

## JACOB BLANC

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### FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Modern Latin American and Caribbean history, borderlands and rural studies, environmental history, human rights and social memory.

### EMPLOYMENT

2017–present. Lecturer in Latin American History. University of Edinburgh.

### EDUCATION

**2017. Ph.D., Latin American History**, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**2013. M.A., Latin American History**, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**2010. B.A., History**, University of California, San Diego

### PUBLICATIONS

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#### Book:

*Before the Flood: the Itaipu Dam and the Visibility of Rural Brazil.*

(Durham, NC: Duke University Press), 2019.

- Honorable mention, 2020 Antonio Cândido best book prize, LASA Brazil Section
- Portuguese translation: *Antes do dilúvio: Itaipu e a história da ditadura no Campo.* (Rio de Janeiro: Editora Garamond), 2021.

*The Prestes Column and the Myth of Brazil's Interior.*

Forthcoming, Duke University Press

*Searching for Memory: Aluizio Palmar and the Shadow of Dictatorship in Brazil.*

Under review at University of North Carolina Press.

#### Edited Volume:

*Big Water: The Making of the Borderlands between Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay.*

Jacob Blanc and Frederico Freitas (eds). (Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press), 2018.

*The Interior: Rethinking Brazilian History from the Inside.*

Jacob Blanc and Frederico Freitas (eds). Solicited by University of Texas Press.

#### Articles and Chapters:

- “The Bandeirantes of Freedom: the Prestes Column and the Myth of Brazil's Interior.” *Hispanic American Historical Review*, 101:1 (Feb. 2021): 101-132.

- “A Relationship Forged in Exile: Luís Carlos Prestes and the Brazilian Communist Party,” in Becker et al (eds), *Transnational Communism Across the Americas*, University of Illinois Press, forthcoming.
- Invited guest editor for special issue on the state of Latin American environmental history. Introductory article: Jacob Blanc and Vladimir Sánchez-Calderón “La historia ambiental latinoamericana: cambios y permanencias de un campo en crecimiento.” *Historia Crítica* no. 74 (Oct.-Dec. 2019), 3-18.
- “Itaipu’s Forgotten History: the 1965 Brazil-Paraguay Border Crisis and the New Geopolitics of the Southern Cone.” *The Journal of Latin American Studies*, 50:2, (May 2018): 383-409.
- *Big Water* edited vol. “Introduction,” 3-21, and Ch. 6, “A Turbulent Border,” 211-241.
- “The Last Political Prisoner: Juvêncio Mazzarollo and the Twilight of Brazil’s Dictatorship.” *Luso-Brazilian Review*, 53:1 (June, 2016): 153-178.
  - Trans. “O último preso político: Juvêncio Mazzarollo no crepúsculo da ditadura military no Brasil.” *Tempos Históricos*, 20:2 (December, 2016): 396-424.
- “Enclaves of Inequality: Brasiguaios and the Transformation of the Brazil- Paraguay Borderlands.” *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 42:1 (January, 2015): 145-158.

#### **Public Scholarship and Media Appearances:**

- The Times (London) Radio, April 21, 2021. Invited commentary on history of Brasília.
- “The Inversion of Human Rights in Brazil,” *NACLA Report*, January 20, 2020.
  - Editor’s choice, Best of 2020

#### **Book Reviews:**

- Frederico Freitas, *Nationalizing Nature: Iguazu Falls and National Parks at the Brazil-Argentina Border*. (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2021). *Hispanic American Historical Review*, forthcoming.
- Mikael Wolf. *Watering the Revolution: An Environmental and Technological History of Agrarian Reform in Mexico*. (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2017). *The Latin Americanist*, forthcoming.
- Eve E. Buckley. *Technocrats and the Politics of Drought and Development in Twentieth-Century Brazil*. (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2017). *The Journal of Latin American Studies*, 50:3 (August 2018): 767-769.
- Regina Horta Duarte. *Activist Biology: The National Museum, Politics, and Nation Building in Brazil*. (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2016). *Environmental History*, 23:1 (January 2018): 205–206.
- Benjamin Cowan, *Securing Sex: Morality and Repression in Cold War Brazil*. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016). *Luso-Brazilian Review*, 54:2 (December 2017): E31-E33.

- Victoria Langland, *Speaking of Flowers: Student Movements and the Making and Remembering of 1968 in Military Brazil*. (Durham: Duke University Press, 2013). *Luso-Brazilian Review*, 51:2 (December, 2014): 219-222.

**Peer Reviewer:**

- *Latin American Research Review, The Journal of Latin American Studies, The Journal of Peasant Studies, The Journal of Latin American Geography, Revista de Historia Iberoamericana, The International Journal of Transitional Justice, Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, Routledge Press.

**FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS (selected)**

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British Academy/Leverhulme, Research Grant, 2021-22

Royal Society of Edinburgh, Research Grant, 2021-22

Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Early Career Leadership Fellowship, 2020-22

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship, 2020-21

Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Research Networking, 2020-22

Principal's Teaching Award (to start HCA Writing Centre), 2018

Carnegie Trust Research Incentive Grant, 2018

Social Science Research Council, International Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2014-2015

Fulbright-Hays, Doctoral Dissertation Research Award, 2014-2015

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**Team-taught survey courses:**

Global Connections since 1450

Making of the Modern World

The Global Economy since 1750

**Upper Division:**

Beyond Dictatorship: Human Rights in Latin America

History and Social Memory

Landscapes of Power: Brazil and its Histories

The "Other" in Latin American History

**Postgraduate**

American Borderlands: Histories of the Western Hemisphere

Modern Latin American History

Methods of Environmental History

Introduction to Contemporary History

**INVITED LECTURES**

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- Book talks for *Before the Flood*: University of St. Andrews, University of California, Berkeley, Stanford University, Oxford University, Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de

Janeiro. Podcast interviews: Historias, New Books in Latin American History, CSMCH Showcase.

- New Research on Latin American Borderlands, virtual seminar. Jan. 22, 2021.
- Os bandeirantes da liberdade: a Coluna Prestes e a mitologia do interior. Dec. 11, 2020. Universidade Federal Rio Grande do Norte, Campina Grande.
- Keynote speaker, University of Glasgow, Postgraduate Student Conference, May 22, 2019.
- The Visibility of Rural Brazil: The Itaipu Dam and the Experience of Dictatorship in the Countryside. Institute for Historical Research, University of London. Dec. 5, 2017.
- Dictatorship and Democracy in the Brazilian Countryside: Rural Perspectives and New Periodizations. Centre for the Study of Modern and Contemporary History, University of Edinburgh. Nov. 14, 2017.
- Land, Legitimacy, and Dictatorship: The Itaipu Dam and the Visibility of Rural Brazil. Duke University, Global Brazil Lab, Feb. 17, 2017.
- As raízes de Itaipu: as dinâmicas ineditas da fronteira Brasil-Paraguai. Universidade de Brasília (UnB) Apr. 29, 2015

## **WORKSHOPS CONVENED**

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- The Interior: Rethinking Brazilian History from the Inside.
  - o AHRC-funded collaborative project. Virtual workshop, Oct. 14 and 17, 2020.
- Life History and Cultures of Militancy in Latin America's Cold War
  - o Virtual workshop, June 10, 2021.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (selected)**

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- Memory in the Time of Impunity: Constructions of Truth in the Shadow of Brazil's Dictatorship. Latin American Studies Association (LASA), May 27, 2021.
- Contested Paths of Memory: Monuments to the Prestes Column in Brazil. Reckonings & Revisions, Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy at the Institute for International and Development Studies. Geneva, Switzerland, March 19, 2021.
- Bandeirantes of Freedom: the Prestes Column as an Interior History of Brazil. American Historical Association (AHA), New York, January 5, 2020.
- The Accidental Excursion: the Prestes Column Rebellion and the Myth of Brazil's Interior. Society for Latin American Studies (SLAS), Leicester, UK, April 5, 2019.
- ST Before the M: The Itaipu Dam and the Paraná Roots of the Landless Workers Movement. Brazilian Studies Association, (BRASA), Rio de Janeiro, July 25, 2018.
- As Seen from the Interior: the Prestes Column and Perceptions of Brazil in the 1920s. Brazilian Regionalism in a Global Context, Univ. of Birmingham, May 30, 2018.
- Whose *Abertura*? Itaipu and the Politics of Rights and Race in Brazil's Struggle for Democracy." International Conference of the American Portuguese Studies Association (APSA), Stanford University, CA, October 2017.
- Joined in Struggle, Divided by Land: Itaipu and the Meanings of Rural Mobilization in Paraná, 1973-1985. VII Simpósio de la Sociedad Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Historia Ambiental, Quilmes, Argentina, October, 2015

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

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- Panelist, forum on the Amazon fires. Edinburgh Politics Union, Oct. 10, 2019.

- Organizer, public forum on Brazil's presidential elections, Edinburgh, Nov. 23, 2018.
- Interview, *Retrospect* podcast, Cold War legacies of Brazilian politics, Nov. 9, 2018.
- The Many Meanings of Amnesty in Brazil, 1964-2014. Invited talk at the Amnesty International Scottish Student Conference, Edinburgh, Mar. 10, 2018.

## UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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### Department Duties:

- Founder and Director, HCA Writing Centre
- Program Director for Masters in Contemporary History
- Postgraduate Recruitment and Engagement Officer
- Steering Committee, Centre for the Study of Modern and Contemporary History

**Affiliations:** Edinburgh Environmental Humanities Network; Centre for Contemporary Latin American Studies.

**Selection Committee,** 2020 Antonio Candido Best Book prize on Brazil

**Selection Committee,** 2021-22 research fellowship, IASH, Edinburgh.

**Research Consultant,** 2016-2017, Centro Nacional de Memoria Histórica, Colombia

**Contributing Researcher,** Paraná State Truth Commission, Brazil 2017

## LANGUAGES

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**Portuguese:** fluent

**Spanish:** fluent

**French:** advanced in reading, writing, and speaking

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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Latin American Studies Association (LASA)

American Historical Association (AHA)

Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA)

Conference on Latin American History (CLAH)

Sociedad Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Historia Ambiental (SOLCHA)

Associação de Brazilianistas na Europa (ABRE)

Society for Latin American Studies (SLAS)