

Brandon Blakeslee PhD

Midwestern State University of Texas

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Research Focus

Modern Latin America: State Formation and Modernization, Health and Science, Identity Formation, Culture, and Sport

Dissertation: Foot-ball! Turning Colombian boys into Patriotic men: How Sport and Education Developed early Twentieth-Century Colombian Nationalism

Committee: David LaFevor, Christina Salinas, Kenyon Zimmer

Master Thesis: How to Make a Foreign Idea Your Own: Argentine Identity and the Role Soccer Played in its Formation

Education and Work

Assistant Professor of History (2022-)

Midwestern State University

Ph.D in History

University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas

2021

Comprehensive Exam Fields: Latin American Sport and Nationalism, Race and Ethnicity in the Americas, Transatlantic Urban History

Master of the Arts in History

University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas

Graduated 2014

Bachelor of the Arts in History and Spanish

Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI

Graduated 2010

Conferences and Presentations

"Fairness versus Justice: A Scandal of Officiating in the 1928 Colombian National Olympics" – NASSH Austin 2026

"The Scopes Monkey Trial: What a Hundred-Year-Old Trial can Teach us about the Culture Wars" – MSU Lifelong Learning Center Spring 2026

"Colonizing the Frontier: The Public Health Conquest in Colombia 1920-1940" Presentation for the Dallas Area Society of Historians (DASH) November 2025

"Star Wars at Forty-Eight: The Enduring Legacy of A Long Time Ago in a Galaxy Far, Far Away" – Moderated an Intergenerational Panel

"The Illuminati have corrupted the French nation and are coming here next: Conspiracy, Clergy, and the Election of 1800" - MSU Lifelong Learning Center Fall 2025

"Binding the Country Together: How Football and Infrastructure Brought Colombia Together, 1918-1948" International Football History Conference- Belfast 2025

"Colonizing the Un-washed Frontier: Colombian Health Initiatives Among the Urban and Rural Poor, 1920-1940" SECOLAS – Mexico City 2025

"Making People Healthy: A Colombian Response to a Public Health Crisis of the 1910s" MSU Lifelong Learning Center 2/20/2025

"Peace Through Competition: A Brief History of the 'Olympic Spirit'" MSU Lifelong Learning Center 9/10/2024

"Not Throwing out the Baby with the Bathwater: Debating Eugenic and Hygienic Solutions to Colombian Societal Ills 1910s" SECOLAS - Asheville 4/4/2024

"A Useful Detergent? A History of 'sports-washing' in the World Cup" Honors College Presentation 10/11/2023

"Creating Regional Identity via Sports: Gran Colombia and the Bolivarian Games of 1938" Southeastern Council in Latin American Studies SECOLAS - Antigua 3/25/2023

"Her Majesty the queen of Sport: The role Women Played in the Development of Colombian Sport" Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies 4/8/2022

"Traditional Modernity: How to Travel New Paths with Old Friends" Southeastern Council on Latin American History Conference - Austin 03/05/2020

"Boys fought like Men in Defense of their City and Country: The Colombian National Olympics of 1928" Dallas Area Society of Historians 12/9/2019

"Education Utopianism or that one-time Anarchists and the State got along," presentation to the 18th Annual Transatlantic History Student Organization Conference (October 2017)

Guest lecture- "The Story of Argentine Soccer "delivered to the Spanish Department in April of 2016

"The Diffusion of Soccer Across Africa" GIS presentation to the 17th Annual Transatlantic History Student Organization Conference (October 2016)

Publications

Chapter 8 "The Boys Fought Like Men: Creating Progress Through Physical Education in 1920s Colombia," in *Bodies and Cultures: Physicality, Space, and Moving Bodies* (upcoming with Brill)

Review of *The Global Spread of Football From the 1860s to the 1880s* for the *International Journal of the History of Sport* (Fall 2026)

"An Age of Piracy or a Golden Era: An Economic History of Colombian Football from Obscurity to International Notoriety, 1918-1954," *Fast Capitalism* Vol. 23 Issue 1 (2026) [Fast Capitalism | Vol 23 | Iss 1](#)

Review of *Beyond the Field: How Soccer Built Community in the United States* for The Journal of Popular Culture (2026) <https://doi.org/10.1111/jpcu.70058>

Review of *White Ice: Race and the Making of Atlanta Hockey* for the *Gulf South Historical Review* (2024)

Review of *Prize Fighting and Civilization: A Cultural History of Boxing, Race, and Masculinity in Mexico and Cuba, 1840-1940*, for the *Journal of Latin American Studies* (2024)

A Century of Midwestern State University, 1922-2022 editor

How History is Made: A Student's Guide to Reading, Writing, and thinking in the Discipline (2022) [How History is Made: A Student's Guide to Reading, Writing, and Thinking in the Discipline – Simple Book Publishing \(pressbooks.pub\)](#)

Review of *Hiding in Plain Sight: Black Women, the Law, and the Making of a White Argentine Republic* by Erika Denise Edwards in *PALARA* No. 24 (2020) <https://palara.journal.library.uta.edu/index.php/palara/issue/view/26/showToc>

"Making a Foreign Idea Your Own: The Transnational Transfer of Soccer into Argentina" *The Year Book of Transnational History* Vol. 2 (2019)

Teaching

Latin American Nationalism: 1920-Present (Spring 2025)

Methods and Historiography (Fall 2024)

Second Half US History: In Person and Online (2018-Present)

First Half US History: In person and online (2019-Present)

Technology and Science in American Society (Teaching Fellow, 2021)

[Your Name]
 [Street Address, City, ST ZIP Code] [phone] [e-mail]

History of Civilization 1500-Present (2020-Present)
History of Civilization Up to 1600 (Fall 2023)
Colonial Latin American History (Fall 2022)
Latin American Republics (Spring 2023)
History of Modern Sports (Fall 2023, Spring 2026)
Volunteer ESL Teacher: First Year through Third Year (2018-2021)
HIST 3303 History of Video Games (Fall 2018, 2019 Teacher's Assistant)

**Grants and
Awards**

College Research and Faculty Development Grant (2022-2023)
Drs. Benedict and Trudy Termini Graduate Fellowship (College of Liberal Arts Award)
Betty and Roger Ruch Study Abroad Scholarship (Charles T. McDowell Center Award)
Joe Arbena Latin American Sport History Grant (2020)

Languages

Spanish: Near Fluency
Portuguese: Reading comprehension

Skills/Technology

ArcGIS and QGIS
Pressbooks and WordPress
H5P (assessment software)

Titles and Positions

Staff: *Historical Research* an OER by the UTA History Department
<https://uta.pressbooks.pub/historicalresearch/>
President of Transatlantic History Student Organization (2017-2018)
Webmaster for Transatlantic Student History Organization website <http://transatlantic-history.org/> (2016-2017)
Senior Editor for *Traversea* (2016-2018)