

# **Gary L. Kieffner, Ph.D.**

Instructor  
Department of History  
University of Texas at El Paso  
**kieffner@utep.edu**

## **Curriculum Vitae**

### **Degrees Received**

- 2009      Ph.D. in Borderlands History, University of Texas at El Paso.
- 2003      M.A. with Distinction in History, Northern Arizona University.
- 1998      B.A. *Magna Cum Laude* in History, with minor in Political Science, Northern Arizona University.

### **Areas of Specialization**

Gender and transnational material culture in Oceania frontiers and Mexican-U.S. borderlands

Indigenous land tenure and sovereignty

Indigenist methodology, T.I.K. and *praxis* (*Pasifika*)

Late inter-imperial Pacific frontiers

United States history

Ethics and governance

### **Academic Positions**

- 2007-2010, 2016-    University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP),  
Lecturer, then Instructor

2016, 2017, 2019 University of the South Pacific (USP)  
 Contracts completed

2019: Consultant and coordinator in the online  
 Twentieth Century World History course and  
 The British Empire and the Commonwealth course,  
 then temporary lecturer (post-graduate and  
 undergraduate courses on modern east Asia,  
 borderlands and frontiers)

2017: Consultant and assistant coordinator in the  
 online Fiji History course

2016: Consultant and coordinator in the online  
 Contemporary World History course, then  
 temporary lecturer

2007-2010, 2016-2019 El Paso Community College (EPCC),  
 Adjunct Instructor

2011-2015 Fiji National University (FNU), Assistant Professor  
 in Ethics and Governance  
 Contracts completed (three-year, then one-year)

2013: Head of Department, History

2012-2013: Acting Head of Department, History

2011 Clovis Community College (CCC), Instructor

2002-2007 UTEP, Assistant Instructor

## Select Honors

2018 Certificate of appreciation, the **Association of  
 Applied Border History**

2018 Principal guest. *Salusalu* ceremony, Malaqere,  
 Sigatoka

2017 Olivia Ingle published "Gary Kieffner: Knack for  
 History" in *The Herald*

- 2016 Invited guest as a member of the USP History Division, Rewa Day ceremony, *Syria Park*, Nausori, Fiji, July 7. The Paramount Chief Ro Teimumu Vuikaba Kepa **confirmed the Tui Noco's proclamation** that all descendants of *Girmitiya* are *Kai Noco*. Here she first proclaimed that all *Girmitiya* descendants are thus *Kai Rewa* and *Kai Viti* (Rewan and Fijian).
- 2015 Principal Guest. *Itatau Ceremony, Moturiki Lomaiviti Tikina*, Suva.
- 2015 Chief Guest. Fiji Day Celebration, FNU Student Association, Nasinu Campus.
- 2014 Invitee. Public Conversations Series and Launch of Citizens' Constitutional Forum, **"Discussion Paper 1 in CCF's Conversation Series 2014 on 'Free and Fair Elections',"** Citizens' Constitutional Forum and the School of Government, Development and International Affairs, USP.
- 2014 Invitee. Public address by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, FNU Nasinu Campus.
- 2014 Interviewed by Julie-Irene Nkodo. **"AHA Member Spotlight: Gary L. Kieffner,"** AHA Today: A Blog of the American Historical Association.
- 2012 Chief Guest. Student Diwali Ceremony, FNU Lautoka Education Campus.
- 2012 Invited guest. *Tailevu Yasana*, Adi Salusalu Festival, Churchill Park, Lautoka.
- 2012 Guest of Makereta Mua, a traditional reception to welcome a *Tai Bobo* dancer from the Rotuman diaspora in the Murray Islands. The dance would be reunited with extant *Tai Bobo* song from the diasporic Rotuman community of Viti Levu, which no longer knew the dance. Neither song nor dance had remained on Rotuma Island itself. The song could now be taught together with the dance to new Rotuman generations.

- 2010        Nomination for Outstanding Dissertation Award.  
College of Liberal Arts, UTEP.
- 2009        Honorarium. City of Deadwood, South Dakota.
- 2008        Honorable Mention List. Ford Foundation Fellowship  
Programs.
- 2008        Honors Convocation List. UTEP.
- 2008        Indexing of *The International Journal of Motorcycle  
Studies* in the MLA Directory of Periodicals, January  
17.
- 2008        Les and Harriet Dodson Dissertation Fellowship. UTEP.
- 2007-2008     Dr. W. Turrentine Jackson History Fund  
Scholarship. UTEP.
- 2006        Scott McLemee published "Hog Wild!" in ***Inside  
Higher Ed***, May 31. An article on our Motorcycle  
Culture and Myth panels at the Popular Culture  
Association (PCA), our collection of essays, and *The  
International Journal of Motorcycle Studies (IJMS)*.
- 2006        Indexing of *IJMS*. Directory of Open Access Journals,  
April 27.
- 2005        Kellie Bartlett published "Getting Serious about Cycles"  
in ***The Chronicle of Higher Education***, April 20.  
An article about *IJMS*.

