

THE TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
JAMES A. BARNES CLUB PRESENTS

BARNES CONFERENCE 2026

Friday, March 13
Saturday, March 14

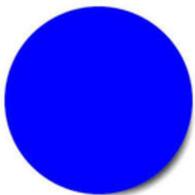
Temple University
Center City Campus
1515 Market St, Philadelphia, PA 19102
Fourth Floor



Welcome to the 31st Annual James A. Barnes Conference! We are excited to have you.

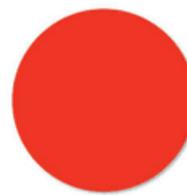


What do the colorful stickers on my nametag mean?



Conference Committee

Ask me for assistance!



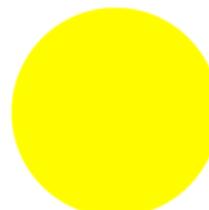
Panelist/Presenter

Ask me about my research!



Chair/Commenter

Ask me about the papers on my panel!



Guest

Ask me what I'm most interested in learning!

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OPENING PLENARY

Forging Philadelphia: Meeting the Moment of 2026



Moderator

Ella Scalese

James A. Barnes Conference Committee Member
History MA Student, Temple University



Sabrina Bocanegra

Head of Digital Access
American Philosophical Society

Sabrina Bocanegra is the Head of Digital Access at the American Philosophical Society as well as Project Data Manager for The Revolutionary City: A Portal to the Nation's Founding. She holds a BA in Anthropology from Temple University and her MLIS from Drexel University. Before joining the APS she worked on two major collaborative digital projects, In Her Own Right and For the Health of the New Nation. Along with digital access expertise, Sabrina has dabbled in reference, outreach, and education using archival and museum materials and their digital surrogates, giving her a deep appreciation of the broad value of digital collections.



Rebecca Fisher

Co-Founder
Beyond the Bell Tours

Rebecca is the co-founder of Beyond the Bell Tours, an inclusive historical tour company with the mission of 'putting the people back in people's history'. Beyond the Bell Tours is known for their Badass Women's History Tour and Gayborhood // LGBTQ History Tour. She is currently collaborating with the Our Market Project to create a tour of 9th Street Market about im(migration) that incorporates oral history, archival research, and public artwork created by Michelle Angela Ortiz. Rebecca is also a collaborator for the Drag Arts History Project, which is collecting oral history interviews from drag artists, from which she has created the Drag Me Philly Tour.



BOB SKIBA

Curator at the John J. Wilcox Jr. LGBT Archives
William Way Center

Bob Skiba is an acclaimed tour guide and an expert on Philadelphia history and culture. He lectures regularly on topics ranging from eighteenth-century dance to the Prohibition. He is President of the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides and editor of the Tour Guides' Handbook. He is the head archivist at the LGBT Archives at the William Way Center in Philadelphia.



Adrienne G. Whaley

Director of Education and Community Engagement
Museum of the American Revolution

Adrienne G. Whaley is an educator and history-lover who currently serves as Director of Education and Community Engagement at the Museum of the American Revolution. Adrienne earned her Bachelor's degree in African American Studies from Harvard University and her Master's in Education from the University of Pennsylvania. She has worked in both art and history museums, including the Museum of Modern Art (New York), the African American Museum in Philadelphia, and the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum. Adrienne loves the potential for objects, artifacts, and primary source documents to enrich student learning experiences. She carries her love of history and for uncovering the stories of common people into her spare time as an avid genealogist researching her own family history, and as former Programming Chair and President of Philadelphia's African American Genealogy Group. As both a museum educator and as a genealogist, she has presented on television and in workshops and conferences both locally and nationally.

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FRIDAY SCHEDULE

5:00 – 6:00

Registration & Coffee | Room 408

6:00 – 7:00

Opening Plenary | Room 406

Forging Philadelphia: Meeting the Moment of 2026

This panel will explore the opportunities and challenges that Philadelphia faces this year, as the city prepares to welcome more than a million tourists to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. As history, and history education, faces unprecedented attacks from the federal government, historians and history professionals are in a unique position to shape the ways that Americans and Philadelphians understand 2026. By addressing the challenges of misinformation, contested histories, and the responsibilities of historians in public discourse, this conversation will highlight why a deep understanding of the past is essential for the future of American democracy.

