

RUBY ORAM, PhD
Assistant Professor of Practice
Department of History, Texas State University

I. ACADEMIC/PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Educational Background

<i>Degree</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>University</i>	<i>Major</i>	<i>Thesis/Dissertation</i>
PhD	2020	Loyola University Chicago	History	“Useful for Life: Women, Girls, and Vocational School Reform in Chicago, 1880-1930” (distinction)
MA	2015	Loyola University Chicago	Public History	
BA	2012	DePaul University	American Studies	

University Experience

<i>Position</i>	<i>University</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Assistant Professor of Practice	Texas State University	Aug 2020 – Present
Teaching Fellow	Loyola University Chicago	Aug 2018 – May 2019
Instructor of Record	Loyola University Chicago	Aug 2016 – May 2018

II. TEACHING

Teaching Honors and Awards

Presidential Distinction Award in Teaching, College of Liberal Arts, Texas State University, 2023

Golden Apple Teaching Award, College of Liberal Arts, Texas State University, 2023

Susan Ramonat Teaching Fellowship, Loyola University Chicago, 2018-2019

Courses Taught

- HIST 1320: U.S. History, 1865 – Present, Texas State University.
- HIST 3366: Introduction to Public History, Texas State University.
- HIST 3368A: Introduction to Public History, Texas State University.
- HIST 5372: Museums and Material Culture, Texas State University.
- HIST 5374: Public History Internship, Texas State University.
- HIST 5376: Local and Community History, Texas State University.
- HIST 5388: Comprehensive Examinations, Texas State University.
- HIST 5399A-B: Thesis, Texas State University.
- HIST 7372: Museum Studies, Texas State University.

Directed Student Learning

Applied Research Projects

Supervisor / Chair, Applied Research Project, "Travis County Freedom Colonies Project", Status: Completed. (August 2024 - December 2024). History, Texas State University.

HIST 3366: Introduction to Public History

[Travis County Freedom Colonies Project \(2024\)-1.pdf](#)

Supervisor / Chair, Applied Research Project, "6th Street Black Business Project", Status: Completed. (August 2023 - May 2024). History, Texas State University.

HIST 3366: Introduction to Public History

[6th Street Black Business Project 2024-1.pdf](#)

Supervisor / Chair, Applied Research Project, "Fredericksburg Black Cemetery Project", Status: Completed. (August 2022 - December 2022). History, Texas State University.

HIST 3366: Introduction to Public History

[Fredericksburg Black Cemetery Project Description-1.pdf](#)

[Fredericksburg Family Cemetery Project \(Fall 2022\)-1.pdf](#)

Supervisor / Chair, Applied Research Project, "Hayden Springs Freedom Colony Project", Status: Completed. (January 2022 - May 2022). History, Texas State University.

HIST 3368A: Introduction to Public History

[Hayden Springs Freedom Colony Project Description-2.pdf](#)

[Hayden Springs Freedom Colony Student Research-2.pdf](#)

MA Supervisor / Chair

Supervisor / Chair, Exit Exam, MA. "Public History Comprehensive Exam" Status: In Progress. (August 2024-Present.)

History, Texas State University.

Student(s): Therese Espiritu, Graduate, History.

Supervisor / Chair, Exit Exam, MA. "Public History Comprehensive Exam" Status: In Progress. (August 2024-Present.)

History, Texas State University.

Student(s): Andrew Ward, Graduate, History.

Supervisor / Chair, Exit Exam, MA. "Public History Comprehensive Exam" Status: In Progress. (August 2024-Present.)

History, Texas State University.

Student(s): Jediah Clark, Graduate, History.

Supervisor / Chair, Exit Exam, MA. "Public History Comprehensive Exam" Status: Completed. (December 2023-May 2024.)

History, Texas State University.

Student(s): Jared van Auken, Graduate, History.

Supervisor / Chair, Exit Exam, MA. "Public History Comprehensive Exam" Status: Completed.

(December 2023-May 2024.)
History, Texas State University.
Student(s): Blakley McCullough, Graduate, History.

Supervisor / Chair, Exit Exam, MA. "Public History Comprehensive Exam" Status: Completed.
(December 2023-May 2024.)
History, Texas State University.
Student(s): Bridget Dunbar, Graduate, History.

Supervisor / Chair, Exit Exam, MA. "Public History Comprehensive Exam" Status: Completed.
(December 2022-May 2024.)
History, Texas State University.
Student(s): Alyssa Aguilera, Graduate, History.

Supervisor / Chair, Exit Exam, MA. "Public History Comprehensive Exam" Status: Completed.
(December 2022-May 2023.)
History, Texas State University.
Student(s): Cortney Smith, Graduate, History.