## **Publications**

- 2019        One of approximately twenty collaborators /  
signatories for Heyman, Josiah, Mark Lusk, and Amy  
Bach. "Boost Border Security by Spending that \$8B to  
Cut Drug Crime in the US and Latin America," Dallas  
News Powered by ***The Dallas Morning News***,  
Opinion, March 3. (Academic collaborators and  
signatories for the UT El Paso Center for Inter-  
American and Border Studies.)

- 2019 Kieffner, Gary L. "America's Lone Star Constitution: How Supreme Court Cases from Texas Shape the Nation. By Lucas A. Powe Jr. (Oakland: University of California Press, 2018. x, 310 pp. \$34.95)." ***Journal of American History***, Volume 106, Issue 1, June. 200-201.
- 2015 Kieffner, Gary L. "Il Selvaggio, diavole a rotelle, e Sindrome della Motocicletta: Foucault e immagini centauri," in ***Harley-Davidson e la filosofia: Aristotele a tutto gas***. Eds. Bernard E. Rollin, Carolyn M. Gray, Kerri Mommer, and Cynthia Pineo. Stella Agnessi, trans. Rome: Casini Editore. 167-181.
- 2014 ---. "Review of *Integrated Rural Area Development and Planning: A Micro Level Study* by Mukesh Verma." *The Middle Ground Journal* 8 (Spring). College of St. Scholastica.
- 2012 [2006] ---. "The Wild One, She-Devils on Wheels, and 'Motorcycle Syndrome': Foucault and Biker Images," in ***Harley-Davidson and Philosophy: Full-Throttle Aristotele***, Eds. Bernard E. Rollin, Carolyn M. Gray, Kerri Mommer, and Cynthia Pineo. (Chicago: Open Court), 167-181. *Popular Culture and Philosophy Series*, ed. William Irwin. Invited contribution.
- 2009 ---. Police and Harley Riders: Discrimination and Empowerment. ***IJMS*** 5(1) (Spring).
- 2005 ---. Myth, Reality, and Revenge in Hunter S. Thompson's Hell's Angels. ***IJMS*** (July).

- 2005 Kieffner, Gary L., Susan Buck, and Steven E. Alford, eds. "Two Wheels to Freedom: Discovering Motorcycle Culture." Madison, a collection of essays. The press cancelled our contract after we completed our review process and had a final draft manuscript because the Press downsized, discharging all of its acquisitions editors and canceling most of its publication contracts including ours. We subsequently secured successful publication opportunities agreeable to ninety percent of our collection's contributors.
- 2003 Kieffner, Gary L. "Puttin' with Sequoyah: Riding the Borderlands," in *Proceedings of the Southwest/Texas Popular and American Culture Associations (SW/TEX PCA/ACA) Years 2000-2003*. Leslie Fife, ed. Pasadena, Tex.: SW/TEXPCA/ACA. 1658-1667. Compact disc.

### **Invited Presentations**

- 2016 Riding the Borderlands: Motorcycling History and Culture (Oceania). International Culture Festival, UTEP.
- 2012 Submittee 1 (of the summoned Humanities and Education faculty), Fiji Constitution Commission Public Consultancy, Government of the Fiji Islands. FNU Lautoka Education Campus. All of our recommendations were subsequently included in both the first and final drafts of the **Fiji Constitution**, September 2013.
- 2009 Space, Place, and Motorcycle Tourism in the *Paha Sapa*. Deadwood Historic Preservation Symposium, Deadwood, South Dakota.
- 2008 The Changing of Gender Roles in Mexican-U.S. Borderlands Riding Cultures, 1881-1947. Student Senate Meeting, April, Student Government Association, UTEP.

- 2003 Poetry reading. Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers special session, Southwest/Texas Popular and American Culture Associations (SW/TEX PCA/ACA) Annual Meeting, Albuquerque.