Panelists: Sabrina Bocanegra, Rebecca Fisher, Bob Skiba, Adrienne G. Whaley

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7:00 – 8:00

Evening Reception | Room 406

SPONSORED BY TEMPLE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

MORNING

8:30 – 9:15

Registration & Breakfast | Room 408

SPONSORED BY TEMPLE LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH CENTER

9:15 – 10:30

Session 1

Panel A: States of Unfreedom in the Nineteenth Century | Room 406

Panel B: Power in the Outskirts of the Atlantic World | Room 414

Panel C: Pedagogy in Theory and Practice | Room 416

Panel D: History of Latin American Movements, Industries, and Revolutions | Room 420

10:30 – 10:45

Coffee Break & Presentation from TUScholarShare | Room 408

10:45 – 12:00

Session 2

Panel A: Power of the Public Place: Universities, Monuments, Museums, and Court Rooms | Room 406

Panel B: Revealing Hidden Histories | Room 414

Panel C: Trade, Personhood, and Properties in the Early Modern Atlantic | Room 416

Panel D: Exploring the Self in the Place and Space | Room 420

12:00 - 1:00

Lunch | Room 408

Undergraduate Poster Session

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SATURDAY SCHEDULE

AFTERNOON

1:00 – 2:15

Session 3

Panel A: Signs and Symbols in Black History | Room 406

Panel B: Emotional Histories on the Frontlines | Room 414

Panel C: Interrogating Narratives in Institutions: Archives, Museums, and the Academy | Room 416

Panel D: Controlling Minds, Conquering Continents | Room 420

2:15 – 2:30

Coffee Break | Room 408

2:30 – 3:45

Session 4

Panel A: Manufacturing Media: Politics in Mass Media, Cartoons, and Video Games | Room 406

Panel B: War on the Move | Room 414

Panel C: Effects of Empire: Conversion and Resistance | Room 416

Panel D: Community Formation Across Time and Space | Room 420

3:55 – 4:55

Keynote Address | Room 421

Keynote Address by Dr. Rebecca L. Davis
University of Delaware

4:55– 5:15

Prize Ceremony | Room 421

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SESSION ONE

9:15 - 10:30 AM

A

States of Unfreedom in the Nineteenth Century | Room 406

- **Daniel Galal**, Villanova University, “The Union Press, Contested Memories, and the Rhetoric of Impressment in the American Civil War”
- **Taylor Brookins**, University of Delaware, “Products of the Gradual Abolition Regime: Black Women, Racial Capitalism, and the Lived Realities of Gradual Abolition in New Jersey”
- **Henry Dickmeyer**, American University, “‘I Want to Be Free’: Jane Johnson, Antebellum Unionism, and Philadelphia Antislavery Rights-Bearing”
- **Kate Kushner**, Princeton University, “Affectionate Mothers and Industrious Girls: Infanticide Investigations and the Governing Authority of Ordinary People in Post-Civil War Richmond”

Chair: Dr. Andrew Diemer

Commenter: Peter Sicher

B

Power in the Outskirts of the Atlantic World | Room 414

- **Alexis Howlett**, The Catholic University of America, “Shaping the Future of the Nation: Motherhood and English National Identity (1600-1700)”
- **Giacomo Green**, William and Mary, “Tobacco and the English Civil War”
- **Zachary Kelly**, Temple University, “Pirate True Crime: Connecting Pirate Literature to the Tradition of Crime Literature, 1650-1730”
- **Meagan Schulman**, Fordham University, “Primary Source Pirates: How 17th Century Bermudian Governors Fabricated Primary Sources”

Chair: Dr. Travis Glasson

Commenter: Duncan Knox

C

Pedagogy in Theory and Practice | Room 416

- **Mais Istaitiyeh**, George Washington University, “Depicting the 1987 Intifada in the Palestinian Authority’s History Curriculum”
- **Matthew Lynch**, Temple University, “Between the Lines of the Visible Hand: A Cultural History of Penmanship Pedagogy in the USA from the 18th to 20th Centuries”
- **Milan Mentz**, Temple University, “Sonderkommando Studies and Holocaust Education: A Symbiosis Overdue”

