

Brian P Owensby
Corcoran Department of History
Nau Hall
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, 22901
bpo(at)virginia.edu
(434)924-6388

Current Employment

1994 to present Professor, Corcoran Department of History, University of Virginia

Education

1994 Ph.D. in history, Princeton University (Dissertation: “‘Stuck in the Middle’—Middle Class and Class Society in Modern Brazil, 1850-1950,” directed by Prof. Stanley Stein and Prof. Michael Jiménez.

1984 J.D., University of Michigan Law School, *cum laude*

1981 B.A., Oberlin College, Economics, high honors, Phi Beta Kappa

Current Research and Projects

Jesuit Missions, New World indigenous peoples, alternative Enlightenments secularization and the capitalist moral order in 18th-century Latin America.

Sérgio Buarque de Holanda’s *Raízes do Brasil* as a platform for thinking about comparative historical epistemologies, history writing and historiography.

Publications

Books

2008 *Empire of Law and Indian Justice in Colonial Mexico*. Stanford University Press. Winner: 2008 Murdo J. McLeod Book Prize, Latin America and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association. Paperback edition, 2011.

1999 *Intimate Ironies: Making Middle-Class Lives in Modern Brazil*. Stanford University Press.

Articles & Chapters

Forthcoming "Conscience and Imperial Law in the New World." For the edited volume, *New Horizons of Spanish Colonial Law*, Thomas Duve (Max Planck Institute for European Legal history) and Heikki Pihlajamäki (Faculty of Law, University of Helsinki).

2013 "Between Justice and Economics: 'Indians' and Reformism in Eighteenth-Century Spanish Imperial Thought," in L. Benton & R. Ross, eds, *Legal Pluralism and Empires, 1500-1850*. New York University Press, 2013, 143-72.

2013 "Domesticating Modernity: Markets, Home, and Morality in the Middle Class in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, 1930s and 1940s," *Latin America's Middle Class. Unsettled Debates and New Histories*. New York: Lexington Books, Rowman & Middlefield, 2013), reprinted with permission of *Journal of Urban History*.

2013 "Comunidades indígenas y gobernanza en la época de la independencia—antecedentes virreinales, transformaciones decimonónicas" in Erika Panni (El Colegio de México), Jordana Dym (Skidmore College), eds. *Declaraciones de independencia. Los textos fundamentales de las independencias americanas*. Mexico City: El Colegio de México, spring 2013.

2012 "In the Middle of the Margin," in *The Making of the Middle Class: Towards a Transnational History*, eds. Barbara Weinstein, A. Ricardo López (Duke University Press, 2012).

2011 "Pacto entre rey lejano y súbditos indígenas—Justicia, legalidad y política en México, siglo XVII," *Historia Mexicana* (summer 2011).

2010 "'There is nothing self interest cannot command': A Romance of Early-Modern Mexico City," in Erin O'Conner and Leo Garofolo, eds. *Documenting Latin America: Race, Class and Gender*. Prentice Hall: New York, 2010.

2010 "Preface," in *Negotiation Within Domination: New Spain's Indian Pueblos Confront the Spanish State*, Ethelia Ruiz Medrano and Susan Kellogg, eds. University of Colorado Press, 2010.

- 2009 "Slave Litigants and the Processes of Liberty in Seventeenth-Century New Spain," in "Slavery, Citizenship and the State in Classical Antiquity and the Modern Americas," Special Issue of *The European Review of History/Revue européenne d'histoire*, 16:3 spring 2009.
- 2007 Entry for "Latin American History" in the *World Book Encyclopedia*, 2007.
- 2005 "How Juan and Leonor Won Their Freedom: Litigation and Liberty in 17th-Century Mexico," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 85:1 (Feb. 2005): 39-79.
- 2005 "Toward a History of Brazil's 'Cordial Racism'—Race beyond Liberalism," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 47 (2005): 318-47.
- 1998 "Domesticating Modernity: Markets, Home, and Morality in the Middle Class in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, 1930s and 1940s," *Journal of Urban History* 24:3 (Mar. 1998): 337-63.
- 1996 Entries in Barbara Tenenbaum, ed. *Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture* (New York: MacMillen).
- 1984 "Is USC 1983 Overworked? An Alternative to Exhaustion," *University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform* 17:3 (1984): 361-81.