## Other Presentations

- 2023 Boundary Crossings and Places of Refuge in the *Decameron* and Oceania. **Humanities Education and Research Association Conference**, UTEP.
- 2017 *Pasifika* Perspectives and Experiences in the Making of Disney's *Moana*. EPCC Faculty Retreat, Tucson.
- 2016 Moderator of Vijay Naidu's presentation, "Reminiscences: Collecting Oral History among *Girmitiya*." Symposium on Indenture, USP Laucala Campus. This presentation immediately preceded the historic presentation by the Chief of Noco, *Ratu Isoa Damudamu*, ("The *Syria: naqele na tamata kei naveiweikani* – Land, People and Relationships") in which he first publicly proclaimed that all descendants of *Girmitiya* (the largest non-Indigenous minority group) shall be recognized as Kai Noco (people of the land of Noco).
- 2014 The New Fiji Constitution's Theoretical Antecedents. Ethics Mini Seminar, FNU Nasinu Campus.
- 2013 *Los Renegados*: Motorcycle Club Culture along the Northern México Frontier. Arts and Ideas Seminar Series, FNU Lautoka Education Campus.
- 2012 Bikie Material Culture in the Ciudad Juárez, México Borderlands Region. Cultural Studies Association of Australasia Annual Conference, University of Sydney.
- 2012 A Dissenting View of Pedagogical and Institutional Theories in Arum's and Roksa's *Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses*. Book Seminar, School of Education, FNU Lautoka Education Campus.

- 2012 Poetry reading. School of Communication and Creative Arts, FNU Lautoka Education Campus.
- 2010 Ethnicity, Imagery, and Historicity in Kurt Sutter's *Sons of Anarchy*. *IJMS* Conference, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.
- 2008 **Native Decolonization and the Use of Cinematography in US Survey Courses.** Western History Association Annual Conference, Salt Lake City.
- 2008 The Bending of Gender Role Constructs in Riding Communities of the Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century U.S.-Mexican Borderlands. PCA Annual Meeting, San Francisco.
- 2008 A History of Black Borderlands Motorcyclists. Black History Month, African American Studies Program, UTEP.
- 2007 African American Experiences Riding in the Mexican-U.S. Borderlands, 1925-2001. PCA Annual Meeting, Boston.
- 2007 Ride That Book: The Current State of Motorcycle Publishing. Roundtable discussion, PCA Annual Meeting, Boston.
- 2007 Trail to Unseen Realities: A Historiography of the Ghost Dance. **Organization of American Historians (OAH) Centennial Meeting,** Minneapolis.
- 2006 "Five Hundred-Year-Old Voice": A Historiography of the Ghost Dance. PCA Annual Meeting, Atlanta.
- 2006 Directions toward a Viable Historiography of "the Ghost Dance." History Department Interdisciplinary Seminar Series, UTEP.
- 2005 Ideological Exchanges in the History of American Motorcyclist Rights Organizations, 1880-2004. PCA Annual Meeting, San Diego.



- 2004      A Complete Circle: Women's Gender Boundaries in Navajo Religious Ritual, 1600-1998. Phi Alpha Theta Southwest Regional Conference, Arizona State University.
- 2004      Women's Gender Boundaries in Navajo Religious Ritual, 1600-1998. History Department Tertulia, UTEP.
- 2004      Queer Borderlands Moto Imagery: Interactions between Myth and Realities in the Twentieth Century. PCA and SW/TEX PCA/ACA Joint Annual Meeting, San Antonio.
- 2003      Puttin' With Sequoyah: Riding the Borderlands. SW/TEX PCA/ACA Annual Meeting, Albuquerque.
- 2002      Gender and Sexuality in Borderlands Motorcycling Imagery. History Department Tertulia, UTEP.
- 2000      A History of Women Motorcyclists from 1910 to Present. Arizona Historical Society Annual Conference, Yuma.

## **Course Development**

- 2005-2010, 2016-    Developing course content, assessment methods and syllabi; selecting textbooks, teaching and learning methodologies; supervising assistant instructors and teaching assistants; collaboratively calculating and assigning final grades for students (7 courses, 96 sections), UTEP
- 2019      Developed online and face-to-face course content and assessments for HY404 post-graduate course in History of Borderlands and Frontiers; selected teaching and learning methods for enhanced face-to-face modality (1 post-graduate course, 1 section), USP
- 2007-2010, 2016-2019    Developed course content and assessment methods; selected teaching and learning methodologies; calculated and assigned final grades (7 courses, 46 sections), EPCC

