

# JESSICA ORDAZ

Department of Ethnic Studies  
University of Colorado Boulder  
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## **EDUCATION**

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Ph.D., American History, University of California, Davis, 2017  
M.A. American History, University of California, Davis, 2014  
M.A. American Studies, California State University, Fullerton, 2011  
B.A. History, Women's Studies, Global Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2008

## **ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

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Assistant Professor, Ethnic Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2018-present

Andrew W. Mellon Sawyer Seminar Postdoctoral Fellow on "Capitalism and Comparative Racialization," The Washington Institute for the Study of Inequality and Race, University of Washington, Seattle, 2017-2018

Lecturer, Chicana/o Studies, San Diego Mesa College, 2015

Lecturer, Chicano/Latino Studies, University of California, Irvine, 2012

Lecturer, American Studies, California State University, Fullerton, 2012

## **ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS**

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Associate, Women and Gender Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2019-present

Affiliate, History Department, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2019-present

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONSULTING**

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### ***Editing Consultant***

Reviewed chapters for K-12 Ethnic Studies Textbook, Gibbs Smith Education, 2023

### ***Courses and Workshops***

Ancestral Arts: Herbal, Folk, and Indigenous Craft, The Curanderx Toolkit, Fall 2023

Hood Herbalism, Herbal Education for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, Winter 2023

Alexis Pauline Gumbs, Stardust and Salt: A Daily Creative Practice Series, Summer 2022

Agua Sangre Healing, Small Seeds: Nurturing Liberated Futures Through Wonder and Water, Fall 2021

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### ***Books***

Jessica Ordaz, *The Shadow of El Centro: A History of Migrant Incarceration and Solidarity* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2021).

### **Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

Jessica Ordaz, "The Detention and Deportation Regime as a Conduit of Death: Memorializing and Mourning Migrant Loss." *Field Guide to the History of Hate* (Berkeley: University of California Press), 2021.

Jessica Ordaz, "AIDS Knows No Borders: HIV, AIDS, and Migrant Detention in the US." *Radical History Review*, Issue 40 (May 2021): 175-185.

Jessica Ordaz, "La Lucha Obrera No la Para la Frontera (There Are No Borders in the Workers' Struggle): José Medina, Transborder Organizing, and the Carceral State." *California History* 1 May 2021; 98 (2): 3-23.

Jessica Ordaz, "Migrant Detention Archives: Histories of Pain and Solidarity." *Southern California Quarterly*: Emotively Daring: Documenting, Investigation, and Archiving Emotional Impact, Fall 2020, Vol. 102, No. 3.

Jessica Ordaz, "Protesting Conditions Inside *El Corralon*: Immigration Detention, State Repression and Transnational Migrant Politics in El Centro, California." *Journal of American Ethnic History*: Immigration Control and Resistance: Historicizing the Present Moment, Winter 2019, Vol. 38, Number 2.

### **Book Reviews**

Jessica Ordaz, "Border Policing: A History of Enforcement and Evasion in North America." *Journal of American History*, Issue 1, Oxford University Press, June 2023.

Jessica Ordaz, "A Place at the Nayarit: How a Mexican Restaurant Nourished a Community." *Journal of American Ethnic History*, Vol 42, No. 4. University of Illinois Press, 2023.

Jessica Ordaz, "Caging Borders and the Carceral States." *Journal of American Ethnic History*, Vol. 39 University of Illinois Press, 2020.

Jessica Ordaz, "Walling In and Walling Out," *Western Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 52, Issue 3, Oxford University Press, 2021.

### **Print Publications/Op-Eds and Magazines**

Ordaz, J and Portillos, A. The Washington Post, Op-Ed "Immigration and Customs Enforcement's #Pride tweet conceals a violent history," June 28, 2021.

Ordaz, J. The Washington Post, Op-Ed "Migrant detention centers have a long history of medical neglect and abuse," September 18, 2020.

Jessica Ordaz, "Latinx Veganisms," Food History, *The American Historian*, Organization of American Historians, Fall 2022.

### **Other Publications**

Jessica Ordaz, "Intersectional Veganisms: Food, Gender, and Sexuality in the Veggie Mijas Collective." *Food Fight: How What We Eat is Weaponized* (Pilgrim Press). Forthcoming.

Jessica Ordaz. "Art, Activism, and Justice: Disrupting the Silence of Femicide in Ciudad Juárez." In *New Frontier in Latin American Borderlands*, edited by Leslie G. Cecil. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing (2012): 49-58.

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

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### **Book Manuscripts**

Jessica Ordaz, *Plant-Based Abya Yala: From Indigenous Foodways to Latinx Veganism*, in progress.

