

R. Nicholas Nelson  
Curriculum Vita, updated August 2025

**Education:**

Ph.D. in U.S. History, University of North Texas, 2011  
Dissertation: "Economic Mobility into the Planter Class in Texas, 1846-1860"  
M.A. in European History, University of North Texas, 2005  
Thesis: "Connecting Ireland and America: Early English Colonial Theory 1560-1620"  
B.A. in History with a minor in Physics, Texas A&M University, 1998

**Academic Employment:**

Associate Professional Track Faculty, Texas A&M University Commerce, 2025-  
Assistant Professional Track Faculty, Texas A&M University Commerce, 2019-2025  
Ad-Interim Instructor, Texas A&M University Commerce, 2018-2019  
Dual Credit Instructor, Texas A&M University Commerce, 2016-2018  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Stephen F. Austin State University, 2015-16  
Adjunct Faculty, Texas A&M University Commerce, 2014-2015  
Adjunct Faculty, Tarrant County College, 2014-2017  
Adjunct Faculty, Dallas Christian College, 2014  
Adjunct Faculty, Lord Fairfax Community College, 2011-2014  
Adjunct Instructor, Lynchburg College, 2011  
Teaching Fellow, University of North Texas, 2007-2011  
Teaching Assistant, University of North Texas, 2000-2006

**Courses Taught:**

U.S. History to 1865 (including online courses)  
U.S. History since 1865 (including online courses)  
Advanced Studies in Texas History  
Debates in Texas History and Memory  
American Slavery  
Us vs All Y'all: Regionalism in U.S. History  
Liberty, Community, Economy (undergrad humanities course)  
The Old South (graduate course)  
Teaching Texas History (graduate course)  
Research Seminar in State & Local History (graduate course)  
Topics in Global History: Introduction to the History of Ireland  
World Civilizations to 1600  
World Civilizations to 1500  
World Civilizations from 1500

**Research or Publication Projects In Progress or Under Consideration:**

"In Paternalism's Place: Planter Women in Harrison County, Texas", article in progress.

**Publications:**

- “Rachel Hamilton Hornsby” in *Centuries of Voices: Portraits of Black Women in Texas History*, Bruce Glasrud, Jessica Branon-Wranosky, et al, eds. (College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, forthcoming).
- “The Shaw Sisters,” *The Handbook of Texas Women, Handbook of Texas Online*, 2022, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/shaw-sisters>.
- "Thirty-Seventh Texas Cavalry," *Handbook of Texas Online*, 2011, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/thirty-seventh-texas-cavalry>.
- "Harten, Edward von ," *Handbook of Texas Online*, 2011, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/harten-edward-von>.
- "Ninth Texas Cavalry," *Handbook of Texas Online*, 2011, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/ninth-texas-cavalry>.
- "Whitfield, John Thomas," *Handbook of Texas Online*, 2011, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/whitfield-john-thomas>.
- "Weeks, Benjamin F.," *Handbook of Texas Online*, 2011, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/weeks-benjamin-f>.
- "Walker, James," *Handbook of Texas Online*, 2011, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/walker-james>.
- "Walthersdorff, Albert," *Handbook of Texas Online*, 2011, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/walthersdorff-albert>.

**Book Review Contributor:**

*The Journal of Southern History*  
*Southwestern Historical Quarterly*  
*East Texas Historical Journal*

**Presentations:**

- “Public Education and the Promise of “We the People”: History Teacher Training in Texas”, Irish Association for American Studies Annual Conference 2025 (April 2025).
- “Planter Class Women and Securing the Family Property”, Irish Association for American Studies Annual Conference 2023 (April 2023).
- “Their Own Property: Planter Class Women in Harrison County”, East Texas Historical Association Annual Meeting (October 2022).
- “Women of Color and Family in the Nineteenth Century Texas Courts,” Texas State Historical Association Annual Meeting (March 2021).
- “Economic Stability, Disruption, and Agency: Planter Women in Harrison County, Texas,” West Texas Historical Association Meeting (April 2020-canceled due to COVID19).
- “Economic Class Mobility and Slavery: A Case Study in the Importance & Difficulties of Quantitative Agricultural History,” East Texas Historical Association Fall Meeting (October 2015).

