

B. ALEX BEASLEY, PH.D.

Department of American Studies
The University of Texas at Austin
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

2018 - present **The University of Texas at Austin**
Assistant Professor, Department of American Studies
Faculty Affiliate, Department of History
Faculty Affiliate, The LGBTQ Studies Program
Core Faculty, Center for Women's & Gender Studies

EDUCATION

2016 **Ph.D. in American Studies**, with distinction
Yale University, New Haven, CT
Qualification in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Yale University
Certification in Economic Research Methods, Cornell History of Capitalism Initiative
Dissertation: "At Your Service: Houston and the Preservation of U.S. Global Power"
Honorable Mention, 2017 Betty M. Unterberger Dissertation Prize (SHAFR)

2010 **M.A. in History**
Yale University, New Haven, CT

2009 **M.S. in Urban Affairs**, *summa cum laude*
Hunter College, The City University of New York, New York, NY

2007 **B.A. in History**, with highest honors
The University of Georgia, Athens, GA

RESEARCH AND TEACHING SPECIALITIES

U.S. & the World	Urban Studies	Environmental Humanities
History of Capitalism	Gender & Sexuality Studies	Digital & Public Humanities

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Expert Capital: Houston and the Making of a Service Empire, under contract with Harvard University Press.

Works in Progress

"Soul City, Black Capitalism, and Rural Renewal in the 1970s." In preparation.

"Monetizing Motherhood: Extreme Couponing and Sanctioned Consumption." In preparation, *Dissent*.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- 2019 "The Strange Career of Donald Rumsfeld: Military Logistics and the Routes from Vietnam to Iraq." *Radical History Review* 1 January 2019; 2019 (133): 56–77.
- 2018 "Globalization and the American City." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History*. September 2018. <http://oxfordre.com/americanhistory/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.001.0001/acrefore-9780199329175-e-655>.
- 2018 "Wildcat: Outsourcing, Expertise, and Oil in Postwar Houston," in Touraj Atabaki, Elisabetta Bini, and Kaveh Ehsani, eds., *Working for Oil: Comparative Social Histories of Labor in the Global Oil Industry* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018), Pages 257–284.
- 2018 "Service Learning: Oil, International Education, and Texas's Corporate Cold War." *Diplomatic History*, Volume 42, Issue 2, 1 April 2018, Pages 177–203.
- 2009 "Fighting for a Radical City: Student Protesters and the Politics of Space in 1960s and 1970s Downtown Manhattan." *Urban History Review* 37:2 (March 2009): 6–17.
- 2005 "Damsels in Distress, Frustrated Old Women, and the Masculine Enterprise: A Feminist Interpretation of the Actions and Language of the Vietnam War." *Global Topics* 3 (Spring 2005).

Writing for Broad Audiences

- "What Pete Buttigieg Gets Wrong About Free Tuition," *Washington Post* (February 7, 2020).
- "Podcasting History." *The American Historian* (OAH publication), August 2017.
- "Another New Kind of Marriage." *Public Seminar* (July 20, 2015), www.publicseminar.org.
- "Broadcasting Capitalism's History." With David Stein. *U.S. Intellectual History Blog* (July 4, 2014).

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

Fellowships

- 2019–2022 Humanities Research Award, College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas at Austin (\$5000/year for 3 years to support book research)
- 2019 Summer Research Assignment, College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas at Austin
- 2018–2019 Charles Warren Fellowship, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University (declined)
- 2018–2019 NEH Hagley Postdoctoral Fellowship on Business, Culture, and Society (declined)
- 2017 Selected Participant, SHAFR Summer Institute on the Cultures of National Security, Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK, July 2017
- 2017–2018 Member, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ
- 2017–2018 Dickey Center Fellow, US Foreign Policy & International Security, Dartmouth College (declined)
- 2017–2018 Ciriacy-Wantrup Fellow in Natural Resource Economics, UC Berkeley (declined)
- 2017–2018 Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Digital Humanities, University of Pennsylvania (declined)
- 2017–2018 Provost's Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of South Florida (declined)
- 2016–2017 Harvard University Mahindra Humanities Center Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2016–2017 Temple University CENFAD Fellow in International History (declined)
- 2016–2017 Visiting Scholar, American Academy of Arts & Sciences (declined)
- 2014–2015 Miller Center National Fellowship, The University of Virginia
- 2014–2015 John E. Rovensky Fellowship in U.S. Business or Economic History
- 2014–2015 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship (declined)

