

**Samantha R. Billing**  
*Curriculum Vitae*

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**EMPLOYMENT**

2023-present	Assistant Professor of Latin American History, History Department, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
2022-2023	Postdoctoral Fellow in Latin American Racial & Ethnic History, History Department, Emory University
2021-2022	Postdoctoral Fellow/Instructor, History Department, Pennsylvania State University

**EDUCATION**

Doctor of Philosophy in History <i>Pennsylvania State University</i>	May 2021
Master of Arts in History <i>University of Northern Iowa</i>	May 2015
Bachelor of Arts in History <i>North Dakota State University</i>	May 2013

**PUBLICATIONS**

“Indios, Sambos, Mestizos, and the Social Construction of Racial Identity in Colonial Central America,” *Ethnohistory* (April 2021) Vol. 68, no. 2

“Indigenous Slavery in the Circum-Caribbean: The Miskitu’s Slave Trade and Its Consequences” *Slavery & Abolition* (Published online: July 2024)

*Making the Miskitu: Indigenous Ethnogenesis in Colonial Central America* (102k-word book MS in progress)

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

- 2022 American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship (\$65,000)
- 2021 Alumni Association Dissertation Award, Pennsylvania State University (\$5000)
- 2020 Hill Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Pennsylvania State University (\$16,500)
- 2019 Conference Travel Grant, Pennsylvania State University (\$1000)
- 2018 Fulbright Award for Graduate Research (\$22,000)
- Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (\$19,700)
- Committee for Early Modern Studies Award for Best Conference Paper, Pennsylvania State University [“Decreeing Genocide: Spanish Reactions to English Presence on the Mosquito Coast and the Call for Extermination of the Miskitu Peoples,” presented at the American Society for Ethnohistory annual conference, 2016, Nashville, TN] (\$500)
- Conference Travel Grant, Pennsylvania State University (\$1000)
- Anne M. Richards Award for best A. B. D. Research Paper, Pennsylvania State University [“Diplomacy or Destruction? Miskitu-Spanish Relations on the Borderlands of Central America,” presented at the American Society for Ethnohistory annual conference, 2017, Winnipeg]
- 2017 American Society for Ethnohistory Graduate Student Travel Grant (\$500)
- Everett Helm Fellowship, Lilly Library, University of Indiana (\$1760)
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, University of Georgia (\$7500, *declined*)
- RGSO Dissertation Support Research Award, Pennsylvania State University (\$2000)
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Pennsylvania State University (\$7500)
- Latin American Studies Research and Travel Award, Pennsylvania State University (\$500)
- McCourtney Pre-Dissertation Grant, Pennsylvania State University (\$5000)
- Conference Travel Grant, Pennsylvania State University (\$1000)
- 2016 American Historical Association Annual Meeting Travel Grant (\$150)
- American Society for Ethnohistory Graduate Student Travel Grant (\$500)
- Grant-in-Aid, Introduction to English Paleography, Folger Shakespeare Library (\$1200)
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, University of Georgia (\$7500, *declined*)
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Pennsylvania State University (\$7500)
- Latin American Studies Research and Travel Award, Pennsylvania State University (\$500)
- Pencak Seed Grant, Pennsylvania State University (\$2000)
- Conference Travel Grant, Pennsylvania State University (\$1000)
- 2015 Graduate Scholar Award, Pennsylvania State University (\$2000)
- Conference Travel Grant, Pennsylvania State University (\$1000)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*University of Louisiana at Lafayette* (2024-present)

World Civilizations I (to 1600)

Colonial Latin America

Modern Latin America

*Emory University* (2022-2023)

Indigenous Americas

Genocide in World History

Indigenous Peoples and Empires in Latin America (capstone)

*Pennsylvania State University* (2021-2022)

Latin American History to 1820

World History to 1500

American Civilization to 1877

American Civilization since 1877

## **EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE**

Editorial Assistant (2017-2018):

*Latin American Originals* series (Pennsylvania State University Press)

*Cambridge Latin American Studies* series (Cambridge University Press)