Book Reviews

Magnus Lundberg, *Church Life Between the Metropolitan and the Local Parishes. Parishioners and Parish Priests in Seventeen-Century Mexico* (Madrid: Iberoamericana/Vervuert, 2011), "Reseñas" in *Mesoamérica* 34:55 (ene.-dic. 2013), 246-49.

Ana de Zaballa Beascochea, ed. *Los indios, el derecho canónico y la justicia eclesiástica en la América virreinal* (Madrid: Iberoamericana/Vervuert, 2011), "Reseñas" in *Mesoamérica* 34:55 (ene.-dic. 2013), 246-49.

Hal Lanfur, *Forbidden Lands: Colonial Identity, Frontier Violence, and the Persistence of Brazil's Eastern Indians, 1750-1830* (Stanford, 2006), reviewed for *American Historical Review*.

Yanna Yannakakis, *The Art of Being In-Between: Native Intermediaries, Indian Identity, and Local Rule in Colonial Oaxaca* (2008), reviewed for *Hispanic American Historical Review*.

Linda Lewin, *Surprise Heirs I: Illegitimacy, Patrimonial Rights, and Legal Nationalism in Luso-Brazilian Inheritance, 1750-1821* and *Surprise Heirs II: Inheritance Rights and Public Power in the Formation of Imperial Brazil, 1822-1889* (2004) reviewed for *Law & History Review* 22:3 (Fall 2004): 679-81.

M.C. Mirow, *Latin American Law: A History of Private Law and Institutions in Spanish America* (2004) reviewed for *Journal of Latin American Anthropology* 10:2 (Nov. 2005): 467-69.

Maureen O'Dougherty, *Consumption Intensified: The Politics of Middle-Class Daily Life in Brazil* (2002) reviewed for *Hispanic American Historical Review* 82 (2002): 824-26.

Sueann Caulfield, *In Defense of Honor: Sexual Morality, Modernity, and Nation in Early Twentieth-Century Brazil* (2001) reviewed for *The Times Literary Supplement*, 16 Mar. 2001.

Vivian Schelling, ed., *Through the Kaleidoscope: The Experience of Modernity in Latin America* (New York: Verso, 2001), reviewed for *Hispanic American Historical Review* 81 (2001).

Stephen Haber, *How Latin America Fell Behind: Essays on the Economic History of Brazil and Mexico, 1800-1914* (1997) reviewed for *The Business History Review* 74:3 (Autumn 2000): 546-49.

Robert Levine, *Father of the Poor? Vargas and His Era* (1998) reviewed for *The Americas* 56:1 (Jul. 1999): 143-44.

Barbara Weinstein, *For Social Peace in Brazil: Industrialists and the Remaking of the Working Class in São Paulo, 1920-1964* (1997) reviewed for *The Americas* 55:1 (Jul. 1998): 157-60.

Joel Wolfe, *Working Women, Working Men: São Paulo and the Rise of Brazil's Industrial Working Class, 1900-1955* (1993) reviewed for *Luso-Brazilian Review* 31:2 (Winter 1994): 161-63.

Papers and Panels since 2000

Track Chair & presenter, Latin American Studies Association, *Special Session*, “Liberalism in Latin American History and Historiography,” with Prof. Paula Alonso (The George Washington University), Chicago, May 21-24, 2014.

Invited paper. “Indians, Land and Law in Colonial Latin America.” Tel Aviv University, Faculty of Law, April 30-May 1, 2013.

Invited paper. “Searching for Raízes do Brasil. The Middle Class, Cordiality and Modernity in Brazil's 20th Century.” For international colloquium: Middle Class: Practices, Transformations and Social Constructions In Latin America and Spain During the 20th Century. Sverdlin Institute for Latin American History and Culture, Tel Aviv University, April 28-29, 2013.