Jessica Ordaz, *Migrant Detention Chronicles: Immigration Stations, Camps, and Jails in the United States*, in progress.

### **Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

Jessica Ordaz, "Transnational Latinx Veganisms: Critical Food Conversations from Mexico City and the United States," *Latino Studies*, in progress.

### **Edited Volumes**

Arturo J. Aldama and Jessica Ordaz. *Resistance and Abolition in the Borderlands: Confronting Trump's Reign of Terror*, (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, March 2024).

## **MEDIA APPEARANCES**

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### **Audio Publication**

Ordaz, J. "A Field Guide to White Supremacy." *The Electorette*, October 25, 2021.

Ordaz, J. "A Field Guide to White Supremacy." *The Rob Burgess Show*, October 19, 2021.

Ordaz, J and Ortiz, E. "Audio Buffet: Migrant Detention Radio." *Wave Farm*, August 4, 2021.

Ordaz, J. "The History of Migrant Incarceration in USA with Professor Jessica Ordaz." *Sikh Archive*, July 22, 2022.

Ordaz, J. "Migrant Incarceration and the 1985 El Centro Hunger Strike." *Unsung History Podcast*, July 19, 2021.

Ordaz, J. and DeCarvalho, L. "From Veganism to Incarceration." *Rage Podcast*, Denver University, May 21, 2021.

Ordaz, J. "Dr. Jessica Ordaz." *Carceral Studies Consortium Podcast*, University of Oklahoma, May 3, 2021.

Ordaz, J. "Jessica Ordaz, The Shadow of El Centro." *New Books in Latino Studies Podcast*, April 30, 2021.

Ordaz, J. Contributor. "Dispatches from the Shadows of the Rocky Mountains: A Line in the Sand." *History Colorado: Lost Highways*. 2020 Sept. 16.  
<https://www.historycolorado.org/lost-highways>.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

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Immigration and Ethnic History Society, First Book Award, 2022

Thornton H. Brooks Fund, University of North Carolina Press, 2020

Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, Travel Award, University of Washington, Seattle, 2017

George E. Pozzetta Dissertation Award, The Immigration and Ethnic History Society, 2016

President's Graduate Student Travel Award, Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, Sacramento, California, 2015

President's Graduate Student Travel Award, Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, Portland, Oregon, 2014

Best Latin American History Article, Welebaethan Journal, California State University, Fullerton, 2011

Student Research Award, Graduate Forum: Diversity and Graduate Education, California State University, Fullerton, 2011

## **GRANTS**

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Affiliate Programs Grant, Center for Leadership, University of Colorado, Boulder, Spring 2022

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Digital Mapping in Latinx Studies Workshop: Pursuing the Potential of Digital Mapping in Latinx Studies, Fall 2021

Center for Humanities and Arts Small Grant, University of Colorado Boulder, April 2021

Summer Institute on Tenure and Professional Advancement (SITPA), Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Gender in the Social Sciences, Duke University, 2019

Marshall T. Meyer Research Grant, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University, 2018

University of California Humanities Research Institute, Multi-Campus Graduate Working Group, 2015

History Department Travel and Conference Award, University California, Davis, 2015

UC MEXUS Dissertation Research Grant, 2015

Samuel Flagg Bemis Dissertation Research Grant, The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, 2014

History Department Research Fellowship, University California, Davis, 2014

UC California Studies Consortium Graduate Student Travel Grant, University of California Humanities Research Institute, 2014

Reed-Smith Research Travel Grant, University of California, Davis, History Department, 2014

Hemispheric Institute on the Americas Research Travel Award, University of California, Davis, 2014

UC MEXUS Small Grant for UC Students, Research and Travel Grant, 2014

Graduate Research Mentorship Fellowship, University of California, Davis, Office of Graduate Studies, 2013

Reed-Smith Research Travel Grant, University of California, Davis, History Department, 2013

Leon & Annette Gilbert Study Abroad Scholarship, California State University, Fullerton, 2011

College of Humanities and Social Sciences Study Abroad Travel Award, California State University, Fullerton, 2011

Graduate Equity Fellowship, California State University, Fullerton, 2010

Chicano/Latino Faculty and Staff Association Scholarship, California State University, Fullerton, 2010

Associated Students Graduate Student Scholarship, California State University, Fullerton, 2010

Emeriti Memorial Scholarship, California State University, Fullerton, 2010

Davis-Putter Peace and Justice Grant, National, 2007

Northern California Laborers Scholarship, Regional, 2007

## **RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

### ***Invited Research Presentations***

“The Conjuring: *Transforming Traumas into Transnational Migrant Politics*,” Dickinson College, October 6, 2023.

