offers **Dissertation Research Grants** of up to \$1000.00. There is one application date per quarter.
- Look for application information for the **Graduate Research Mentorship Program (GRMP)** and **Dissertation Year Program Fellowships (DYP)**. These campus-wide awards offer release from teaching duties for graduate students.
- It is important to pursue **external funding** from outside of UCR and the Department. Be diligent about seeking funding opportunities in your field and paying attention to emails, postings, and all calls for applications.
- Note that should you not receive funding through the History Department, you may also seek TA-ships in other departments and employment (with fee remission) from GradSuccess or CHASS First. These programs will typically send out calls for applications.

Grad Student Recommendations for Reading and Studying

History grad students are welcome to use the TA Lounge on the fourth floor when it's open. Just remember that it is a workspace and be considerate of TAs and their students. Also note that when there are several people on the floor it is not always a great place to read or write. Try out these other places on campus...

- department computer lab (first floor)
- corridor on the 3rd floor of HMNSS: there are a few benches, a pretty nice view, and it's usually very quiet
- Rivera Library
 - Costo Library (4th floor of Rivera)
 - grad carrels (2nd floor)
- Orbach Library (The Science Library): good study spaces and not usually as crowded as Rivera. Lots of room and usually quiet on the 3rd floor.
- Grad Lounge in the HUB (third floor): this space is designated for graduate students from all departments and includes a nice patio. It's often used by undergrads as well but GSA is working to address this.
- Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf on campus
- HMNSS courtyard: you are bound to run into people you know sitting right outside the History Dept., but it is a lovely place to sit!
- the space between the two halves of the Watkins building
- meditation garden behind the art building

And off campus...

- Starbucks – locations at University Village, in the Canyon Crest Town Centre, and at Blaine and Iowa (often very crowded)
- Jammin' Bread – in the Canyon Crest Town Centre, near campus
- Back to the Grind – 3575 University Ave. in downtown Riverside
- Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf in downtown Riverside – 3712 Mission Inn Ave.
- Augie's Coffee House – 4205 Main Street in downtown Riverside (original location in downtown Redlands is also a good spot)
- Lift Coffee Roasters – 3590 Central Ave., across from the Riverside Plaza
- Panera Bread – 3560 Central Ave. in the Riverside Plaza and 12510 Day St. in Moreno Valley
- Andulka Park (no coffee, just nice park space!) – 5151 Chicago Ave.
- Riverside Public Library and branches (Central branch is located downtown on Mission Inn Ave.)

Grad Student Favorites for Food and Drink!

On Campus

The Barn (limited hours)
Ivan's at Hinderaker
The Colorful Chameleon (food truck)

Near Campus

Bannockburn

Sub Station (UCR classic, walking distance from the History Dept.)

Canyon Crest Town Centre

Jammin' Bread Bakery and Café
Romano's Italian Restaurant
Smokey Canyon BBQ
Marisa's Italian Deli
Taco Station
Starfish Sushi

University Village

Pho Vinam
Ray's Pizza
The Spot Sports Bar and Grill

University Area

Templo Del Sol - 1365 University Ave.
Cask n' Cleaver Steakhouse - 1333 University Ave.
Zacateca's - 2472 University Ave.
This is a Riverside classic and UCR favorite, run by the family of a UCR History Grad!
Jilberto's - 1635 University Ave.
Duke's Bar and Grille - 3221 Iowa Ave.
El Ojo de Agua - (University and Kansas)
India Sweets and Groceries - 779 W. Blaine (all vegetarian; \$5 specials)
Punjab Palace - on Chicago

More Food and Drink

Downtown Riverside

Dona Timo's La Cascada - 3635 University Ave.
Simple Simon's Bakery and Bistro - 3639 Main Street
D-Dogs Restaurant - 3557 University Ave.
The Salted Pig - 3700 12th St.
Heroes Restaurant and Brewery - 3397 Mission Inn Ave.
ProAbition Kitchen & Whiskey Lounge - 3597 Main Street
The Mission Inn - 3649 Mission Inn Ave.
Mario's Place - 3646 Mission Inn Ave.

