

# 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 (SHA FR)

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

- “Podcasting History.” *The American Historian* (OAH publication), August 2017.
- “Another New Kind of Marriage.” *Public Seminar* (July 20, 2015), [www.publicseminar.org](http://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

## External Research Travel 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)

**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**

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**

"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.

"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.

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“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.

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

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

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

### **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 COLA Recipient of Sponsorship, National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity Faculty Success Program, Spring 2020

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

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

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