Chair: Dr. Bryant Simon

Commenter: Cas Casanova

D

History of Latin American Movements, Industries, and Revolutions | Room 420

- **Madison Guadalupe**, Carnegie Mellon University, “Whispers of autonomy: Casa Grande, APRA and the 1959 Massacre”
- **Daniela Dominguez Tavares**, University of Connecticut, “Preparing for the future of petrochemicals: reforms for the Mexican oil industry in 1958”
- **Elisa Schneider Venzon**, Temple University, “‘The Bible is Wrong, Hell is Right Here’: The Deactivation of a Brazilian Prison in the 1960s”
- **Casey VanSise**, Temple University, “Rosa-golpistas and Red-Brown Flirtations: US Efforts to Counteract Soviet Bloc Outreach to Military Regimes in the Americas, 1977-89”

Chair: Dr. Joshua Stern

Commenter: Evan Kolodziejczak

SESSION TWO

10:45 - 12:00 PM

A

Power of the Public Place: Universities, Monuments, Museums, and Courts | Room 406

- **Stephen Farole**, George Washington University, “What’s in a Name? Reckoning with Racism and Renaming at George Washington University”
- **Cameron L. Kline**, Syracuse University, “Restoring Presence: Interpreting the Great Law of Peace Monument through Indigenous-Centered Public History”
- **Jacob Harold Finegan**, University of Connecticut, “Fidelity Forgotten: Revisiting Honor, Duty, And Burial at a Civil War State Park”
- **Komal Afzaal**, Tufts University, “Violence Culture and Power at the Pakistan Army Museum”

Chair: Dr. Seth Bruggeman

Commenter: Matthew Lynch

B

Revealing Hidden Histories | Room 414

- **Yvonne R. Bradley**, Howard University, “Reconnections: The Aquatic Journey from Africa to U.S. Olympic Gold”
- **Laura Nelson**, Princeton University, “Unseen Fragments, Seen Lives: Making Enslaved People Visible in Digital Public History”
- **Willow Sipling**, Western Michigan University, “The Rebirth of Venus: On Re-Collecting the Archive”
- **Sydni Ratliff-Phillips**, Rutgers University, Newark, “Comfortable in my Illusion’: Reimagining Relationships to US Empire through the Cyborg in Marvel and DC Comics, 1974-1991”

Chair and Commenter: Carrilee Bryan

C

Personhoods and Properties in the Early Modern Atlantic | Room 416

- **Ismael Pardo**, University of Michigan, “Owning from Afar: Distance and Property in the Huasteca, 1560-1590”
- **Ursula Rall**, Emory University, “Fragile Livelihoods: Free Afro-descended Women, Indigenous Barrios, and Spanish Elite Control in Colonial Puebla de los Angeles”
- **Caroline Barraco**, Johns Hopkins University, “Local Martyrs and Global Luxuries: The Logics of Object Bequeathals in Seventeenth-Century Iberia”

Chair: Dr. Mónica Ricketts

Commenter: Audrey Rankin

D

Exploring the Self in Place and Space | Room 420

- **Nathaniel Drenner**, Penn State Harrisburg, “Travel Guide to an American Dream: Theodore F. Wolfe (MD, PhD) and Vicarious “Self-Improvement” in 19th Century Cultural Tourism”
- **Peter Roy**, Syracuse University, “Men of Science?: The Romantic Origins of Self-Identity and Self-Depiction in the Heroic Age of Polar Exploration”
- **Gayle Kennedy**, King’s College London, “Democracy’s Blind Spots: Race, Gender, and Foreign Witnessing in America Day by Day”
- **Anna Brownlee**, University of Wyoming, “I shal be vere glad that the society grant not the dessir of my husbands Letter”: Mary Keith and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel”

Chair: Dr. Katya Motyl

Commenter: Jacob Wolff

UNDERGRADUATE POSTER SESSION

10:45 - 12:00 PM

Mao and the Yan'an Rectification Movement

CDT Elizabeth Fetter, United States Military Academy West Point

Two Sides of the Same COIN: Two Case Studies of Western Counterinsurgency Strategy in Vietnam