“Opportunity or Oligarchy: Class and Mobility in the Antebellum Cotton Economy of Texas,” 19th Cotton & Rural History Conference (April 2015).

“Planter Women and the War: Change or Continuity in Agency and Economic Status?” Texas State Historical Association Annual Meeting (March 2014).

“Women Planters in Texas: A Quantitative View from Four Counties,” Southern Association for Women Historians Conference (June 2012).

“Moving on Up? Planters and Class Mobility in Harrison County, Texas,” Annual Meeting of the Texas State Historical Association (March 2011).

“Georgia & the Stamp Act: The Un-Crisis,” Phi Alpha Theta Student Conference, Dallas Baptist University (October 2010).

“Economic-Social Mobility and the Planter Class: A Case Study of McLennan County, Texas, 1851-1860,” Phi Alpha Theta North Central & Northeast Regional Conference (April 2009).

“Sixteenth Century Ireland for Actors,” Scarborough Academy of Performing Arts, Waxahachie, Texas (March 2005, 2007, 2024, 2025).

### **Professional Development and Academic Service:**

Member, Program Committee, East Texas Historical Association Meeting, 2025.

Faculty Mentor, Professional Track Faculty, East Texas A&M University, 2024-Present

Graduate Assistant Supervisor, Department of History, Texas A&M University Commerce, 2019-2025

Ad-hoc committee on Undergraduate Curriculum, 2024

Graduate Student Committees, 2022,2023

Curriculum developer for Humanities Texas on “Citizens At Last: Texas Women Fight for the Vote”, 2022-23

Committee member, Pine Cone Profiles Committee, East Texas Historical Association, 2023

Committee member, Faculty Research Enhancement Award Ad-Hoc Committee, 2023

Course Developer, History Courses for Competency Based Education Program, Texas A&M University- Commerce, 2019, 2020

Judge, Regional Texas History Day Competition, 2019, 2021-25

Cotton & Rural History Conference Committee, 2018-2025

Advanced Placement Reader, 2015, 2017-2025

Panel Chair, World History Association of Texas, 2021

Committee Member, Department Strategic Plan Committee, 2020

Chairperson, Department of History Ad-hoc Committee on Competency Based Global History Course Development, 2020.

Chairperson, Department of History Ad-hoc Committee on Competency Based United States History Course Development, 2019

Panel Chair & Commenter, Transatlantic History Conference, University of Texas at Arlington, 2019

Faculty Advisor to student organization, Unplugged, 2019-2020

Attendee, Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, 2024

Attendee, Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, 2007-15, 2018

Attendee, Texas State Historical Association Annual Meeting, 2007, 2009-17, 2019-23

Attendee, East Texas Historical Association meetings, 2015-24

Attendee, Texas New Deal Symposium, 2017, 2023  
Attendee, American Historical Association's Texas Conference on Introductory History Courses, 2019  
Participant, THATCamp Texas Feminisms 2015  
Staff, Texas History Symposium, University of North Texas, 2008, 2010, 2011  
History Department Text Book Committee, University of North Texas, Spring 2010  
Technical Staff, Teaching of History Conference, University of North Texas, 2007-10

**Awards:**

Travel Grant in support of Texas history, from The TSHA Endowed Professor of Texas History at University of North Texas, 2023  
Otis Lock Research Grant, East Texas Historical Association, 2022  
History Department Ad Hoc Research Enhancement Grant, 2022  
Panel Chairs Award, Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference, April 2009  
History Faculty Scholarship, University of North Texas, 2007-2008, 2008-2009  
Graduate Assistant Scholarship, University of North Texas, 2010  
The Jack B. Scroggs Graduate Scholarship, University of North Texas, 2010-2011

**Memberships, present and past:**

Alliance for Texas History  
Southern Historical Association  
Southern Association for Women Historians  
East Texas Historical Association  
Irish Association for American Studies  
Agricultural History Society  
American Association for State & Local History  
American Historical Association  
Organization of American Historians  
Texas State Historical Association  
Phi Alpha Theta