Invited discussant for workshop “Understanding the institutional trajectory of Latin American development” (bringing together economists, political scientists and historians to discuss Latin American “development”), London School of Economics & Political Science, September 2012.

Invited paper for seminar on Colonial Courts. “A cada uno lo suyo. Jurisdiction and Subjecthood in Spanish Imperial Legality (XVI to XVIII centuries).” Uppsala University, Sweden, September 2012.

Invited conference paper: “Casuistry, Justice and the Desire to See the King.” For special two-day panel “Hechos y datos de los pueblos del Gran Chaco: diálogo histórico entre la antropología, la historia y el derecho,” The Americanists Conference, Vienna, Austria, July 2012.

Invited paper for publication, “Conscience and Imperial Law in the New World,” for Symposium, “New Horizons of Spanish Colonial Law,” Max Planck Institute for European Legal History, Berlin, July 2012.

Invited paper: “Between Subjects of Empire and Objects of State in Eighteenth-Century Spanish Imperial Debates,” at Northwestern University, November 16, 2011.

Comment: “Revisiting the Inquisitors” for “The Spanish Inquisition: Readings and New Questions. A Symposium,” University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, November 4-5, 2011.

Keynote speaker: Lecture on John Tutino’s *Making a New World*. Mexican Cultural Institute, Washington, DC, September 21, 2011.

Invited paper: "Cordiality and Fear: The Roots of Brazil as a Critical History of Nation and State." University of Gröningen, Gröningen, The Netherlands, November 25, 2010.

Conference paper: "Legal Underpinnings of Indian Subjecthood in Hapsburg Spanish America. Outline of an Approach." American Society of Legal History, Philadelphia, November 18-20, 2010.

Invited paper: "Intimate Essences vs. Impersonal Love—Imagining Cordiality in Brazil," for the conference "Living Together—A colloquium on the modes of interpersonal relationships and discourse," Department of French Language and Literature, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, October 6, 2010.

Invited paper: "Comunidades indígenas y gobernanza en la época de la independencia—antecedentes virreinales, transformaciones decimonónicas" at the conference *Declaraciones de independencia*, Archivo General de la Nación, Mexico City, September 22-24, 2010.

Moderator, "Cultures of Exile in Mexico, Spain, and the Mexican Revolution." *Page Barbour Conference*. University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA., April 23-24, 2010.

Organizer, *Washington Area Symposium on the History of Latin America*. University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, April 2, 2010.

Invited lecture: "Law, Peace and Social Pact in Colonial New Spain." *Law, Justice, and Public Security: Challenges for Mexico and Its Neighbors. A Conference on Problems, Policy and Possibilities*. Georgetown University, March 26, 2010.

Invited opening remarks: "Renewing the Interpretive Imperative in Law & the Humanities." *Burdens of Proof: Emerging Issues in the Law & Humanities*, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, February 18, 2010.

Invited lecture: "Instituciones y elecciones en el siglo XVIII." Colegio de México, Mexico City, January 20-21, 2010.

Invited conference paper: "Esbozo hacia una historia íntegra de la cultura política novohispana," Centro Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, *Congreso Internacional. América Latina: Crisis y cambio global. Política, ciudadanía y población*. November 26-27, 2009.

Conference paper: "Cordialidade and Discipline—Liberalism and History Writing in Sérgio Buarque de Holanda's *Raízes do Brasil*," Latin American Studies Association, Rio de Janeiro, June 11-14, 2009

Invited Lecture: "Picturing Diversity in 21st Century America—From Mexico's Casta Paintings to a 'Multi-Ethnic' U.S." Earlham College, March 2-4, 2009

Invited paper: "Law as Politics in Hapsburg Mexico," *Latin American Studies Symposium, Hispanic Political Theory and Practice, XVI-XIX Centuries*, University of California, Irvine, January 23-24, 2008.