Major Honors and Awards

2019	Winner, SHAFR's Stuart L. Bernath Scholarly Article Prize, for the best article published in 2018, written by a junior scholar and appearing in a scholarly journal or edited book, on any topic in United States foreign relations
2019	Finalist, New Generation Award, United Association for Labor Education
2017	Honorable Mention, SHAFR's Betty M. Unterberger Dissertation Prize
2016	Departmental Nominee, American Studies Association's Ralph Gabriel Prize
2016	Departmental Nominee, Society of American Historians' Nevins Prize
2007	Elected Phi Beta Kappa
2006	History Scholars Finalist, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
2005	First Annual Recipient, Edwin H. Sherman Family Prize in Force and Diplomacy

Research Grants

2014	SHAFR Samuel Flagg Bemis Dissertation Research Grant
2014	Yale Alumni Club of Philadelphia Graduate Fellowship
2013	Smith Research Travel Award, Briscoe Center for American History (UT Austin)
2013	American Historical Association Beveridge Grant
2013	Global South Fellowship, New Orleans Center for the Gulf South (Tulane University)
2013	Coca-Cola World Fund Fellow (for research in Norway)
2013	Henry Belin du Pont Research Fellowship, Hagley Museum & Library (2 weeks)
2013	Clements-DeGolyer Research Grant, Southern Methodist University
2013	James Butler Bonham Research Grant, Southern Methodist University
2013	Research Award, Yale International Security Studies (for research in Norway)
2012	Yale University John F. Enders Fellowship
2011	Yale University Agrarian Studies Graduate Student Grant, 2011
2010	Gilder Lehrman Center Summer Graduate Research Fellowship, Yale University
2010	Archie K. Davis Fellowship, The North Caroliniana Society

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The University of Texas at Austin, Assistant Professor, Department of American Studies

Undergraduate Survey Lecture

Main Currents of American Culture Since 1865

First Year Small Seminar

Emotions in History (forthcoming)

Upper-Division Undergraduate Seminars

Energy & U.S. Capitalism

Globalization and the U.S. City

U.S. Masculinities

Wealth and Poverty in the U.S. (forthcoming)

Graduate Seminar

U.S. Capitalism & Culture

Dissertation Advising

Monica Mohseni (member)

Caroline Johnson (member)

Robert Oxford (member)

Orals Committees

Monica Mohseni (member)

Whitney May (member)

Coyote Shook (member)

Hartlyn Haynes (member)

B. Alex Beasley

Drexel University, Department of History and Politics

Lecturer

U.S. History, 1815-1900

Yale University, Departments of History and American Studies

Lecturer

United States Cities in a Global Age

Teaching Assistant

African American History: Emancipation to the Present (with Jonathan Holloway)

U.S. Political and Social History, 1900-1945 (with Beverly Gage)

Guest Lecture: "Mobilizing for World War II"

U.S. Lesbian and Gay History (with George Chauncey)

Hunter College CUNY, Department of Urban Affairs and Planning

Teaching Assistant

Urban Life (with Roby Causey)

Guest Lecture: "Jane Jacobs and Community Planning in New York"

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

"Oilfield Services and American Empire." University of Chicago, Department of History, Chicago, IL, February 21, 2019.

"Expert Capital: Houston and the Making of a Service Empire." Rice University, Department of History, Houston, Texas, January 15, 2019.

"Houston and North Sea Oil." A Celebration of Glenda Gilmore's Career, Yale University, New Haven, CT, April 21, 2018.

"Service Empire." Vanderbilt Transnational History Workshop, Nashville, TN, March 14, 2018.

"Texas Oil Experts and Labor Contracting." Andrew W. Mellon Seminar on Violence and Non-Violence Closing Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, October 19-20, 2017.

"Houston's Global Oil Culture." Cultures of Energy Research Symposium, Rice University's Center for Energy and Environmental Research in the Human Sciences, Houston, Texas, April 13-15, 2017.

