

PATH IFI Fellows 2017-2022

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Kevan Malone
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Kevan Malone is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History at the University of California- San Diego. His research examines the political ecology of urbanization in the San Diego-Tijuana Borderlands during the twentieth century and the role of international diplomacy in the governance of these cities. Kevan has received a graduate fellowship for the Mellon Sawyer Seminar on Cities at UCSD's International Institute, a James and Sylvia Thayer Research Fellowship for work in the UCLA Library Special Collections, a Kenneth and Dorothy Hill Fellowship for research in the UCSD Special Collections and Archives, and a Tinker Field Research Grant. He has also received a Jane and Jiao Fan '94 Prize for Best Advocate for Graduate Research and represented UCSD at the University of California's Graduate Research Advocacy Day in 2018. Kevan began his higher education at the Borough of Manhattan Community College of the City University of New York (CUNY) and completed his Bachelor of Arts at New York University's Gallatin School of Individualized Study. He earned a Master of Arts in American studies at the CUNY Graduate Center. Kevan's pedagogy seeks to emphasize that studying history is not about understanding the past for its own sake, but rather about understanding the present. Ultimately, he plans to hold a university faculty position and pursue research that will engage local urban communities, policymakers, and the public more broadly.



Kevan Aguilar
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Kevan Antonio Aguilar is a PhD candidate in the Department of History at UC San Diego. He received his BA in History at CSU Long Beach and his MA in Latin American Studies at UC San Diego. His doctoral research examines the social and political relationships between Mexican communities and Spanish political exiles during and after the Mexican Revolution and Spanish Civil War. Aguilar's research has received support from the Fulbright-Hays program and the Social Science Research Council.



Betty Ramirez
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Betty Ramirez is a doctoral student in the UCSD Department of Literature. Her dissertation deals with innovations in the Latin American and Latino/a detective genre and analyzes how these novels configure a number of economic and political issues in Mexico, Chile, the U.S.-Mexico border and the greater U.S. region and urban centers. A bilingual Literature student with a strong background in the Humanities, she has worked for several years as a Teaching Assistant in the Revelle Humanities program teaching literature and composition. Since coming to UCSD Betty has worked with a variety of student affairs departments, including the Office of Graduate Studies upon her arrival to UCSD. She has also worked as an assistant in the UCSD Summer Training Academy for Research Success (STARS) program. As an elected officer in the Graduate Student Association, she has helped graduate students present their requests to the UCSD administration for assistance with housing, rent control, transportation and community development.



Maria Carreras
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Maria Carreras is a PhD Candidate in the Department of History. Her higher education career began in Long Beach, Ca, where she was born and raised, and received an BA and MA in History from California State University, Long Beach. Carreras has TA'ed for the Making of the Modern World writing program, served as the program's Academic Support TA, and will be a lecturer for the program in the summer teaching a course on 20th century world history. She was awarded the Don Tuzin TA excellence award for 2019-2020. As a Summer Graduate Teaching fellow, Carreras taught a course on the History of Childhood, emphasizing how ethnic and racial identities are forged and transmitted, how gender identity is constructed, and how social class is passed on from one generation to the next. Her dissertation, "A Local Affair: 'Civilizing' Barcelona's Children during the Franco Dictatorship, 1939-1975" looks at the way in which the people of Barcelona challenged the Spanish state's efforts to unify and homogenize the nation by organizing and conceptualizing modernity at the local level. By using childhood as a category of analysis, it looks at way in which the urban sphere can be used as a space to establish new forms of governance, challenging the national political structure. Recently, Carreras published an article in the peer-reviewed journal *The International Journal of the History of Sport*. Lastly, given her interdisciplinary research focus, she has been able to include a series of theoretical and methodological approaches from disciplines in the humanities and social sciences to her teaching.



Alexis Meza
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Alexis Meza is a PhD candidate in the Department of History at UC San Diego. She is from the San Fernando Valley and received her bachelor's degree in History and Latin American and Iberian Studies from UC Santa Barbara. Her dissertation research examines the politics of historical and collective memory of the Salvadoran diaspora. In her work she centers migrant and refugee oral history, memory, and epistemologies. As a graduate student Alexis has worked with the state-wide organization the Unión Salvadoreña de Estudiantes Universitarios and UCSD's Student-Worker Collective. Alexis has previously taught courses on Latina/o Studies, Immigration and Refugee Studies, and the U.S.-Mexico Border in the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of San Diego. She has also taught in the Chicana/o Studies Department at San Diego City College as part of the Concurrent Enrollment College and Career Access Pathways program. In the San Diego community, she is active in transborder migrant and refugee justice and solidarity movements.



