**Personal Biography**

When I was in the fourth grade, I fell in love with the Titanic, and by extension, with history. That same year, my teacher, Ms. Donovan, informed me that the California Gold Rush began on my birthday. Even as a youngster, I was excited by the past and how it continued to resurrect itself in the present. As the son of a Christian minister, I was invariably excited by the kings of Samaria and Judea.

I knew by the time I reached university that I wanted to study history. Initially, I studied European history. After I graduated from Azusa Pacific University, I became enamored with Latin American history. I wrote a paper on Manifest Destiny and the Mexican American War for my history graduate applications. Accepted to the University of Chicago, I became enamored with the regime of Rafael Leonidas Trujillo, his cult of personality, and the cultural as well as physical conflicts he encouraged between Haitians and Dominicans.

I am thankful to be able to study at the doctoral level at Tulane University. I have worked in the archives in Santo Domingo during the last two summers and intend to work at least half of next summer in the Dominican Republic. While I am still finessing my dissertation project—I hope to write something that has to do with queerness during Trujillo’s regime—I enjoy the process of discovery itself that the archive harbors.