"Podcasts and the Future of Public History." Roundtable, The Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 6-9, 2017.

"The Sunbelt and Globalization." New Cities, Future Ruins, Dallas, Texas, November 11-14, 2016.

"Houston Has a Labor History?" The Project Row Houses, Houston, Texas, June 5, 2016.

"Podcasting History: A Roundtable Discussion." The American Historical Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, January 7-10, 2016.

Discussant

Chair and commentator, "Viscous Histories: The Environments of the American Petroleum Industry." The Tenth Biennial Conference of the Urban History Association. Detroit, MI, October 21-24, 2021.

Moderator and Interlocutor with Alex Weheliye, Materiality of the Commons conference, University of Texas at Austin, April 17-18, 2020 (conference canceled, COVID-19).

Chair and commentator for the panel "Strange Bedfellows: Corporations and the Company They Keep." Business History Conference. Charlotte, North Carolina, March 12-14, 2020 (panel canceled, COVID-19).

Respondent on Ali Nabours, "Huey P. Long and Southern Socialism," Institute for Historical Studies Workshop, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, October 21, 2019.

Commentator on Owen Gutfreund, "Intrametropolitan Cooperation or Competition? Dallas and Ft. Worth and Their Airports, 1917-2017," Land, Property, and Power in the Modern Metropolis Workshop, Princeton-Mellon Initiative on Architecture, Urbanism, and the Humanities, Princeton, NJ, November 16, 2017.

Chair and commentator for the panel "Cities in Crisis: The Varied Impacts of War on the Urban Landscape, 1865-1939." Urban History Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 9-12, 2014.

Papers Presented

"Roundtable: Logistics and Empire." Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association. Baltimore, MD, November 12-15, 2020.

"Oil and the Middle Class." Petrocultures 2020. Stavanger, Norway, August 26-29, 2020.

"Roundtable: The U.S. South in the Twentieth-Century World." Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Meeting. New Orleans, Louisiana, June 18-20, 2020 (conference canceled, COVID-19).

"Experts in the Oilfields." Organization of American Historians Meeting. Philadelphia, PA, April 4-6, 2019.

"Wildcatters and Wildcat Strikes." United Association for Labor Education Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, April 2-5, 2019.

"Roundtable: Militarism and Capitalism: The Work and Wages of Violence." American Studies Association Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA, November 8-11, 2018.

"Roundtable: Ideology, Materiality, and Imperial America." Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, Philadelphia, PA, June 21-24, 2018.

"Contracted Responsibility: Oilfield Services Firms and Environmental Calamity." 2018 Business History Conference, Baltimore, MD, April 5-7, 2018.

"The Houston of Europe." The American Historical Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., January 4-7, 2018.

"Roundtable: U.S. and the World and the History of Capitalism." Society for Historians of Foreign Relations 2017 Annual Meeting, Arlington, Virginia, June 22-24, 2017.

"The Mechanics of Service: Houston Oilfield Services Companies Meet the Norwegian Welfare State in the North Sea, 1969-1979." Harvard Graduate Student Conference on International History, Cambridge, MA, March 10-11, 2016.

"Oil Futures: Petrochemical Services and the Culture of US Global Power after 1973," on panel "History, Economics, and the Wide-Ranging Impacts of the 1973 Oil Shock on US Foreign Relations." American Historical Association Annual Conference, New York, NY, January 2-5, 2015.

"Wildcat: Outsourcing, Expertise, and Oil in Postwar Houston." The Cornell Conference on the Histories of American Capitalism, Ithaca, NY, November 6-8, 2014.

"Wildcat: Outsourcing, Expertise, and Oil in Postwar Houston." Conference on Labor Politics in the Oil Industry: New Historical Perspectives, Padua, Italy, October 24, 2014.

"Service Learning: International Education and the Cultural Logics of Petrochemical Services," on the panel "Both a Borrower and a Lender Be: Complicating Imperial Hierarchies in the American Century." American Studies Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., November 21-24, 2013.

"Petrochemical Services and the Culture of U.S. Global Power after 1973." Business and Politics in 20th Century America Conference, Hagley Library and Museum, Wilmington, DE, November 8, 2013.

"Port Diplomacy: Sunbelt Development and Global Visions at the Port of Houston, 1945-1960." The Sixth Biennial Urban History Association Conference, New York, NY, October 26-28, 2012.