CDT Nam Tran, United States Military Academy West Point

Leading Through Scholarship: Cadet-Run Undergraduate History Journal

CDT Thomas Chute, United States Military Academy West Point

Collaged Archive: Material, Ecology, and Resistance in the Sonnenglas Lantern

Hanifa Savage, Temple University

CNN, Peter Arnett, and Propaganda in the Persian Gulf War

Glenn Hechler, Temple University

Which Side Are You On? The 2025 DC33 Strike and Contemporary Labor Movement Revival

Kate Witiak, Temple University

Protests and the Public: Anti-ICE Protests' Legitimacy and Persuasiveness in News Media

Christian Patrick, Temple University

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SESSION THREE

1:00 - 2:15 PM

A

Signs and Symbols in Black History | Room 406

- **Cecilia Wright**, New York University, “All the City’s a Stage: Performing Power in the Reconstruction South”
- **Carrilee Bryan**, Temple University, “Racial Ingestion: Unboxing the Mammy Caricature”
- **Tamar Sarai Davis**, Temple University, “A Barrel of Laughs”: Folklore, myth, and memories of emotional control in the Jim Crow South”
- **Christina Pugliese**, Boston College, “A War of Emotions: Analyzing Emotional Violence from 1863 to 1877”

Chair: Dr. Danya Pilgrim

Commenter: Ryan Cosner

B

Emotional Histories on the Frontlines | Room 414

- **Michele Eduarda Brasil de Sá**, Brazilian Defense College (ESD - Escola Superior de Defesa), “Letters From the Front: Messages from the Brazilian Soldiers on the Newspaper “O Cruzeiro Do Sul”
- **Elisabeth Champion**, CUNY Graduate Center, “‘War and feeling have very little to do with each other...’ Nazi Morals in Wehrmacht Soldiers’ Letters”
- **Andrew Santora**, Temple University, “Martial Emotions and Masculinities in the Bundeswehr”

Chair: Dr. Ariel Natalo-Lifton

Commenter: Laura Waters

C

Interrogating Narratives in Institutions: Archives, Museums, and the Academy | Room 416

- **Molly Mapstone**, Temple University, “Collective Engagement and the Politics of Access: The Material and Narrative Life of “Étant Donnés”
- **Meridian Lattig**, Loyola University Chicago, “The Comfort Women “Controversy:” Why Feminists Dominate The English-Language Narrative”
- **Will Hafer**, Temple University, Identity, Nostalgia, and Political Power in Post-Soviet Poland

Chair: Dr. Hilary Lowe

Commenter: Max Gaida

D

Controlling Minds, Conquering Continents | Room 420

- **Victor Naranjo**, Brown University, “The Law Above: Settler Militarism, Environmental Change, and Indigenous Displacement in Cold War Alaska”
- **Soumya Swain**, Villanova University, “‘American Dream, Indian Nightmare?’ Rethinking the Green Revolution through pesticides”
- **Henry Schmidel**, University of Vermont, “Damage Control: MKULTRA, Human Ecology, and the Press”

Chair and Commenter: Joseph Johnson

SESSION FOUR

2:30 - 3:45 PM

A

Manufacturing Media: Politics in Mass Media, Cartoons, and Video Games | Room 406

- **Luisa Tilhe**, Southern Methodist University, “High Crimes and Mass Media – How Conservatism Was Remade in the 1990’s”
- **Clayton Kozan**, Texas Tech University, “From The Green Berets to Call of Duty: The Influence of Film on Vietnam War Video Game Narratives”
- **Jay Okeke**, Boston College, “Ozymandias: Hindsights From Political Cartoons; Pearl Harbour and 9/11”

Chair: Paul Hewes

Commenter: Will Hafer

B

War on the Move | Room 414

- **Evan Kolodziejczak**, Temple University, “Ironclad Learning: The Impact of British Operations in Madagascar on Amphibious Assault Theory During World War II”
- **Jackson Frederick Lied**, Temple University, “Origins of the Maritime Security Complex”
- **Caleb Fouts**, Syracuse University, Beyond the Border: Transnational Anti-Fascism in the Italo-Yugoslav Borderland
- **Kyra Dejtort**, Fordham University, “American Jews and Nazi Youth: A Forgotten Dimension of the American Interwar Period”