Magnolia Center

Bann Thai - 6461 Brockton Avenue
Antone's Italian Food - 4125 Sunnyside Drive (at Brockton)
The Sire - 6440 Magnolia Ave.
Little Green Onions - 6723 Brockton Ave.
DeMatteo's Pizza and Pasta - 7030 Magnolia Ave.
Backstreet - 3735 Nelson St.
Kraemer's Koffee Bistro - 6743 Brockton Ave.

Moreno Valley

River Kwae Thai Cuisine - 23750 Alessandro Blvd., Moreno Valley
Portillo's Hot Dogs - 12840 Day Street, Moreno Valley
Miguel's, Jr. - 12860 Day Street, Moreno Valley (more locations in Grand
Terrance and at the Galleria/Tyler Mall in Riverside)

Redlands

Hangar 24 Tasting Room - 1710 Sessums Drive, Redlands
Gourmet Pizza Shoppe - 120 E. State St., Redlands
A La Minute Hand Crafted Ice Cream - 19 E. Citrus Ave., Redlands



UCR Grad Student Recommendations for Day Trips and Place to Go...

Inlandia

Riverside

Downtown

- *Farmers Market on Main St. between 5th and 6th every Saturday from 8-1*
- *Arts Walk the first Thursday of every month from 6-9*

The Mission Inn – 3649 Mission Inn Ave.

Riverside Art Museum – 3425 Mission Inn Ave.

Riverside Metropolitan Museum – 3580 Mission Inn Ave.

UCR ARTSblock – 3824 Main Street

- The Culver Center – be sure to check out their film series!
- The Sweeney Art Gallery
- California Museum of Photography

Citrus Heritage State Historic Park – 9400 Dufferin Ave.

Mount Rubidoux – parking/ access at Bonaminio Park, Tequesquite Ave.

Out of Riverside...

Downtown Redlands

Claremont Village

Victoria Gardens shopping center

Sam Maloof House – 5131 Carnelian Street, Alta Loma

Temecula Wineries

Disneyland

The Beaches

- Laguna Beach (and Taco Loco! – 640 S. Coast Highway)
- San Clemente
- Newport Beach/Balboa
- Huntington Beach
- Oceanside
- Ocean Beach – San Diego
- Aquarium of the Pacific, Long Beach – 100 Aquarium Way

The Desert

- Anza-Borrego Desert State Park – 200 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs
- Palm Springs Aerial Tramway – 1 Tram Way, Palm Springs
- Joshua Tree National Park
- Blythe Intaglios

The Mountains

- Big Bear (especially when it's hot)
- Idyllwild

The Metropolis

- Downtown Los Angeles (take a Conservancy tour! eat at Philippe's!)
- Japanese American National Museum – 100 N. Central Ave., Los Angeles
- Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County – 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles
- Exposition Park – 700 Exposition Park Drive, Los Angeles
- Griffith Observatory – 2800 E. Observatory Rd., Los Angeles
- Autry National Center – 4700 Western Heritage Way, Los Angeles
- Huntington Library, Art Collections & Botanic Gardens – 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino
- Descanso Gardens – 1418 Descanso Drive, LaCanada Flintridge
- The Grammy Museum (at L.A. Live) – 800 W. Olympic, Los Angeles
- The Getty Center – 1200 Getty Center Drive, Los Angeles
- The Getty Villa – 17985 Pacific Coast Highway, Pacific Palisades
- Watts Towers – 1727 E. 107th St., Los Angeles
- Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) – 250 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
- Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) – 5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles
- Little India, Los Angeles
- Little Vietnam/Little Saigon
- TV tapings at Warner Brothers
- look out for concerts and shows – there are lots of great venues, The Greek, The Hollywood Bowl, The Music Box to name a few (not to mention The Fox in Riverside)!