Invited conference paper: "Cordialidade e Modernidade: Problemas e Possibilidades do Pensamento Histórico Brasileiro," *IV Simpósio Internacional de História do Brasil (Brasil-Estados Unidos: Novas Gerações, Novos Diálogos)*, CPDOC-Fundação Getúlio Vargas/Brazilian Studies Association, Rio de Janeiro Brasil, June 12-13, 2008.

Organizer: "Machu Picchu and Beyond: Challenges of Cultural Heritage and Architectural Preservation in a Globalized World," International Conference at UVa, Charlottesville, VA, April 25-26, 2008. Speakers included current and former World Bank members, Peruvian government officials, and Peruvian scholars Mariana Mould de Pease (independent scholar), Eliane Karp-Toledo (lecturer Stanford University, and ex-first lady of Peru), and Jorge Secada (UVa Philosophy), all of whom have written on Machu Picchu artifacts currently housed at Yale University's Peabody Museum.

Conference presentation: "Do Indians Have Ideas?," given at American Historical Association, Congress on Latin American History, January 3-5, 2008.

Invited conference paper: "Liberty in Litigation: Toward Microhistories of Process in Slave Liberty Cases, 17th-Century Mexico," given at the Institute for the Study of Slavery, Nottingham University, England, September 14-16, 2006.

Scholar in Residence, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, March 11-April 8, 2006. Delivered the following papers: "Between Disenchantment and Discipline: Cordiality and the Challenge of Modernity in Brazil"; "Slave Autonomy, Liberty, and Popular Culture in the Making of Brazilian National Identity"; "The Protection and Liberty of Subjects: Indian Amparo Petitioners in Early-Modern Mexico."

Invited panelist for session on "Middle Classes at the Margins," part of the international conference: "'We shall be all': Toward a Global History of the Middle Class," University of Maryland, College Park, April 27-29, 2006.

Organizer, with Prof. Joe Miller (UVa History), and presenter at the international conference: "The Politics of Being and Belonging—Beyond Ethnicity and Race in

the Americas,” University of Virginia, Charlottesville, February 28-March 1, 2006.
Paper title: “Slave Understandings of Liberty in 17th-Century Mexico.”

Conference paper: “Liberty among Mexico’s Indians in the 17th-Century,”
Washington Area Symposium on Latin America, Washington, D.C., October 2005.

Conference paper: “‘Your Majesty is Never Too Distant’—Rebellious Subjects and
Law in Tehuantepec, New Spain, 1660-64,” Latin American Studies Association,
Las Vegas, October 2004.

Discussant: Ricardo Salvatore, “Local vs. Imperial Knowledge: The Yale Peruvian
Expedition of 1911-1916 Reconsidered,” UVA Center for Local Knowledge,
Charlottesville, VA, April 16, 2004.

Conference paper: “That which your majesty so firmly commands be protected:
Liberty among Indians in Colonial Mexico,” American Society for Legal History,
Washington, D.C., November 13-16, 2003.

Invited paper: “Servants of the Law: Indians, Exploitation, and the King’s
Protection in 17th-Century Mexico,” Oberlin College, October 13, 2003.

Conference paper: “Back to the Middle of the Mess—The Middle Class in Latin
America’s 20th century.” Latin American Studies Association, March 26-30, 2003.

Conference paper: “The True and Most Important Liberty: Slaves, Freedom, and
Law in 17th Century Mexico,” Washington Area Symposium on Latin America,
October 2002, Washington, D.C.

Invited paper: “Beyond the Echoes and Shadows of Modernity in Latin American
History,” Special Session at Latin American Studies Association, Washington,
D.C., September 2001.

Invited paper: “The Historical Labyrinth of Participation in Modern Brazil,” for
conference “Brazilian Trajectories: 500 Years of Citizenship and Participation,”
Program in Latin American Studies, Princeton University, November 10, 2000.

Panel: Chair, “Legal Cultures of Colonialism and Nationalism” at American Legal
History Society annual meeting, Princeton University, October 19-20, 2000.