- 2016 Consultant in Contemporary World History and Post Graduate Studies Supervision: studied, analyzed, and issued recommendations for improvements in applicable areas; developed online course content and assessments; selected teaching and learning methods for online and face-to-face modalities (1 course, 1 section, and post-graduate students), USP
- 2011-2015 College of Humanities and Education (CHE) Academic Board. Engaged collaboratively in program development and course development, including contributions to a new program in Social Science, History courses, Ethics and Governance courses (12 courses, 41 sections), FNU
- 2011 Developed online course content, assessment methods and syllabi; selected materials, teaching and learning methodologies; calculated and assigned final grades (1 course, 2 sections), CCC
- 2006 Participant Consultant, Teachers for a New Era Faculty Summer Seminar in U.S. and World History (Grant awarded to UTEP by Carnegie Corporation of New York, to benefit local secondary school teachers), UTEP and EPCC

## **Conference and Presentation Organizing**

- 2016 Panel organizer and Chair, "Native American Influences in Non-Native Policies and Perceptions, 1762-2015," **Organization of American Historians (OAH) Annual Meeting**, Providence.
- 2016 Assisted the Acting African American Studies Director, African American History Month, coordination of one guest presentation, UTEP.
- 2012-2013 Chair, Arts and Ideas Seminar Series Committee, CHE, FNU.

2004-2011 Area Co-chair, Motorcycling Culture and Myth (organizing and coordinating between two and eleven panels and roundtables each year), Popular Culture Association (PCA) Annual Meetings.

2001-2004 Area Co-chair, Motorcycling Culture and Myth (organizing and coordinating between four and twelve panels per year), **Southwest / Texas Popular and American Culture Associations (SW/TEX PCA/ACA) Annual Meetings.**

## **Professional and Public Service**

2005- Editorial board, **IJMS**.

2001- **Founder**, consultant and coordinator of motorcycling as an area in American cultural studies, leading to scholarship in fifteen countries, conferences in three countries, and a peer reviewed journal.

2017-2019 Resident, **Museo urbano (Paso del sur)**, maintained and inhabited a flat in the historic former offices of *Paso del norte*, the newspaper that collaborated with Francisco 'Pancho' Villa during the Mexican Revolution, 609 South Oregon street, El Paso.

2017-2019 Senator-at-Large, Mission Campus part-time constituency, EPCC Faculty Senate.

2018 Sponsor. *Itatau* ceremony, Rara Levu Village, Tailevu Province, Fiji.

2017-2018 Participant, Master Teacher Program, collaborative peer review of classrooms for best practices in teaching and learning, EPCC.

2002, 2005, 2006, 2010, 2016, 2017, 2018 Presentation Judge, **El Paso History Day**, UTEP.

2017 Patron and sponsor, Polynesian Fire Dance, Rara Levu Village, Tailevu Province, Fiji. The first fire dance observed anywhere in Tailevu since the days of the Tongan Empire.

2015 CHE Academic Appeals Committee, FNU.

- 2012, 2014-2015    Participated in Open Day, CHE, FNU.
- 2014-2015        Chaired a committee of faculty and students researching interwar Pacific history. School of Social Sciences, FNU.
- 2012-2015        Mentor for junior faculty members in their post-graduate studies, FNU.
- 2011-2015        Provided academic advisement to degree seeking and certificate students, FNU.
- 2014              Contributor, Department of History and School of Social Sciences Strategic Plans, FNU.
- 2014              Trained as an Electoral Observer, Fiji National Election, Civil Society Organisations Observation Coalition. The week prior to election, the regime unexpectedly denied non-citizen volunteers the privilege of further participation.
- 2014              FNU History Search Committee member, American Historical Association Annual Meeting's Job Center, Washington, D.C.
- 2013              Consultant to Pulitzer Prize winner Serge F. Kovaleski, "Despite Outlaw Image, Hells Angels Sue Often," **New York Times** (November 28), *pro bono*.
- 2012-2013        Research Committee, CHE, FNU.
- 2012-2013        Administration Coordinator, School of Social Sciences, FNU.
- 2012              Open Air Theatre Steering Committee, Lautoka Education Campus, FNU. Construction completed.
- 2012              Reorganizer and Chair, Suva Philosophy Club, for three months immediately after the Fiji Islands Public Emergency Regulations (banning public gatherings) were repealed on January 8, modeling how public meetings may be convened for the first time in years.

- 2007      Activist, Southwest Indigenous Alliance, the Twelve Travelers' Juan de Oñate **public history controversy.**
- 2004      Education Partner, **Trail of Tears Commemoration and Motorcycle Ride Education Program.**  
Alabama-Tennessee Trail of Tears Corridor Association, Florence, Alabama.
- 2003      Testimony to the El Paso City Council, the Twelve Travelers' Juan de Oñate public history controversy.

### **Affiliations**

Phi Alpha Theta history honor society (life member)

UTEP Alumni Association