Ivana Polić
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Ivana Polić is a doctoral candidate in Modern European History in the History Department at University of California San Diego, where she also works as a Teaching Assistant for Eleanor Roosevelt's well-regarded Making of the Modern World Program. Her research focuses on the history of childhood and youth. She explores the importance of these generations in large scale processes such as modern nation and state building. Her dissertation project, "The (Re)Making of Young Patriots: Children and Nation Building in Wartime Croatia (1990-1995)," looks at the centrality of children and childhood in 1990s Croatia, where nation building took place in the midst of an ethnic conflict unseen in Europe since the Second World War. This dissertation research has been supported by the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies Research Grant, Association for Women in Slavic Studies Graduate Research Award, UC's Frontiers of Innovation Scholars Program fellowship, UCSD's International Institute Research Grant, and Friends of the International Center Fellowship. She was born in Rijeka, Croatia, where she also received her Bachelor's and Master's degree in History and English, both teaching-oriented majors. After moving to San Diego in 2014, her capacity as an international student at UCSD as well as engagement with the (South)Eastern European immigrant community in the wider San Diego area allowed her to gain some insights related to the concerns of students attending the city's community colleges.



Thomas Chan
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Thomas Chan is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). He completed his BA in History at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities before coming to UCSD in 2015. His dissertation, “Public Sacrifices of the Living Dead: Creative Violence and the Pathologization of Drug Criminals in Twentieth-Century China” analyzes how 20th century Chinese governments used historical memory, international medical studies, and communal anger to dehumanize drug users and traffickers from 1906 to 1953. His research has been supported by national and international organizations and foundations such as the American Council of Learned Societies, the Esherick-Ye Family Foundation, the Fulbright Foundation, the China National Scholarship Council, the UCSD Chancellor’s Interdisciplinary Collaboratory, and the Institute of Arts and Humanities at UCSD. He contributed a project on the precarity of migrant workers in Taiwan films to the edited volume *Locating Taiwan Cinema in the Twenty-First Century* in 2020. He teaches Chinese and East Asian history, with a critical focus on histories of science, violence and policing in the UCSD History Department, and has taught in the Dimensions of Culture College Writing program at UCSD’s Thurgood Marshall College as a teaching assistant. He has also served as the History Department’s Graduate Diversity Representative.



Heather Paulson
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Heather is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Literature at UCSD. Her research examines the ways that feminist communal communities help create healing spaces for working-class people of multiracial backgrounds during periods of environmental and economic crisis. Heather was the first in her family to attend college and is an alum of San Diego Miramar College and UC Berkeley, graduating with the highest honors in English and Gender and Women’s Studies. She taught various educational levels predominantly in low-income schools for nearly a decade while also earning a Master of Education degree at the University of Hawai’i, Mānoa before returning to get her Ph.D. at UCSD. Both her experience as a first-generation college student and her research on labor, gender, and race continue to influence her pedagogical philosophy centering social justice and equity.



Youngoh Jung
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Youngoh Jung is a PhD candidate in the History Department and the Critical Gender Studies Graduate Specialization Program. He specializes in Asian American history with a focus on transpacific militarism during the Cold War. His dissertation, *Unsettling Militancy: Rethinking the Korean Diaspora in the Militarized Transpacific*, examines the history of diasporic Korean militarism and alternative identity/community formations in the Korean diaspora beyond the realm of the US Military Empire in the Asia-Pacific. Before starting his doctorate program at UCSD, Jung received his M.A. in East Asian Studies from the University of Toronto where he specialized in the history of authoritarian militarization in South Korea. His work in Korean history has been published in the *Trans-Humanities Journal* in 2014. Jung served as the teaching assistant for the Race and Oral History in San Diego course for the last three years, the course component of the larger Race and Oral History in San Diego project. This course focuses on fostering community knowledge and voices over extractive academic methodologies through empathetic forms of oral history as well as building relationships between institutions of higher education and local communities. Jung is an alumnus of San Diego Mesa College, transferring to UCSD in 2008, and has been involved with youth initiatives in the San Diego Korean American community.