“The Shadow of El Centro: A History of Migrant Incarceration and Solidarity,” The Phoenix Center at Auraria, Metropolitan State University Denver, April 26, 2022.

“Hauntings and Liminal Punishments: The Incarceration of Migrants in California’s Imperial Valley,” History Department, Georgia College, April 7, 2022.

“The Shadow of El Centro: A Book Reading and Discussion,” Occidental College, April 5, 2022.

“Hauntings and Liminal Punishments: The Incarceration of Migrants in California’s Imperial Valley,” History Matters Conference: Rethinking Borders, San Jacinto College, February 25, 2022

“Hauntings and Liminal Punishments: The Incarceration of Migrants in California’s Imperial Valley,” Jakara Movement, December 22, 2021

“The Shadow of El Centro: A History of Migrant Incarceration and Solitary,” American Studies Winter Workshop, Carleton College, December 8, 2021

“The Shadow of El Centro: A History of Migrant Incarceration and Solitary,” Labor and Working Class History Association Pandemic Book Talk, November 18, 2021

“Virtual Book Discussion with Jessica Ordaz and Amanda Frost,” Immigration and Ethnic History Society, Fall 2021 Online Book Series, November 17, 2021

“The Shadow of El Centro: A History of Migrant Incarceration and Solidarity,” The Program in Latin American Studies and the Department of History, The College of William and

- Mary, September 27, 2021
- Colorado Writers' Salon: A Celebration of Latinidad, Tattered Cover Book Store, September 17, 2021
- "Hauntings and Liminal Punishments: The Incarceration of Migrants in California's Imperial Valley" Department of Media, Film, and Journalism Studies, University of Denver, May 12, 2021
- "The Shadow of El Centro: A History of Migrant Incarceration and Solidarity," Latin American Studies Center, University of Colorado Boulder, April 23, 2021
- "The Shadow of El Centro: A History of Migrant Incarceration and Solidarity," New York University Latinx Project, April 20, 2021
- "The Shadow of El Centro: A History of Migrant Incarceration and Solidarity," Department of History, University of California Davis, April 19, 2021
- "The Shadow of El Centro: A History of Migrant Incarceration and Solidarity," Department of History, Georgetown University, April 19, 2021
- "The Shadow of El Centro: A History of Migrant Incarceration and Solidarity," Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies, San Diego State University, April 13, 2021
- "A Brief History of the Detention and Deportation Regime in the US," Social Justice Living and Learning Community, Denver University, March 2, 2021
- "Latinx Migration and Policing," Alpha Chi Omega, Latinx History Month, CU Boulder, September 21, 2020
- "Archives of Detention: Histories of Pain and Solidarity," Emotively Daring: Documenting, Investing, and Archiving Histories of Emotional Impact, UCI Illuminations, University of California Irvine, October 25, 2019
- "Beyond the Wall: Immigration and Human Rights Across the Americas," Worcester Polytechnical Institute, February 5, 2019
- "The Aesthetics and Politics of the Border," Crossborder: The Aesthetics of Migration, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, November 9, 2018
- "The Juarez Feminicides," Pi Lambda Chi Latina Sorority, Inc. Women of Juarez Week, CU Boulder, November 7, 2018
- "Punishment and Policing," Histories of Racial Capitalism: Empire, Policing, and Resistance, University of Washington, Seattle Washington, November 2, 2018
- "Spaces of Exception, Masculinity, and Testimonies of Punishment in the Imperial Valley, 1986-1994," The UC Davis Cultural Studies Colloquium, Davis, California, November 16, 2017

### ***Discussant***

Roundtable Panelist, "State Violence, Detention, and Separation in America's Past and Present," Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Boston, Massachusetts, April 1, 2022

Session Panelist, "The Multiple Crises at the US-Mexico Border and What We Can Do About Them" University of California Santa Barbara, Migration Initiative, May 11, 2021

Session Panelist, "From Vietnamese Refugee to ICE Director? The New Frontier of Asian Racism," Aurora, CO, September 20, 2020

Session Panelist, Alumni Career Panel, Internship and Career Center, University of California Davis, September 10, 2020

Session Panelist, "Re-Imagining Public Safety in Alliance with Anti-Racism," Motus Theater, Denver, CO, July 9, 2020

Session Panelist, "Immigration, Detention, and Death: Interrogating California's Deportation Regime," Nativism, White Power, and Anti-Immigrant Violence in the United States Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago IL, April 19-20, 2019