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

*Archivo General de la Nación*; Mexico City, Mexico

*Archivo General de Centro América*; Guatemala City, Guatemala

*Archivo General del Estado de Yucatán*; Mérida, Mexico

*Belize Archives & Records Service*; Belmopan, Belize

*Archivo Nacional de Costa Rica*; San José, Costa Rica

*The National Archive*; London, England

*The British Library*; London, England

*Lambeth Palace Library*; London, England

*National Records of Scotland*; Edinburgh, Scotland

*Lilly Library*; University of Indiana; Bloomington, Indiana

*Archivo General de Indias*; Seville, Spain

*Archivo Nacional de Chile*; Santiago, Chile

*Archivo General de la Nación*; Buenos Aires, Argentina

*Archivo General de la Nación*; Montevideo, Uruguay

*Archivo General de la Nación*; Bogotá, Colombia

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- 2024 Commentator for panel: "Native Community Land and Its Viceregal Enemies in Colonial Mexico," American Society for Ethnohistory; Fargo, ND  
Chair for panel: "Memories of Neo-Colonialism," American Society for Ethnohistory; Fargo, ND  
"Both Samboes and Indians': How European Ideas of Racial Difference were Adopted and Used by an Afro-Indigenous Group in Central America," American Society for Ethnohistory; Fargo, ND
- 2020 "The Miskitu King & the Cacique of Poyais: Deception and Diplomacy on the Mosquito Shore," Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies; Austin, TX  
"From 'Indios Christianos' to 'Indian Slaves': Indigenous Identity on the Fringes of Empire," Newberry Consortium for American Indian and Indigenous Studies Graduate Student Conference; Chicago, IL
- 2018 "Indios, Sambos, Mestizos, and the Social Construction of Racial Identity in Colonial Central America," American Society for Ethnohistory; Oaxaca City, Mexico  
"Genocide in the Greater Caribbean? Eighteenth-Century English Expansionism, Miskitu Alliances, and Spanish Plans for Indigenous Extermination," Entangled Histories: Making New Connections in Early America, c. 1750-1850; McNeil Center for Early American Studies; Philadelphia, PA
- 2017 "Diplomacy or Destruction?: Miskitu-Spanish Relations on the Borderlands of Central America," American Society for Ethnohistory; Winnipeg, Canada  
"Conflict on the Coast: Spanish, English, and Miskitu Interactions on the Borderlands of Central America, 1711-1739," Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies; Salt Lake City, UT
- 2016 "Decreeing Genocide: Spanish Reactions to English Presence on the Mosquito Coast and the Call for Extermination of the Miskitu Peoples," American Society for Ethnohistory; Nashville, TN  
"The Place of Image in Society: Visual Tools for Distinguishing Class in Sixteenth-Century Mesoamerica," American Comparative Literature Association; Harvard University, Cambridge, MA  
"Kingship on the Mosquito Coast: A Look at British Interpretations of Miskito Kings," Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies; Santa Fe, NM

## INVITED LECTURES

- 2022 Indigenous Slavery in the Circum-Caribbean: The Miskitu's Slave Trade and Its Consequences (LALX Workshop), Emory University
- 2021 The Miskitu & Colonial Central America (Given in HIST 178/Latin American History to 1820), Pennsylvania State University
- 2016 Late Classic Royal Portraiture at Tikal and Piedras Negras (Given in ARTH 462/Maya Art & Architecture), Pennsylvania State University  
Mesopotamia and the Rise of Civilization (Given in HIST 010/World History 1), Pennsylvania State University

2015 The Spanish Conquest of Mexico (Given in HUM 2123/Latin America), University of Northern Iowa

## **SERVICE**

2024-present Graduate Faculty, Full membership, ULL

2024-present Committee member, Guilbeau Charitable Trust, History Department, ULL

2024-present Committee member, Graduate Committee, History Department, ULL

2024 Search committee, African American History, History Department, ULL

2022 Program committee, American Society for Ethnohistory annual meeting

## **LANGUAGES & PALEOGRAPHY**

Spanish: Advanced proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing

Yucatec Mayan: Intermediate proficiency in reading and writing; basic speaking ability

Miskitu: Intermediate proficiency in reading and writing; basic speaking ability

Nahuatl: Basic reading proficiency

Proficient in English and Spanish paleography (16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries)