

Thomas E. Alter II
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Education

Ph. D., History, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2016

Dissertation: "Dirt Farmer Internationalists: The Meitzen Family, Three Generations of Farmer-Labor Radicals, 1848-1932." Received the University of Illinois at Chicago's *Graduate College Outstanding Dissertation Award* for the most outstanding doctoral dissertation in the division of Arts and Humanities.

Minor Fields: Modern Germany and Modern Latin America

M.A., History, Texas State University, 2008

B.A., History, Indiana University–Bloomington, 1996

Employment

Assistant Professor of History, Texas State University
September 2019 - Present

Lecturer, Department of History, Texas State University
August 2017 – August 2019

Lecturer, Department of History, Indiana University – Purdue University Fort Wayne
January 2017 – May 2017

Publications

Book:

Toward a Cooperative Commonwealth: The Transplanted Roots of Farmer-Labor Radicalism in Texas (University of Illinois Press, 2022)

Articles:

"From the Copper-Colored Sons of Montezuma to Comrade Pancho Villa: The Radicalizing Effect of Mexican Revolutionaries on the Texas Socialist Party, 1910-1917," *LABOR: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*, Vol. 12, No. 4 (Winter 2015), 83-109.

"'It Felt Like Community': Social Movement Unionism and the Chicago Teachers Union Strike of 2012," *LABOR: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*, Vol. 10, No. 3 (Fall 2013), 11-25.

"Occupy and Labor: What Role for Historians?," *Labor and Working-Class History Association Newsletter*, Spring/Summer 2012.
<http://lawcha.org/wordpress/newsletters/spring12.pdf>

Entries:

“Bryan, William Jennings,” “Migration, Westward,” and “Political Corruption,” in Robert D. Johnston, ed., *Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History, Volume Four, From the Gilded Age Through the Age of Reform, 1878 to 1920* (Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2010), 61-65, 240-243, 277-280.

Book Reviews:

Review of Gregg Cantrell’s *The People’s Revolt: Texas Populists and the Roots of American Liberalism* in *Western Historical Quarterly* (Autumn 2021), 340.

Review of Peter Buckingham’s “Red Tom” Hickey, *The Uncrowned King of Texas Socialism* in *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (October 2020), 234-236.

Review of John Adams, Jr.’s *Murder and Intrigue on the Mexican Border: Governor Colquitt, President Wilson and the Vergara Affair* in *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (April 2019), 476-477.

Review of Raymond Caballero, *Orozco: The Life and Death of a Mexican Revolutionary* in *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (October 2018), 230-232.

Review of Timothy Minchin, *Labor Under Fire: A History of the AFL-CIO since 1979* in *Enterprise & Society: The International Journal of Business History* (June 2018), 480-483.

Review of Dominic A. Pacyga, *Slaughterhouse: Chicago’s Union Stock Yard and the World It Made* in *Enterprise & Society: The International Journal of Business History* (March 2017), 239-242.

Review of Gary R. Entz, *Llewellyn Castle: A Worker’s Cooperative on the Great Plains* in *Western Historical Quarterly* (Winter 2014), 477.

Review of Theresa A. Case, *The Great Southwest Railroad Strike and Free Labor* in *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (April 2011), 453-454.

Review of Kyle G. Wilkison, *Yeomen, Sharecroppers, and Socialists: Plain Folk Protest in Texas, 1870-1914* in *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (April 2010), 543-544.

Review of Matthew Hild, *Greenbackers, Knights of Labor, and Populists: Farmer-Labor Insurgency in the Late-Nineteenth-Century South* in *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (April 2008), 460-461.

