

Douglas O. Sofer, Ph.D

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Professor of History, Maryville College • August, 2024 - Present
Associate Professor of History, Maryville College • August, 2012 - July, 2024
Assistant Professor of History, Maryville College • August, 2006 - July, 2024
Lecturer (Full-time), University of Tennessee Knoxville • August, 2003 - July, 2006
Adjunct Instructor, Maryville College • August, 2005 - May, 2006
Adjunct Instructor, Knoxville College • August, 2004 - May, 2005
Adjunct Instructor, Tennessee Technological University • August 1999 - May, 2000.

EDUCATION

Ph.D.: University of Texas at Austin, May, 2003. Major field: Latin American History,
Minor field: Twentieth Century Africa
M.A.: University of Texas at Austin, May, 1995. Major Field: Latin American history
B.A.: Hartwick College, Oneonta, New York, May, 1991. Majors: History, Philosophy

COURSES TAUGHT

Maryville College, Fall 2005 - Present

- Latin American History, 1808 to present
- Colonial Latin American history
- Revolution in Latin America
- History of Colombia, 1808 to present
- Modern Africa, 1885 to present
- Ethics (interdisciplinary, senior-level capstone course)
- A history of Latin America through food (experiential course)
- Global history of firearms
- Western historical origins of the United States (first-year class)
- World cultures: Dominican Republic (international travel-study)
- World cultures: Latin America (junior-level interdisciplinary course)
- History and culture of Ghana (experiential travel course)
- History and culture of Germany (experiential travel course)
- Introduction to the study of history (theory and methods)
- Drugs: A global history (senior-level version)
- Senior seminar: Nationalism
- A history of immigration in New York City (experiential, travel-study)

- Latinx-Americans in the United States
- Latin America and the United States
- 20th century Europe
- Perspectives in the humanities (humanities theory course)
- Drugs: A global history (first-year version)
- Western civilization, 1500 to present
- Western civilization, antiquity to 1500
- Colonial and revolutionary United States, 1492 to 1800
- Twentieth century United States
- World civilizations, 1500 to Present
- Introduction to environmental studies & sustainability
- First year seminar: Perspectives on the environment
- First year seminar: Latin American realities
- First year seminar: "Getting outdoors"

University of Tennessee, Knoxville: Fall 2003 - Spring 2006

- History of Latin America, 1492-1808
- History of Latin America, 1808-present
- History of modern Colombia
- World civilization, 1500 to present
- World civilization to 1500

Knoxville College: Fall 2004 - Spring 2005

- World civilization, 1500 to present
- World civilization to 1500

Tennessee Technological University: Fall 1999 - Spring 2000

- United States, 1865 to present
- Modern Latin American history

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

"The Present is a Foreign Country: A Live Interview with the Southeast World History Association (SEWHA) for the You Are A Weirdo podcast," organized for the annual meeting of SEWHA, Southeast Missouri State University, 24-26 October, 2024.

"Digging Deeper: Land Tenure in the World History Classroom," presented at the annual meeting of SEWHA, Southeast Missouri State University, 24-26 October, 2024.

"Holy H₂O: Value & Values in the Global Past," presented at the annual meeting of SEWHA, College of Charleston, 19-22 October, 2023.

"'You Are A Weirdo': Building a Public World History Podcast," presented at the annual meeting of the World History Association, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 22-24, 2023.

Presidential Luncheon: "Global History for the Public" presented at the annual meeting of SEWHA, T.R.R. Cobb Historic House, Athens, Georgia, November 17, 2019.

"The Great Smoky Mountains National Park as a UNESCO International Biosphere Reserve, 1957-present," lunchtime presentation to the annual meeting of SEWHA, Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, November, 2018

"A History of Immigration in East Tennessee," Blount County Public Library. September 8, 2018

"What Every World Historian Should Know about Salsa," presented at the annual meeting of SEWHA, Dahlonega, Georgia. October 6-7, 2017

"The Most Polluted River in the World: An Ecological History of the Río Bogotá" presented at the annual meeting of SEWHA, Boca Raton, Florida. October 10-11, 2014

"Spirits of Resistance: Palm Wine, Moonshine and Popular Protest in Appalachia and the Gold Coast, 1930-2009" presented at the annual meeting of SEWHA, Norfolk, Virginia. October 17-19, 2013

"Tennessee Taquerías: How Latinos Are Redefining the U.S. South," presented at the College of St. Benedict / St. John's University. Collegeville, MN. September 29, 2011

"Bolívar y Nkrumah: Victoria, derrota y vindicación" ["Bolívar and Nkrumah: Victory, Defeat and Vindication"], presented at the Congreso de Colombianistas. Bucaramanga, Colombia. August 3-5, 2011. Note that a similar paper was also presented in English at the annual meeting of SEWHA, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia. October 18-20, 2012

"Land Reform during the Early Cold War: Japan, Guatemala & the United States," presented at the annual meeting of SEWHA, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, Georgia. October 22-23, 2010

"Ethno-Symbolism and the Search for an Inclusive Nationalism in Colombia, 1946-1958," presented at the Congreso de Colombianistas, Charlottesville, Virginia. August 4-7, 2009

"From Anti-American Fascists to Pro-American Anti-Communists: The Transformation of the Religious Right in Colombia, 1930s-1950s," presented at the annual meeting of the Latin American Studies Association, Rio de Janeiro. June 11-14, 2009

