



**Improving the Research Experience:
A Workshop for Graduate Students in Western American History**

Thursday October 18, 2018
1:30-3:00 PM, St. Tropez Room

Sponsored by The Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University

Organized by the Western History Librarian/Archivist/Curator Group

ADMISSION BY ADVANCE APPLICATION ONLY

PRESENTERS:

Laurie Arnold (WHA Membership Chair and Director, Native American Studies Program, Gonzaga University)

Peter J. Blodgett (Huntington Library)

Lisa Duncan (University of South Dakota Archives and Special Collections)

Tamsen Hert (University of Wyoming Special Collections)

Ginny Kilander (American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming)

George Miles (Beinecke Library, Yale University)

Jacquelyn Reese (University of Oklahoma Western History Collections)

Theresa Salazar (Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley)

Laurie Scrivener (University of Oklahoma Scholarly Services and Research Initiatives)

Today's graduate students in western history confront an increasing array of unyielding obstacles in launching their careers. Each year, they must scramble to keep up with the accelerating pace of changes in everything from the descriptive tools created by libraries and archives to the proliferation of digital resources generated by cultural institutions. Moreover, given the shrinking pool of dollars for projects in the humanities, graduate students face a steadily more ferocious competition for fellowships, research awards and grants in general. Believing as we do that the graduate student community represents an essential dimension of western history's future, we have developed the following workshop in collaboration with the WHA as a means of helping to meet what we see as particularly crucial needs for the next generation of scholars.

This workshop will run from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM on Thursday, November 2 and will consist of three forty-five minute sessions, preceded by a ten-minute introduction and incorporating two ten-minute breaks. The sessions will address the following topics:

- Introduction: Overview of the workshop goals
- Session #1: Fellowships, research awards and grant seeking in general.
- Session #2: Preparing effective approaches to research institutions and effectively navigating the reading room.
- Session #3: Plotting out the research project: individual/small-group conversations about the dissertations being pursued by the workshop attendees.

In order to keep the size manageable for the instructors and to enhance the quality of the experience for the participants, attendance at this inaugural version will be capped at 20 graduate students, selected through advance application; preference will be given to those who are at an earlier point in their pursuit of a Ph.D. so that they will have the maximum opportunity to benefit from what they learn in the workshop. Other graduate students, however, may be admitted on a space-available basis. In hopes of assisting those who attend the workshop with defraying conference costs, we will be able to provide each graduate student participant with a \$200 honorarium thanks to the generous support of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University. You will receive this honorarium from the WHA Office immediately following the conference in San Diego.

Graduate students wishing to apply for the workshop should send an e-mail to westernhistoryassociation@gmail.com with the words "2018 Grad Student Workshop" in the subject line. The e-mail should include an attached word document which identifies the following:

1. Student's institutional affiliation
2. Description of what stage of her or his program the student has reached
3. Enumerate the student's research experience to date
4. Provide an overview of the student's dissertation. (The overview should summarize the topic, including chronological and geographic parameters, collections of original sources already consulted and all research institutions that the student has visited or will visit in the course of pursuing the dissertation.)
5. The e-mail and document should also include a preferred surface mail address.

Applications for the workshop should be received by **Monday, September 17, 2018 to westernhistoryassociation@gmail.com and *questions* may be directed to Peter J. Blodgett at pblodgett@huntington.org**