Works in Progress

Our Crowd – book project looks into the rise of Texas as an international political and economic power from the 1890s-1930s

“Big Boys and the Dicks: Punk Rock, Communism, and Homosexuality in early 80s Texas” –project examines the intersections of sexuality, punk rock, and communist ideology in early 1980s punk rock bands in Texas

Conferences, Seminar, and Panel Participation

May 2021, “Agrarian Radicals on the Edge of Empire in Texas, 1846-1917,” “Populism, Labor, and Social Movements,” “Hot Off The Press!: A University of Illinois Press Showcase” at the Labor and Working-Class History Association conference, “Workers on the Front Lines,” University of Illinois at Chicago [virtual]

March 2021, Invited Speaker, “The Legacy of German 48er Radicalism within Texas Politics,” Texas German Experiences lecture series, University of Texas - Arlington

September 2019, Invited Speaker, “The Meitzen Family of Texas,” at the German-Texan Heritage Society conference, Temple, Texas.

May 2019, Panelist, “A People’s History of Emergent Movements – And Our Roles in Them,” at the Labor and Working-Class History Association conference, “Workers on the Move, Workers’ Movements,” Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.

March 2019, Panelist, “Reconsidering Mark Lause’s ‘The Great Cowboy Strike: Bullets, Ballots, and Class Conflicts in the American West,’” Texas State Historical Association Annual Conference, Corpus Christi, Texas.

January 2019, Invited Speaker, “History of German Texans from the Civil War to World War I” at the German-Texan Heritage Society Workshop, University of Texas-Austin.

June 2017, “Eugene V. Debs Has a Bernie Sanders Problem: Independent Working-Class Political Action and the Electoral Tactics of Debs, La Follette and Sanders,” at the Labor and Working-Class History Association conference, “Scales of Struggle: Communities, Movements, and Global Connections,” University of Washington, Seattle.

February 2017, Panelist, “The Career of Labor Historian and Activist James Green: Roundtable Discussion,” at Texas Center for Working-Class Studies Conference, Collin College, Plano, Texas.

- October 2016, “‘The Hayseeds Have Shown Us Union Men the Way’: Land, Labor and Race in the Crucible of Houston Politics, 1919-1923,” at the Eighth Biennial Conference of the Urban History Association, “The Working Urban,” Chicago, Illinois.
- October 2015, “Inheritors of the Revolution: The Legacy of 48ers within Texas Agrarian Radicalism,” at the North American Labor History Conference, “Labor, Law, and Progressive Activism,” Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan.
- May 2015, “Inheritors of the Revolution: The Legacy of 48ers within Texas Populism,” at the Labor and Working-Class History Association and the Working-Class Studies Association joint conference, “Fighting Inequality,” Washington, D.C.
- April 2014, Comment, Darren Dochuk, “Children of Israel: The Faith, Politics, and Crises of Petro-Wealth in Depression-Era Texas,” Labor History Seminar, Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois.
- June 2013, Moderator, “The Chicago Teachers Union Strike: Social Movement Unionism and the Defense of Public Education,” at the Labor and Working-Class History Association conference, “Rights, Solidarity, Justice: Working People Organizing Past and Present,” New York, New York.
- June 2013, “From the Cooperative Commonwealth to the Invisible Empire: The Farm-Labor Bloc, Jeffersonian Democracy, and the Creation of the White Primary in Texas, 1919-1923,” at the Labor and Working-Class History Association conference, “Rights, Solidarity, Justice: Working People Organizing Past and Present,” New York, New York.
- March 2013, “From the Cooperative Commonwealth to the Invisible Empire: The Farm-Labor Bloc and the Creation of the White Primary in Texas, 1919-1923,” at Southern Labor Studies Association conference, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- November 2012, Invited Discussant, “Working in These Hard Times: The Union Movement and the 99%. A Program in Honor of Studs Terkel,” Center for New Deal Studies, Roosevelt University, Chicago, Illinois.
- October 2012, Invited Panelist, “Roundtable: Occupy and Labor,” at North American Labor History Conference, “Insurgency and Resistance,” Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan.
- June 2012, Invited Panelist, “Poverty and Inequality: The Challenge of Our Time,” community forum “Public Conversations on Big Issues” presented by Beverly Unitarian Church, Chicago, Illinois.

March 2012 “A Return to Economic Radicalism: The Farm-Labor Bloc of the 1870s-1920s and the Occupy Movement,” Indiana University – Bloomington’s Annual International Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, “Occupied: Taking Up Space and Time.”