Panelist: “Blood, Lineage, and Race in the Hispanic Past,” Annual Meeting,
Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies, King Juan Carlos Center of
New York University, April 27-30, 2000.

Teaching

Core course, “Latin America—Between Local and Global” (350 students) on UVa’s Semester at Sea’s Latin American voyage (Mexico, Panama, Ecuador, Chile, Peru, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala), summer 2007.

Undergraduate surveys and intermediate lecture courses: Colonial and Modern Latin America; Modern Brazil; A People’s History of the Americas

Undergraduate seminars and colloquia: Global Latin America; Conquest & *Convivencia*; Race and *Mestizaje* in Latin American History; Law & Society in Early-Modern Britain and Mexico (with Prof Paul Halliday); Comparative Middle Classes in the Americas.

Special undergraduate seminar: “Thinking from Cuba.” Semester-long seminar followed by two-week trip to Cuba with entire class, Jan. 2003. Sponsored by Ford Foundation and Carter Woodson Institute for African and African American Studies.

Graduate courses: The History and Historiography of Empire; Methodology and Theory in Historical Thinking; Colonial Latin American Historiography; Modern Latin American Historiography; Directed Readings in Latin American History; Being, Belonging & Time (interdisciplinary seminar with Prof George Mentore (UVa Anthropology)).

Undergraduate theses: Have directed numerous undergraduate theses, including theses written for: the History Department’s Distinguished Majors Program; the Program in Latin American Studies; the Program in Political & Social Thought, and the Program in Political Philosophy, Policy & Law.

Graduate training:

- Dissertation committee for UVa anthropology student Roberto Armengol, working on informal economy in contemporary Cuba. Defending in November, 2013.
- Supervising two PhD students working on colonial/imperial topics: Rachael Givens (Spanish Empire), Kimberly Hursh (colonial Latin America).
- Currently directing three PhD students working on Brazilian topics: Mary Hicks (colonial Brazil), Anne Daniels (modern Brazil; Fulbright scholar 2012), Chris Cornelius (modern Brazil). All three ABD as of fall 2011. I expect them to finish in 2014.

- PhD History student Daniel Wasserman (adviser, Eric Midelfort), on language as a tool of conversion in early-modern Spain and Latin America. Member of dissertation committee. Successfully defended, May 2012. Obtained tenure track job at Alma College, Alma, Michigan.
- Member of dissertation committee of Ana Cornide, Spanish, University of Virginia, working on Latin American micro-fiction (spring 2011). Currently associate professor at Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana.
- Member of dissertation committee of Jason Eldred, University of Virginia, on Spain in the early-modern English imagination (fall 2010).
- Member of dissertation committee of Christopher Albi, University of Texas student (adviser, Jorge Cañizares Esguerra) on law in 18th-century Mexico (2009).
- Member of numerous dissertation committees in the Spanish department, as well as Psychology, Sociology and Philosophy.
- Working closely with PhD History student Jared Staller (adviser, Joe Miller), in Portuguese-African relations in 17th century. Member of dissertation committee.
- Supervised over two dozen graduate students in Latin America as an outside field for PhD qualifying examinations.
- Closely involved in three completed Latin American history dissertations at UVA:
 - Hayley Froysland (UVA, 1998; advisor, Herbert Braun)—Philanthropy in 20th-Century Colombia
 - Dayo Mitchell (UVA, 2002; advisor, Richard Drayton)—Race and Citizenship in the Caribbean
 - Abel Ricardo López (University of Maryland, 2008; advisor, Barbara Weinstein)—The Colombian Middle Class in Transnational Perspective.

Professional & Scholarly Service

2013-2014: Co-Chair History Track for Latin American Studies Association meeting, Chicago 2014.

2011-present: Member, editorial board *European Society for Comparative Legal History*.

Fall 2011-fall 2012: President, Latin America and Caribbean Section, Southern Historical Association.