Session Panelist, "This Land is Your Land." ZEE JLF@Boulder, Boulder Public Library, Colorado, September 23, 2018

Seminar Panelist, "Border Policing, Runaway Detainees, and Labor Exploitation in California's Imperial Valley, 1945-1949." The Newberry Library Scholl Center Seminar on Borderlands and Latino/a Studies, Chicago, Illinois, February 9, 2018

Seminar Participant, "The Functions of Immigration Detention: Forced Labor, Migrant Politics and Punishment in California's Imperial Valley, 1939-2014." The Bancroft Seminar on Latina/o History, Berkeley, California, December 8, 2017

Workshop Panelist, "The Detention and Deportation Regime: The Social Impacts of History, Economics, and Law." The Continuing Legal Education Seminar on Immigration: The Politics of Detention and Deportation, Seattle, Washington, November 4, 2017

Roundtable Panelist, "Narrating Violence and Social Movements in the Americas: The Possibilities and Challenges of Conducting Oral History." Oral History Association Annual Meeting, Long Beach, California, October 12-16, 2016

### ***Panels Organized***

Organizer and chair, "State of the Field: Immigration Detention." Conference on Latin American History, Part of the American History Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 6-9, 2022 (moved to virtual conference)

Organizer and presenter, "A History and Ethnography of Migration and Immigrant Detention: Gender, Sexuality, and the Carceral State." American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Honolulu, Hawai'i, November 7-10, 2019

Organizer, "Activism and Conservative Politics during the Reagan Era." Western History Association Conference, Portland, Oregon, October 21-24, 2015

### ***Conference Papers (selected)***

- “Transnational Latinx Veganism: From Southern California to Mexico City.” Paper presentation at the American Historical Association, January 4-7, 2024
- “Intersectional Veganisms: Food, Gender, and Sexuality in the Veggie Mijas Collective.” Paper presentation at the Third Biennial EcoJustice Conference: Food Fight: When What We Eat Is Weaponized,” ILIFF School of Theology, September 26-17, 2023
- “The Shadow of Migrant Detention in the Greater Southwest.” Paper presentation at the Western History Association Conference, online, October 12-17, 2022
- “Constructing the El Centro Immigration Detention Camp: Policing, Forded Labor, and State Violence in 1940s California.” Paper presentation at the American Historical Association, New York, January 3-6, 2020
- “The Repurposed Detention Camp: Comparative German and Mexican Labor and Detention Practices.” Paper presentation at the Western History Association Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada, October 16-19, 2019
- “The Revolving Door: Importing and Deporting Mexican Migrants to and from the Imperial Valley.” Paper Presentation at Histories of Modern Migration to/in the Americas Workshop, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, September 12-13, 2019
- “The Origins of the El Centro Detention Camp: Mexican Detainees, Runaways, and Laborers, 1945-1949.” Paper presentation at the Conference on Latin American History, Part of the American History Association Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, January 5-8, 2017
- “The Imperial Valley’s Revolving Door, Immigration Detention Camp, and Bracero Reception Center.” Paper presentation at the American Studies Association Meeting, Denver, Colorado, November 17-20, 2016
- “Charting a History of Immigrant Detention Centers: Privatization, Spaces of Impunity, and Activism along the U.S.-Mexico Border.” Paper presentation at the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, Sacramento, California, August 6-8, 2015
- “Making Invisible Carceral Spaces Visible: Activism Inside Immigrant Detention Centers Along the U.S.-Mexico Border.” Paper presentation at the Western Association of Women Historians, Sacramento, California, May 14-16, 2015
- “Resisting Immigrant Incarceration: The 1985 El Centro Detention Center Hunger Strike.” Paper presentation at the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies Conference, San Francisco, California, April 15-18, 2015
- “Making Invisible Carceral Spaces Visible: Immigration, Detention, and Activism inside the El Centro SPC.” Paper presentation at the UC Davis Gifford Center for Population Studies Migration Workshop, Davis, California, February 27, 2015
- “Mobilizing Against Immigrant Incarceration: Spaces of Violence and Impunity and Movements of Solidarity in Southern California.” Paper presentation at the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, Portland, Oregon, August 14-16, 2014



“Resisting Immigrant Incarceration: The 1985 El Centro Detention Center Hunger Strike.”  
Paper presentation at the Imagining Latina/o Studies: Past, Present, and Future  
Conference, an International Latina/o Studies Conference, Chicago, Illinois, July 17-19,  
2014