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"A New South and a New City: Race and Rural Modernization in Soul City, North Carolina, 1969-1980." The Business History Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA, March 29-31, 2012.

"A New South and a New City: Negotiating Race, Constructing Region, and Building Soul City, North Carolina, 1969-1980." The Fifth Biennial Urban History Association Conference, The University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV, October 20-23, 2010.

"Fighting for a Radical City: Student Protesters and the Politics of Space in 1960s and 1970s Downtown Manhattan." James A. Barnes Conference, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, April 11, 2008.

"Damsels in Distress, Frustrated Old Women, and the Masculine Enterprise: Gendered Constructs in U.S. Relations with Vietnam, 1963-1968." The University of Massachusetts Graduate History Association's 2nd Annual Spheres of Power Conference, Amherst, MA, October 22, 2005.

Campus Talks

"Service Diplomacy: The Cultural Economy of Houston's American Century." Yale University Urban History Working Group, New Haven, CT, May 2, 2013.

Prospectus Workshop. Yale University Urban History Working Group, New Haven, CT, March 27, 2012.

Roundtable Member, "Conferences 101." Yale Graduate Writing Center, New Haven, CT, March 27, 2012.

"A New South and a New City: Race and Rural Modernization in Soul City, North Carolina, 1969-1980." Gilder Lehrman Center Brown Bag Lunch Talk, New Haven, CT, March 20, 2012.

"A New South City." Southern History Working Group, Yale, New Haven, CT, October 5, 2010.

Additional Conference Participation

Invited Chair, "Queer City Limits: Expanding Perspectives on Class and Region in LGBTQ Studies," 2011 Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Los Angeles, CA, January 6-9, 2011.

Invited Reader, "Queering the Countryside" Symposium and Workshop, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, November 6-7, 2010.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Current Service

Elected Member, Faculty Council, University of Texas, 2019-2021

Appointed Member, Committee on Financial Aid to Students, Faculty Council, 2019-2020

Book Review Editor, *Enterprise & Society*, 2018-2021.

Organizer, Trans Thinking/Thinking Trans 2020, UT Austin, October 22-24, 2020.

On-Site Director, Economic Methods for Historians, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, July 12-25, 2020 (potentially canceled because of COVID-19).

Co-Founder, Co-Host, and Producer, *Who Makes Cents: A History of Capitalism Podcast*, 2013-2020

Steering Committee, Yale University Energy History Public Humanities Project, 2016-2018

Curriculum Consultant, Yale University Energy History Public Humanities Project, 2016-2018

Manuscript Review

Radical History Review

Critical Historical Studies

Business History Review

Previous Service

Student Chair, The Urban History Working Group, Yale University, 2010-2012

Writing Tutor, Yale College Writing Center, 2010-2011

Editor, *The Journal of Undergraduate History Scholarship*, UGA, 2006-2007

President, Phi Alpha Theta, Epsilon Pi (History Honor Society), UGA, 2006-2007

Editor, *The Journal for Undergraduate Research Opportunities*, UGA, 2004-2007

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND HONORS

Institutional Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

UT Austin Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost and the School of Information Tuition Award, National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity Faculty Success Program

Faculty Travel Grant, University of Texas at Austin, 2018-2019

Academic Enrichment Fund Award (\$2500), University of Texas at Austin, 2019-2020

Harvard Postdoctoral Awards for Professional Development, Summer 2017

Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences University Fellowship, 2009-2014

Summer Language Fellowship, Yale University, 2010

Charter Scholarship, four-year award for outstanding Honors Program students, 2003-2007

Winner, Alf Andrew Heggoy Award for the Best Senior History Paper, 2007

Courts International Scholarship, University of Georgia Honors Program, 2006

Second Prize, University of Georgia Libraries Undergraduate Research Award, 2007

CURO Scholar, The Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities, 2007

Travel Grant, UGA Department of History and the Honors Program, 2005-2006

Kicklighter Scholarship from the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages, 2005

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Urban History Association

Business History Conference

American Studies Association

American Historical Association

Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations

Organization of American Historians

LANGUAGES

Basic Russian; basic French; basic Spanish