

# Lauren Kelly

5104 Summertime Lane, Culver City, CA 90230

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Phone: (310) 746-8030

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## Education

*Doctoral Candidate in History* *December 2022 - present*  
University of Southern California  
Emphasis: 20th-Century U.S. West

*Master of Arts in History* *April 2022*  
University of Southern California  
Fields for Qualifying Exams: Indigenous Histories of the Americas, U.S. West, and U.S. History

*Bachelor of Arts in History* *May 2018*  
University of California, Berkeley  
Graduated Magna Cum Laude with a GPA of 3.91

## Fellowships and Grants

Autry Museum of the American West Grant	June 2025
Huntington Library Grant	October 2024
APS Phillips Fund for Native American Research Grant	September 2024
USC Mellon Humanities in a Digital World Dissertation Fellowship	August 2024 - present
APS Mellon Native American Scholars Initiative Digital Knowledge Sharing Fellowship	July 2024
2024 Provost Top Off Travel/Research Grant	March 2024
Haynes Lindley Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship	August 2023 - August 2024
Graduate School Summer Research and Writing Grant	June 2023
2023 PhD Academy Scholarship and Research Fund Grant	May 2023
McVicar Scholarship Summer Funding Grant	May 2023
2023 Provost Top Off Travel/Research Grant	April 2023
2023 USC Wrigley Institute Graduate Fellowship	January 2023 - August 2023
Mellon Sawyer Dissertation Fellowship	August 2022 - August 2023
Summer Research at the Huntington Grant	May 2022
2022 USC Wrigley Institute Graduate Fellowship	January 2022 - August 2022
2021 PhD Academy Scholarship and Research Fund Grant	May 2021
Roberta Persinger Foulke Endowment Summer Grant	May 2021
USC Provost's Fellowship Top-Off	August 2019 - present
UC Berkeley Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship	May 2017 - August 2017
UC Berkeley Regents' and Chancellor's Scholarship	August 2014 - May 2018

## Honors and Awards

Featured Cohort, CRB Nexus for translating research into policy	January 2024 - September 2024
Dornsife Ph.D. Academy Certificate in Communication, Leadership and Management	May 2024
Dick Cone Award for Graduate Engaged Scholarship	March 2024
Second place, Poster Competition at Wrigley Institute Annual Research Symposium	February 2023
Third place, Presentation Competition at USC Graduate Research Symposium	March 2023
Honorable Mention, Perry Prize from Western Association of Women Historians	February 2023
John R. Hubbard Award for leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic	July 2021

## Research Projects

*Doctoral Dissertation Research* *May 2022 - present*  
University of Southern California

- “Troubled Waters: A Post-1930 Environmental History of Payahuunadü.” My dissertation examines the long-term environmental and social impacts of Los Angeles’ water extraction on Payahuuandü, also known as

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the Owens Valley. My work prioritizes the Nüümü and Newe, or Owens Valley Paiute and Shoshone, as central to this water history. I also study how settler colonialism evolved over generations in this region. I integrate archival work, oral history interviewing, and digital mapping to conduct this research.

## *Graduate Research Projects*

*August 2019 - August 2021*

University of Southern California

- “‘The Duty to Collate and Prepare’: The Second Stage of Conquest in Inyo County, 1870s-1920s.” This project examined how settlers consolidated control over the Owens Valley. I revealed how settlers used data collection, local histories, and public oratory to reinforce their claims to the land and undermine Indigenous land rights. This paper launched my dissertation research on the Owens Valley.
- “‘A Desire to Camp With Us’: Visiting on the Overland Trails.” This paper studied the phenomenon of white settler women hosting Indigenous visitors at their campsites while traveling the overland trails in the mid-nineteenth century. This study catalyzed my interest in Native-settler interactions in the U.S. West.

## *Undergraduate Senior Thesis*

*May 2018*

UC Berkeley

- “Grave Concerns: How Migrant Women Reinforced Settler Community Through Death Practices on the Overland Trails in the Mid-Nineteenth Century United States.” My thesis argued that white settler women crafted a migratory community among strangers through their death and burial practices on the overland trails. This work inspired my interest in textual analysis, social history, and history of the U.S. West.

## *Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program*

*September 2016 - May 2017*

UC Berkeley

- Examined historical census documents to compile data about slave-owning women in the U.S. South.
- Contributed findings to a faculty member’s ongoing research through regular discussion of observed trends.