Supervisor / Chair, Master's Thesis, MA. "Commemorating Spindletop: The Power of Historical Memory in Beaumont, Texas" Status: Completed. (January 2022-November 2022.)
History, Texas State University.
Student(s): Railey Tassin, Graduate, History.

Supervisor / Chair, Master's Thesis, MA. "Museums as a Place for All: Accessibility, Museums, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973" Status: Completed. (January 2022-May 2023.)
History, Texas State University.
Student(s): Colleen Cawthon, Graduate, History.

Supervisor / Chair, Honor's Thesis. "The Growing Importance of the Interactive Exhibit in History Museums." Honor's College, Texas State University. (December 2020-May 2021). History, Honor's College, Texas State University.
Student(s): Melissa Liesch, Undergraduate.

MA Committee Member

Member, Exit Exam, MA. "Public History Comprehensive Exam" Status: In Progress.
(August 2024-Present.)
History, Texas State University.
Student(s): Madelyn Patlan, Graduate, History.

Member, Exit Exam, MA. "Public History Comprehensive Exam" Status: In Progress.
(August 2024-Present.)
History, Texas State University.
Student(s): Crystal Dominquez, Graduate, History.

Member, Master's Thesis, "Central Texas Farmers Adjusting to COVID-19: The Intersection of Oral History and Crisis", Status: Completed. (2023 - December 2024). History, Texas State University.

- Student(s): Emma Long, Graduate, History.
- Member, Master's Thesis, MA. "As Long as Life Endures: Oakwood Cemetery and Reconstruction Austin" Status: Completed. (September 2023-August 2024.)
History, Texas State University.
Student(s): Estevan Baldarrama, Graduate, History.
- Member, Master's Thesis, MA. "The Spanish Civil War in Comics." Status: Completed.
(September 2021-2023.)
History, Texas State University.
Student(s): Wesley Moore, Graduate, History.
- Member, Master's Thesis, MA. "Sixth Street: Renewal & Preservation." Status: Completed.
(January 2022-November 2022.)
History, Texas State University.
Student(s): Nicole Sutton, Graduate, History.
- Member, Master's Thesis, MA. "The Lost Gonzo Band and the Creation of the Live Music Capital of the World, 1960s-1980s." Status: Completed. (January 2022-November 2022.)
History, Texas State University.
Student(s): Avery Armstrong, Graduate, History.
- Member, Master's Thesis, MA. "Might as Well Try to Direct the Wind: A Study of Women, Labor, and the Millinery Industry in Dallas, 1900-1940." Status: Completed. (January 2022-July 2022).
Student(s): Chelsea Morris, History, Texas State University.
- Member, Master's Thesis, MA. "Given Peanuts and Told to Make a Circus: Living History Programs at Philmont Scout Ranch, 1973-2019." Status: Completed. (September 2021-May 2022.)
History, Texas State University.
Student(s): Amber Hullum, Graduate, History.
- Member, Exit Exam, MA. "Public History Comprehensive Exam" Status: Completed. (May 2023-December 2023.)
History, Texas State University.
Student(s): Hannah Martin, Graduate, History.
- Member, Exit Exam, MA. "Public History Comprehensive Exam" Status: Completed. (December 2022-May 2023.)
History, Texas State University.
Student(s): Sarah Habeeb, Graduate, History.
- Member, Exit Exam, MA. "Public History Comprehensive Exam" Status: Completed. (December 2022-May 2023.)
History, Texas State University.
Student(s): Mallory Kazsa, Graduate, History.
- Member, Exit Exam, MA. "Public History Comprehensive Exam" Status: Completed. (January

2022-May 2022.)
History, Texas State University.
Student(s): Jaelyn Zapata, Graduate, History.

Other:

Guest Lecturer, What is Public History? w/ Dr. Justin Randolph, HIST 5361: Historiography, Dr. Margaret Menninger, 9/16/21.

Guest Lecturer, “A School Built Around the Girl”: Preserving Chicago’s Lucy Flower Technical School, HIST 4317Y: Global Teenager, Dr. Miranda Sachs, 2/10/21.

III. SCHOLARLY/CREATIVE

Books

Home Work: Gender, Child Labor, and Education for Girls in Urban America (University of Chicago Press, Forthcoming 2025)

Chapters in Books

“A School Built Around the Girl’: Uncovering Memories of Girlhood to Protect a Historic Public School and Diversify Chicago’s Built Environment,” in *A Girl Can Do: Recognizing and Representing Girlhood*, ed. Tiffany R. Isselhardt (Vernon Press, 2022).

Articles

“A Superior Kind of Working Woman’: The Contested Meaning of Vocational Education for Girls in Progressive-Era Chicago,” *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* (July 2021): 392-410. <https://digital.library.txstate.edu/handle/10877/13811>

Essays

“The New Revisionists: Recent Histories of Education, Inequality, and Urban Schooling.” *Journal of Urban History* (January 2023): 1-7.