Chair: Dr. Jay Lockenour

Commenter: Riley Boyer

C

Effects of Empire: Conversion and Resistance | Room 416

- **Kavita Gawrinauth**, New York University, “Faith in Transit: Caste, Conversion, and Colonial Christianity under Indenture in British Guiana”
- **Bo A. Rodgers**, University of Miami, “A Kaleidoscope of Unfreedom: Emancipation and the Law during Cuba’s Ten Years’ War, 1868-1878”
- **Kira Quintin**, James Madison University, “Burn the Ships: Resistance as an Exercise of Agency Among Teenage Reformatory Ship Inmates in Victorian Liverpool”
- **Amanda Laule**, Villanova University “A Penitentiary in an Era of Freedom: Examining a Decade of Convict Leasing in North Carolina”

Chair: Dr. Havey Neptune

Commenter: Zachary Kelly

D

Community Formation Across Time and Space | Room 420

- **Eric Schubert**, Millersville University, “Barr Spangler (1822-1922) & The Prohibition Party of Pennsylvania”
- **Maddie Short**, Tufts University, “A Growing Black Community: Life and Labor in Somerville, MA, 1900-1920”
- **Julia Matthews**, Shippensburg University, The Pennsylvania State University “Jewish Community through the Lens of the Catacombs of Rome”

Chair and Commenter: Donald Dostie

KEYNOTE ADDRESS | ROOM 421

3:55 - 4:55 PM



Dr. Rebecca L. Davis

**Professor of History & Women and
Gender Studies**

University of Delaware

Rebecca L. Davis writes and teaches about sexuality, gender, religion, and American culture. She is a Professor of History and of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Delaware and the author or editor of four books. Most recent is *Fierce Desires: A New History of Sex and Sexuality in America* (Norton), which was one of the *New Yorker's* "Best Books" of 2024, a *Washington Post* notable book of the year, a *Kirkus Reviews* best book of the year, and a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award for LGBTQ+ Nonfiction. Davis is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Public Scholar Award. She has published essays in *Slate*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Religion & Politics*, and *TIME*, on topics ranging from Muhammad Ali's conversion to Islam to the legacy of Dr. Ruth. You can find more of her writing at *Carnal Knowledge*, a newsletter about how the history of sexuality shapes American life today, and hear her talk about sexual health and history on *This Is Probably a Really Weird Question*, a podcast she co-hosts with a family physician specializing in LGBTQ+ issues. Davis lives in Swarthmore, PA with her two children.

Please join us for the awards ceremony following the keynote address.



A HUGE THANK YOU!

Professor Russell F. Weigley – Army Heritage Center Foundation Award Committee

Dr. Gregory J. W. Urwin (Chair)
Professor of History, Temple University

Dr. Edward J. Coss
Professor Emeritus
U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Ft. Belvoir Campus

Dr. Tanya Roth
Upper School History Teacher
Mary Institute and St. Louis Country Day School

**John McNay
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Dr. Bobby A.
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Donald Dostie

**Howard Spodek
International Prize
Committee**
Dr. Uta Raina (Co-Chair)
Dr. Michele Luoro (Co-Chair)
Audrey Rankin

Major Felix Camacho
U.S. Army, Instructor of History, U.S. Military Academy
(2024 Winner)

Dr. Michael E. Lynch
Research Associate Professor of National Security
US Army War College

**Undergraduate
Scholar Award**
Jake Wolff (Co-Chair)
Max Gaida (Co-Chair)

**Public History Scholar
Award**
Ella Scalese (Chair)
Tamar Davis

Chair List
PLACEHOLDER

Commenters
PLACEHOLDER

We want to thank the 2025-2026 officers behind the Barnes Conference:

Clare McCabe, Conference Chair
Ella Scalese, Conference Committee Member
Jake La Fronz, Conference Committee Member & International Workshop Coordinator

Carrilee Bryan, Barnes Club President
Evan Kolodziejczak, Barnes Club Vice President

Zachary Kelly, Treasurer

And special thanks to:

TJ Cusack
Annette Vega

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