## **Service Commitments**

### *Graduate Student Representative*

*December 2022 - present*

Western Association for Women Historians (WAWH)

- Building programs to connect the graduate student community of WAWH.
- Representing the interests of graduate students to the WAWH Executive Board.

### *President, History Graduate Student Association*

*August 2022 - May 2023; August 2020 - May 2021*

University of Southern California

- Organized social events to enhance community for our graduate student body, including weekly lunches, writing retreats, happy hours, and events to explore Los Angeles.
- Arranged professionalization events to build graduate student institutional knowledge within our department.
- Introduced new initiatives such as the “Pit Stop,” a refueling station for graduate students to encourage on-campus group work and a healthy approach to research and writing.
- Lead recruitment weekend for admitted students, to invite a new cohort of students to join our department.
- Worked creatively during the challenging first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic to implement all of the above duties over Zoom and other virtual platforms.

### *Cohen Lecture Committee*

*August 2022 - March 2023; March 2020 - April 2021*

- Lead a team of students to organize the Gary B. Cohen Distinguished Lectureship – invited and coordinated with the speaker, delegated necessary tasks to committee, coordinated travel and a full-day itinerary for the speaker, and gave the lecture’s introduction.
- Organized the annual Gary B. Cohen Distinguished Lectureship during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic – arranged funding distribution, invited and coordinated events with the speaker, publicized the event, and gave the lecture’s introduction.

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## **Teaching and Mentorship Experience**

*Teaching Assistant*

*August 2020 - December 2021*

University of Southern California

- Taught “The American Experience” and two semesters of “History of California.”
- Explained complex historical narratives and helped students connect readings to course content.
- Mentored students transitioning to college, especially improving their written argumentation.

*Academic Skills and ACT Tutor*

*May 2019 - August 2019*

Vault Prep

- Worked with students to improve their reading comprehension, writing clarity, and math skills.
- Provided constructive and supportive feedback to increase students’ knowledge and confidence.

*Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park Internship*

*January 2018 - May 2018*

- Coordinated with rangers to develop innovative and engaging ways to teach World War II history to elementary school students.

*Writing Tutor*

*September 2016 - May 2018*

UC Berkeley Student Learning Center

- Worked with UC Berkeley students to improve the clarity, organization, and style of their essays.
- Attended a weekly training seminar and developed a deep understanding of tutoring pedagogy.

*Peer Advisor for the UC Berkeley History Department*

*May 2017 - May 2018*

- Supported history students in navigating course offerings and faculty interactions at UC Berkeley.

## **Digital Humanities Training**

*Digital Humanities Training Week, USC Mellon Humanities in a Digital World*

*July 2024*

- Completed 20 hours of classroom instruction.
- Practiced how to communicate and analyze data from our projects with tools like QGIS, ArcGIS Pro, Palladio, Flourish, Tableau, Voyant, and Scalar.

*Certificate of Completion, Intermediate ArcGIS Pro*

*July 2023*

- Completed 24 hours of classroom instruction.
- Learned data management and manipulation techniques in ArcGIS Pro, such as finding mappable data sources, importing data into ArcGIS Pro, creating and editing data, and visualizing data in a variety of ways.

*Certificate of Completion, Introduction to ArcGIS Pro*

*July 2023*

- Completed 16 hours of classroom instruction.
- Learned how to create projects, maps, and layouts in ArcGIS Pro, as well as altering map symbology, asking questions of map data, and introducing basic map edits.

*Spatial Humanities & GIS Boot Camp*

*June 2022*

- Learned how to use a variety of programs to explore new paths of visual analysis.
- Studied theories underpinning the study of digital humanities.

*Digital Humanities Training Day with the Western Association of Women Historians*

*December 2022*

- Practiced many digital history techniques using hands-on instruction, including network visualization and analysis, geospatial and temporal visualization, and topic modeling.

## **Invited Talks**

“The History of Los Angeles’ Water” for Los Angeles Service Academy

*August 2023*

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“Where Does Your Water Come From?” for Los Angeles Service Academy

August 2024

## **Conference Presentations**

“Water and Power in Manzanar”

June 2024

International Network of Genocide Scholars

“Water and Power: Settler Colonialism in the Twentieth Century”

April 2024

Western Association of Women Historians

“ArcGIS in Multi-Generational Environmental History”

October 2023

Western Historical Association

“What Can You Do With A PhD in History?” Chair

October 2023

Western Historical Association