Book Reviews

Teacher Strike! Public Education and the Making of a New American Political Order by Jon Shelton. *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* (April 2019): 228-229.

Reports

Contributor, “Hayden Springs Freedom Colony: A Post-Emancipation Freedmen Community in Northeastern Travis County, c. 1870-1928),” Travis County Historical Commission & Preservation Texas, September 2022.

Co-Author, “Chicago Vocational School, Chicago, IL.” Property SG100007996, National Register of Historic Places, NPS Form 10-900. Approved. March, 2022.

Author, "The Lucy Flower Technical High School for Girls, Chicago, IL." Property SG100000960, National Register of Historic Places, NPS Form 10-900. Approved. June, 2017.

Papers Presented at Professional Meetings

Paper: "Prevent Girls from Going Astray": Vocational Guidance Counseling as Vice Prevention in Progressive-Era Chicago." History of Education Society Conference, Chicago, IL, November 2024.

Panel Organizer: "Regulating Sexuality and Health in Progressive-Era Education."
Paper: Fit for Motherhood: Regulating Girls' Health and Labor in Progressive-Era Public Schools." History of Education Society Conference, Atlanta, GA, November 2023.

Panel Organizer: "Girlhood and Urban Space."
Paper: "Girlhood and Child Labor Reform in Chicago." Urban History Association Conference, Pittsburg, PA, October 2023.

Panel Organizer: "Undergraduate Engagement and The Hayden Springs Freedom Colony Project." Texas Real Places Conference, Austin, TX, February 2023.

Paper: "The New Homemakers': Educating Chicago Girls for Modern Motherhood, 1890-1915." Panel Organizer: "More than Maternalism: Rethinking Women's Reform in the Progressive Era." The Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, Santa Clara, CA (accepted, 2023).

Paper: "Gender, Labor, and the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917." History of Education Society Conference, Baltimore, MD, November 2022.

"Schools as Urban History: Exploring Chicago's Educational Landscape." American Historical Association Conference, Chicago, IL, January 2019.

"I Am Old Enough and Sufficiently Educated': How Chicago Girls Navigated Vocational Schooling and Employment, 1900-1930." History of Education Society Conference, Albuquerque, NM, November 2018.

"Schooling the Truant Boy and Restless Girl': Gender, Delinquency, and the Rise of Vocational Education in Chicago, 1880-1920." Urban History Association Conference, Columbia, SC, October 2018.

"To Prevent Girls from Going Astray': How Gender and Delinquency Shaped Vocational Education in Chicago, 1870-1910." Organization of Educational Historians Conference, Chicago, IL, October 2018.

"I Went in a Child, I Came Out a Perfect Lady:' Creating a Gendered Curriculum at Flower Tech, 1927-1960." International Standing Conference on the History of Education, Chicago, IL, August 2016.

“They Taught Us to Be Ladies:’ Lucy Flower Technical School for Girls, 1927-1960.”
University of Illinois Women's and Gender History Symposium, Urbana, IL, March 2016.

Invited Talks, Lectures, and Presentations

“The Fredericksburg Family Cemetery Project.” College of Liberal Arts (COLA) Salon Series, Texas State University, February 2023.

“Women and School Reform in Progressive-Era Chicago.” Newberry Library, Scholars' Colloquium, June 2020.

“A Girl’s Preparation for Life”: How Women Reformed Vocational Education in Progressive-Era Chicago.” Chicago History Museum, Urban History Seminar, February 2020.

“The Making of the Graduate Working Class: Perspectives on University Activism and Responsibility.” American Historical Association Conference, Chicago, IL, January 2019.

“The Lucy Flower Technical School for Girls.” Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency, Springfield, IL, February 2017.

Consultancies

Reviewer/Consultant, Women’s and Gender History Interpretive Guide, Office of Interpretation and Education, National Park Service, June 2021.

Evaluation Program Consultant, Glessner House and Clarke House Museums, Chicago, IL. January 2015 – May 2015.

Workshops

"Public History Methods in Teaching." Co-Session Lead with Nancy Berlage, AHA Texas Conference on Introductory History Courses, American Historical Association, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX. October 4, 2024.

"Public History Internship Info Session." Workshop Lead, History Department, Texas State University. January 2024.

"Public History Internship Info Session." Workshop Lead, History Department, Texas State University. January 2023.

“Fit for Motherhood: Gender, Child Labor, and Health Education for Girls, 1890-1915.” Women and Gender History Writing Group, Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, January 2022.

“A Place of Protection”: Domestic Education for Girls in Illinois Reform Schools.” Women and Gender History Writing Group, Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, January 2022.