“Resisting Immigrant Incarceration: The 1985 Hunger Strike at the El Centro Service Processing  
Center.” Paper presented at the Midwestern Labor and Working-Class History  
Colloquium, Labor and Working-Class History Association, University of Illinois at  
Chicago, April 4-5, 2014

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### ***Chair of Doctoral/PhD Dissertation (Year of Completion)***

Roberto A. Mónico, Ethnic Studies, University of Colorado Boulder (2022, Assistant Professor of  
Critical Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Cal Poly Humboldt)

### ***Committee Member of Doctoral/PhD Dissertation (Year of Completion)***

Jonathan Angulo, History, Southern Methodist University (2023)  
Rebecca Avalos, Communication, University of Colorado Boulder (2023)  
Natasha Myhal, Ethnic Studies, University of Colorado Boulder (2023)

### ***Senior Honor's Thesis Advised (committee member)***

Madeline Louise Kornblum (2023)  
Gabriela Mejia, Ethnic Studies (2022-2023)  
Mateo Manuel Vela, Ethnic Studies (2021-2022)  
Violet Stoudt, Ethnic Studies (2021-2022)  
Zoe Jackson, Communications (2019-2020)  
Melissa West, English (2018-2019)

### ***University of Colorado, Boulder***

ETHN 3101: BIPOC Horror  
ETHN 4951: Senior Seminar: Caging and the Carceral State  
ETHN 6101: Graduate Seminar: Latinx Migration, Policing, and the Carceral State  
ETHN 2001: Foundations of Comparative Ethnic Studies  
ETHN 3671: People of Color & Social Movements  
ETHN 2536: Survey of Chicana/o History & Culture  
ETHN 3136: Chicana Feminisms and Knowledges

### ***University of California, Davis***

History 1: Introduction to History (Teaching Assistant)  
History 17A: History of the United States to 1877 (Teaching Assistant)  
History 17B: History of the U.S. - Civil War to the Present (Teaching Assistant)  
History 72B: American Women and Gender, 1865 to the Present (Teaching Assistant)  
History 168: Inter-American Relations (Lecturer)  
History 199: Historical Research Methods (Graduate Instructor)

### ***San Diego Mesa College***

Chicana/o Studies 141A: U.S. History from a Chicana/o Perspective

### ***University of California, Irvine***

Chicano/Latino Studies 61: Introduction to Chicano/Latino History

***California State University, Fullerton***

American Studies 201: Introduction to American Studies

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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***Ethnic Studies Department, University of Colorado***

Undergraduate Chair, 2023-present

Honors Representative, 2021-2023

Graduate Committee Member, 2019-2023

Search Committee Member, 2018-2019

Mellon Committee, Member, 2023-present

***University of Colorado***

Planning Committee, Los Seis de Boulder Symposium, 2021-2022

Executive Board Member, Latin American and Latinx Studies Center, 2023-present

***Regional Service***

Veggie Mijxs Denver Metro, Co-founder

Brujeria Veganx, Podcast Co-founder

***National/Other Service***

Committee Member, George E. Pozzetta Dissertation Award Committee, Immigration and  
Ethnic History Society, 2023-present

Member, Migration Scholars Collaborative (MiSC), 2022-present

Council Member, Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, 2022-present

Chair, Borderlands/Frontiers Studies Committee, American History Association, Conference on  
Latin American History, 2022-2023

Secretary, Borderlands/Frontiers Studies Committee, American History Association,  
Conference on Latin American History, 2021-2022

UC MEXUS/CONACYT Collaborative Project, Graduate Student Team, "Humanizing  
Deportation: Creating a Digital Storytelling Archive," 2016-2017

Graduate Working Group Member, History Department, University of California, San  
Diego, 2015-2016

Graduate Student Association Representative, History, University of California, Davis,  
2013-2014

Mentor, Graduate Academic Achievement & Advocacy Program (GAAAP) Mentorship  
Program, Student Recruitment and Retention Center, University of California, Davis,  
2012-2013

Co-Founder, Latina/o Graduate Student Association, California State University,  
Fullerton, 2011-2012

Exhibit Research Assistant, "New Birth of Freedom: Civil War to Civil Rights in Orange  
County," Center for Oral and Public History, California State University,  
Fullerton, 2010-2011

***Article and Book Manuscript Referee***

*University of Arizona Press*

*University of Illinois Press*

*Journal of American Ethnic History*

*Journal of Latino/Latin American Studies (JOLLAS)*

*Law and Society Review*

*Meridians*

***Editorial Boards***

Editor, *American Papers: The Journal of the American Studies Student Association*,  
California State University, Fullerton, 2010-2011

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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American Studies Association

American Historical Association

Immigration and Ethnic History Society