"Latin Americans in East Tennessee: A Historical Perspective," presented at the New Neighbors in East Tennessee Conference, Maryville College, Maryville, Tennessee. September 22, 2008

"The Historical Origins of Violence in Colombia," Maryville College Faculty Showcase, Maryville, Tennessee. September, 27, 2008

"Nazism in Latin American Political Thought: The Case of Gilberto Alzate," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Ohio Valley History Conference, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, Tennessee. October 21-23, 2004

"The Historical Origins of Terrorism in Colombia," presented at the Twenty-Sixth Annual Workshop for Teachers of Social Studies, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee. March 6, 2004

"The Personalities of Colombian Violence: 1946-2003," presented at the Latin American Symposium on the Andean Region at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee. November 10-20, 2003

"Ordinary Colombians and the Polemics of Religion, 1930-1957," presented at the SECOLAS Conference, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. March 6-8, 2003

"Ordinary Colombians' View of the Presidency, 1946-1957," an essay presented at the Latin American Studies Association's Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. Fall, 2001

"Diego Montaña Cuellar and Tropical Oil: Labor and Nationalism in the Colombian Oil Industry," at the conference, "Colombia: State and Nation," The University of Texas at Austin. Fall, 1997

"Liberal Elites and the Colombian Violencia (1946-1953)," presented at the joint Rocky Mountain- Pacific Coast Latin American Studies Conference (RMCLAS/PCCLAS). Spring, 1996

"Power Boost: Colombia and the United States during the Years of the Violencia," at the SECOLAS Conference, Lafayette, LA. Spring, 1993

SELECT PRESENTATIONS TO GENERAL AUDIENCES

"Your Republic Is A Democracy–And Vice-Versa," Live performance of the You Are A Weirdo history podcast, presented to the Blount County (Tennessee) Democrats, November 1, 2023

"Thirteen Challenging Questions about the Constitution," interactive conversation for students and community members for Constitution Day 2023 at Maryville College, September 19, 2023

"Is 'Latin' A Flavor? Food diversity in Latin America," Keynote Address (via Zoom) for Hispanic Heritage Month at Pellissippi State Community College, September 14, 2021

"Central American Asylum Seekers in Historical Perspective," First Methodist Church of Maryville, September 29, 2019

"A History of Immigration in East Tennessee," Blount County Library's first annual Cultural Festival, September 8, 2018

"Know! Your! Constitution!" Game-show-style interactive presentation for Constitution Day, September 17, 2009

HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Academic Life Council (elected position on MC's curriculum committee), Maryville College, 2024-present
- Director, Maryville College Works, a program that bridges career education with the liberal arts, 2016-2022
- Chair, Maryville College Works Committee, 2021-2022
- Board Member, Welcoming Immigrant Neighbors of Blount County (WIN-BC), 2021-present
- President, Southeast World History Association (SEWHA), January 2018-December 2019
- Coordinator, Annual meeting of the Southeast World History Association (SEWHA), Maryville College, October 14-15, 2011 and November 2-3, 2018
- Vice President, Southeast World History Association (SEWHA), 2016-2017
- Treasurer, Southeast World History Association (SEWHA), 2012-2016
- Founding Coordinator, Great Smokies Experience, 2013-2019

REFEREED ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Book review: Carlos Camacho Arango, *El Conflicto de Leticia (1932-1933) y los Ejércitos de Perú y Colombia*, in the *Journal of Military History*, 82:4 (October, 2018), 1312-1313.

Book review: Jane Rausch, *From Frontier Town to Metropolis: A History of Villavicencio, Colombia, since 1842*, published in the *Revista de estudios colombianos*, Issue 40 (Spring, 2012).

Edited and revised the article, "Cundinamarca [Colombian department]" for the *Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture*, 2nd edition, Thomson-Gale, 2008.

Translation of letter: Francisco de Paula Santander to Andrew Jackson, May 19, 1829, for the Jackson Papers, the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Spring, 2007.

"Cave Gaitanum: U.S. Government Perspectives on Bogotá's April 9, 1948 riots." Translated as: "La mirada norteamericana," chapter in Gonzalo Sánchez (editor). *Grandes potencias, el 9 de abril y la violencia*. Bogotá: Editorial Planeta, S.A., 2000, 73-154.

"Power Boost: Colombia and the United States during La Violencia. (1946-1958)" *SECOLAS Annals*, XI (Spring, 1993), 141-170.

NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- *You Are A Weirdo: Find Yourself in History*, a podcast, blog, and book-length manuscript (in process) about how history helps us understand the strangeness of now. The podcast premiered in December, 2022. <https://findyourselfinhistory.com> .
- "Gaitán y la CIA: la evidencia," in *Semana*, No. 988 (April 9-16, 2001), 52-58.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Member of the board of directors and webmaster of Welcoming Immigrant Neighbors of Blount County (WIN-BC), May 2021-present

AWARDS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Fulbright-IIE Fellowship, July, 1998 to July, 1999
- National Security Education Program (NSEP) Fellowship, June, 1998
- J. Bruton Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin, July, 1998
- Castañeda Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin, September, 1995 to November, 1995
- Dora Bonham Grant, University of Texas at Austin, Fall, 1993

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Spanish: Excellent reading and oral proficiency; strong writing skills
Portuguese: Excellent reading proficiency; good oral skills; some writing ability

Updated November, 2024