“Superior Working Women: Trade Education for Girls in Chicago’s Public High Schools, 1900-1917.” Newberry Library Fellows’ Seminar, Chicago, IL, January 2020.

“The School-Bred Mother”: Educating Chicago Girls for Homemaking, 1890-1915.” Newberry Library Urban History Working Group, Chicago, IL, April 2019.

Scholarly / Creative Grants and Contracts

Research Enhancement Grant, Texas State University, \$8,000.00. (Funded: 2024 - Present).

Scholarly / Creative Fellowships, Awards, Honors

Fellowship Recipient: Scholar Residency, Newberry Library (August 2019 - June 2020).

Fellowship Recipient: Arthur J. Schmitt Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Loyola University Chicago (August 2019 - May 2020).

Award / Honor Recipient: King V. Hostick Research Scholarship, The Illinois State Historical Society (2018).

Media Recognition

Newspaper: CST Editorial Board, “Is Chicago Vocational School Headed for the National Register of Historic Places?” *Chicago Sun Times*, July 7, 2022. [Hyperlink](#).

Newspaper: Brianna Chavez, “Texas State Students Uncover History Behind Austin’s First Gay-Friendly Space,” *The University Star*, June 7, 2022. [Hyperlink](#).

Internet: NPS, “Women’s History Month Feature: The Lucy Flower Technical School for Girls,” *National Park Service*, March, 2022. [NPS Feature \(2022\)-1.pdf](#)

Magazine: Talia Baeza-Chavez, “Working Women: The History of Vocational Training for Girls in Progressive Era Chicago,” *Human Inquiry*, March 8, 2022. [Hyperlink](#).

TX: John-Carlos Estrada, “Texas State Students Uncover History Behind Austin’s First Gay-Friendly Public Space,” *CBS Austin*, August 12, 2021. [Hyperlink](#).

Internet: Julie Cooper, “Graduate Students Research History Behind Austin’s First Gay-Friendly Public Space,” *Texas State Newsroom*, June 18, 2021. [Hyperlink](#).

IV. SERVICE

Institutional

University

Organizer, “Public Engagement, Art, and Humanities for All with Dr. Michelle May-Curry.” April 2023). [May-Curry Event-1.png](#)

College

Member, Applied Humanities PhD Planning Committee. April 2023 - May 2023.

Department

Member, Search Committee: Tenure-Track Museum Studies and History. September 2024 - Present.

Co-organizer, Public History Day: Celebrating 25 Years of Public History at TXST. April 2023.

Internship Coordinator, Public History Concentration, Department of History, Texas State University, Fall 2021-Present.

Public History Committee, Department of History, Texas State University, Fall 2020-Present.

Ad Hoc Committee on Promotion for Professors of Practice, Department of History, Texas State University, Fall 2020-May 2021.

Ad Hoc Committee on Evaluation of Public History Scholarship, Department of History, Texas State University, Fall 2020-present.

Professional

Coordinator / Organizer, History Steward Program of the Texas Historical Commission. (December 2024 - Present).

Coordinator / Organizer, Preservation Austin Historic Homes Tour. (January 2024 - April 2024).
Adjudicator, Merit Awards Jury, Preservation Austin. (August 2023 - November 2023).

Reviewer / Referee, Journal of Public History. (December 2022).

Reviewer / Referee, New York History Journal. (November 2022).

Reviewer / Referee, *Writing Public Histories: Intersections in Theory and Practice* (Textbook - Bloomsbury Press), London. (July 2022).

Reviewer / Consultant, Women's and Gender History Interpretive Guide, Office of Interpretation and Education, National Park Service (June 2021).

Reviewer / Referee, *A Girl Can Do: Recognizing and Representing Girlhood* (Anthology - Vernon Press). (December 2020 - February 2021).

Member, American Historical Association Conference Local Arrangements Committee, Chicago. (2019).

Community

Member, Chicago Vocational School Restoration Project, Chicago, IL. (March 2020 - December 2022).

Board Member, Pioneer Farms, Austin. (March 6, 2021 - November 2022).

Volunteer, Calaboose African American History Museum, San Marcos, TX. (August 2022).

Organizer, Hayden Springs Oral History Workshop, Manor, TX. (May 2022).

Participant, Harvey Miller Day of Service, Dunbar Heritage Association. (November 2021).

Organization Memberships:

American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). (2020 - Present).

The Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era (SHGAPE). (2020 - Present).

National Trust on Historic Preservation (NTHP). (2019 - Present).

American Historical Association (AHA). (2018 - Present).

National Collaborative for Women's History Sites (NCWHS). (2017 - Present).

Urban History Association (UHA). (2016 - Present).

History of Education Society (HES). (2015 - Present).

National Council on Public History (NCPH). (2015 - Present)