March 2012 “From the Copper-Colored Sons of Montezuma to Comrade Pancho Villa: The Radicalizing Affect of Mexican Revolutionaries on the Texas Socialist Party, 1910-1917,” at the Southwestern Council of Latin American Studies conference, Miami, Florida.

February 2012 “From the Copper-Colored Sons of Montezuma to Comrade Pancho Villa: The Radicalizing Affect of Mexican Revolutionaries on the Texas Socialist Party, 1910-1917,” at Midwest Labor and Working Class History Colloquium, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

April 2010 “From the Copper-Colored Sons of Montezuma to Comrade Pancho Villa: The Radicalizing Affect of Mexican Revolutionaries on Texas Tenant Farmers, 1910-1917,” at the 2010 Midwest Labor and Working Class History Colloquium, “Social, Economic and Academic Restructuring,” University of Illinois–Champaign/Urbana.

October 2009 “From the Copper-Colored Sons of Montezuma to Comrade Pancho Villa: The Radicalizing Affect of Mexican Revolutionaries on Texas Tenant Farmers, 1910-1917,” at the International Conference on Martí, Juárez, and Lincoln: In the Soul of Our America, Autonomous University of Nuevo León, Monterrey, Mexico.

Awards

2017, 2015 Labor and Working-Class History Association Travel Grant

2015-2016 Dean’s Scholar Award, University of Illinois at Chicago

2014-2015 Marion Miller Fellowship, History Dept., University of Illinois at Chicago

2013-2015 Chancellor’s Fellowship, Graduate College, University of Illinois at Chicago

2013 Graduate Student Council Travel Award, University of Illinois at Chicago

2013 and 2012 LAS Ph.D. Student Travel Award, University of Illinois at Chicago

2015, 2013, 2012 and 2009 Travel Grant, Grad College, University of Illinois at Chicago

2012 Provost Award, Graduate College, University of Illinois at Chicago

2012 Robert V. Remini Scholarship, History Dept., University of Illinois at Chicago

2011 Mary M. Hughes Research Fellowship, Best Research Project on Twentieth-Century Texas History, Texas State Historical Association

2009 Best TA Evaluation Spring Semester, History Graduate Society, University of Illinois at Chicago

2008-2012 History Doctoral Award, History Dept., University of Illinois at Chicago

2007 Graduate Research Grant, History Department, Texas State University

2004 Best Frontier Film (Experimental Short) Windsong Film Festival, Fort Wayne, IN

Service

Discussion Section Development, Department of History, Texas State University, 2020-Present

Library Committee, Department of History, Texas State University, 2020-Present

Swinney Leave Committee, , Department of History, Texas State University, 2020-Present

Lidle Fellow Committee, Department of History, Texas State University, 2019-2020

Curriculum Development, German-Texan Heritage Society, 2018

Speakers Committee, Department of History, Texas State University, 2018-2019

Travel Committee, Department of History, Texas State University, 2018-2019

Chair, Graduate Student Committee, Labor and Working-Class History Association, 2011-2013

Chair, Chicago Teachers Solidarity Campaign, 2012

Steward, Graduate Employees Organization, 2008-2012

Professional Service/Manuscript Reviews and Editorial Annotations

Editorial review for Mike Taber, ed., *Under the Socialist Banner: Resolutions of the Second International, 1889-1912* (Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2021)

Manuscript review for Jeremy Milloy and Joan Sangster, ed., *The Violence of Work: New Essays in Canada and U.S. Labour History* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020)

Editorial Annotation, John Riddell, ed. *To The Masses: Proceedings of the Third Congress of the Communist International, 1921* (Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2015).

Organizations

Member: German-Texan Heritage Society, Labor and Working-Class History

Association, Organization of American Historians, Society for Historians of the Gilded and Progressive Era, Society for German-American Studies, Southern Historical

Association, Southern Labor Studies Association, Texas State Historical Association.