Fall 2010-fall 2011: Vice-president, Latin American and Caribbean Section, Southern Historical Association.

Spring-Fall 2011: Bolton-Johnson book Prize Committee for Conference on Latin American History section of the AHA.

Spring-Summer 2010: MacLeod Book Prize Committee, Latin American and Caribbean Section, Southern Historical Association.

2010: Member, Editorial Board, *Interamericana*. A book series on Interamerican studies based at University of Gröningen, The Netherlands, with German publisher Verlag.

2010: Member, Editorial Board, *Miríada Hispánica*. Madrid, Spain.

Fall 2009-present: UVa Latin American Initiative, seeking to establish a triangular relationship among the Colegio de México, the University of Gröningen and the University of Virginia with respect to hemispheric interdisciplinary studies.

Fall 2007—Reviewer for the National Endowment for the Humanities summer research grant applications.

I have served as a manuscript reviewer for: *American Historical Review*, *Hispanic American Historical Review*, *Luso-Brazilian Review*, *The Americas*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *Business History Review*, *The Journal of Urban History*, *Harvard University Press*,

I have served as a reviewer in over a dozen tenure cases outside UVa.

Awards and Fellowships

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 2013 | Center for International Studies grant for summer research in Mexico. |
| 2013 | Dean's Research Award for summer research in Mexico. |
| 2012 (fall) | Sesquicentennial Fellowship, University of Virginia |
| 2012 | Dean's Research Award for summer 2012 |
| 2011 | Research award, Center for International Studies, University of Virginia, for summer 2012 research in Europe |

- 2011 Rome Faculty Exchange, Universita di Roma 3, for summer research at Vatican Archives and Jesuit Archives, summer 2012
- 2009 2008 Murdo J. McLeod Book Prize from the Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association for *Empire of Law and Indian Justice in Colonial Mexico* (Stanford, 2008)
- 2005, 2002, 1999, 1997, 1995, 1994 University of Virginia Summer Research Grant
- 2004 (fall) Sesquicentennial Fellowship, University of Virginia
- 2003 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Research Grant
- 1999 Alumni Board of Trustees Teaching Prize (with semester's leave)
- 1996 (fall) Sesquicentennial Fellowship, University of Virginia
- 1995 Dissertation Prize, Department of History, Princeton University (semester's leave taken spring 1999)
- 1992 Fellow, Princeton Society of Fellows of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, Princeton University
- 1992 Mellon Post-Enrollment Fellowship, Princeton University
- 1991 Fulbright-Hays for field research in Brazil
- 1990 Fulbright-IIE for field research in Brazil

University and Department Service

Department of History:

Chair, Corcoran Department of History (2009-2012)

Associate Chair, Corcoran Department of History (2006-2009)

Director of Graduate Admissions (2002-2003)

Director of Undergraduate Studies (2000-2001)

I have served on the History Department's Graduate Committee, Steering Committee, and several Departmental search committees, promotion committees and ad hoc committees, as well as University committees regarding personnel and planning issues.

Memberships in Professional Organizations

American Historical Association; Latin America Studies Association; Southern Historical Association; American Association of University Professors

Other Significant Experiences

- 1990-92 Lived in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil while doing dissertation research on Fulbright fellowships.
- 1984-87 Attorney for Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (New York and Washington, D.C.) and Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld (Washington, D.C.)—specializing in corporate antitrust and telecommunications litigation; *pro bono* work representing Salvadoran refugees seeking political asylum; Freedom of Information Act litigation against the U.S. Airforce.
- 1982-84 Executive Editor, *University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform*.
- 1981 Professional interpreter through FEMA at Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin, for Cuban refugees. Main responsibilities to senior officer of U.S. Army Civil Affairs team.
- 1965-1974 Grew up in Mexico and Colombia.

Languages

Fluent: English, Spanish, Portuguese

Comprehension, speaking, reading: French

Comprehension, reading: Italian

Reading: Colonial Spanish paleography (16th-18th centuries), Ecclesiastical/Legal Latin