

## Wesley G. Phelps, Ph.D.

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### Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor of History, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, 2012-present

Visiting Assistant Professor of History, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, 2011-2012

Visiting Assistant Professor of History, University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas, 2010-2011

### Education

**Ph.D.**, History, Rice University, Houston, Texas, 2010.

*Dissertation*: "A Grassroots War on Poverty: Community Action and Urban Politics in Houston, 1964-1976"

*Committee*: Allen J. Matusow, John B. Boles, W. Caleb McDaniel, Chandler Davidson

**M.A.**, History, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, 2004.

*Thesis Title*: "The 'Sixties' Come to North Texas State University, 1968-1972"

**B.A.**, Psychology, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, 2000.

### Books

*A People's War on Poverty: Urban Politics and Grassroots Activists in Houston* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2014).

*AIDS in Atlanta: The Politics of Disease in the Sunbelt South* (in progress).

*Before Lawrence v. Texas: Challenges to Texas Sodomy Laws before 2003* (in progress).

### Articles and Essays

"The Politics of Queer Disidentification and the Limits of Neoliberalism in the Struggle for Gay and Lesbian Equality in Houston," forthcoming, *Journal of Southern History* 84, no. 2 (May 2018).

"Women's Pentagon Action: The Persistence of Radicalism and Direct-Action Civil Disobedience in the Age of Reagan," *Peace and Change* 39, no. 3 (July 2014): 339-365.

"National Ideals Meet Local Reality: The Grassroots War on Poverty in Houston," in Richard B. McCaslin, Donald E. Chipman, and Andrew J. Torget, eds., *This Corner of Canaan: Essays on Texas in Honor of Randolph B. Campbell* (Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2013), 385-402.

“Ideological Diversity and the Implementation of the War on Poverty in Houston,” in Annelise Orleck and Lisa Gayle Hazirjian, eds., *The War on Poverty: A New Grassroots History, 1964-1980* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2011), 87-109.

## Reviews

Review of Thomas J. Main, *Homelessness in New York City: Policymaking from Koch to De Blasio* (New York: New York University Press, 2016). *Journal of American History* 104, no. 2 (September 2017): 569.

Review of Morgan Shipley, *Psychedelic Mysticism: Transforming Consciousness, Religious Experiences, and Voluntary Peasants in Postwar America* (Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books, 2015). *Journal for the Study of Radicalism* (Spring 2017): 193-195.

Review of Glenn Feldman, ed., *Nation Within a Nation: The American South and the Federal Government* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2014). *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* (Autumn 2015): 782-785.

Review of David Allen Burke, *Atomic Testing in Mississippi: Project Dribble and the Quest for Nuclear Weapons Treaty Verification in the Cold War Era* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2012). *Journal of Southern History* (May 2014): 534-535.

Review of Pippa Holloway, ed., *Other Souths: Diversity and Difference in the U.S. South, Reconstruction to Present* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2008). *Journal of Southern Religion*, (2011).

Review of Orissa Arend, *Showdown in Desire: The Black Panthers Take a Stand in New Orleans* (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2009). *Journal of Southern History*, (November 2010): 1080-1081.

Review of *Mr. Conservative: Goldwater on Goldwater*. Produced by C. C. Goldwater and Tani Cohen. Directed by Julie Anderson. Home Box Office Documentary Films, 2006. *Journal of Southern History*, (November 2010): 1104.

Review of Charles S. Bullock and Ronald Keith Gaddie, *The Triumph of Voting Rights in the South* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2009). *Alabama Review*, (October 2010): 284-285.

Review Note of Michael W. Flamm and David Steigerwald, *Debating the 1960s: Liberal, Conservative, and Radical Perspectives* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2008). *Journal of Southern History* (May 2008): 539.

## Conference Presentations

“The Bible and *Baker v. Wade*: The Religious Battle over Texas’s Homosexual Conduct Law.” Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Southern Historical Association, Dallas, Texas, November 2017.

“*Baker v. Wade*: History, the Constitution, and Texas’s Homosexual Conduct Law.” Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Central Texas Historical Association, Brenham, Texas, April 2017.

“Before *Lawrence v. Texas*: The Role of *Baker v. Wade* in the Long Struggle to Overturn the Texas Homosexual Conduct Law.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association of Texas, Huntsville, Texas, November 2016.

“‘We Must Not Let Houston Become Another San Francisco!’: The Politics of Discrimination in a Sunbelt City during the 1980s.” Paper presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Urban History Association, Chicago, Illinois, October 2016.

Panel Chair and Commentator, “Texas LGBT Communities,” (papers by Karen S. Wisely, Kyle Edelbrock, and Hillary Anderson), Annual Meeting of the Texas State Historical Association, Irving, Texas, March 2016.

“Confrontational Politics and the War on Poverty in Houston.” Paper presented at the annual conference of the Houston History Alliance, Houston, Texas, September 2015.

“The War on Poverty and the Struggle for Democracy in Houston during the 1960s.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Texas State Historical Association, Corpus Christi, Texas, March 2015.

“The War on Poverty in Houston.” Paper presented as part of a roundtable titled “Reflections on the 50th Anniversary of the War on Poverty,” 7th Biennial Conference of the Urban History Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 2014.

“The ‘New Fatherhood’ on Television in the 1980s: Fathering Adolescent Children on *The Cosby Show*.” Paper presented at the National Conference of the Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 2014.

“Houston’s War on Poverty: Urban Politics, Grassroots Activists, and the Struggle for Democracy.” Paper presented at “The Past and Present of Race and Place in Houston” conference, Rice University, Houston, Texas, February 2013.

“Senator John L. McClellan’s Senate Investigation of the Texas Southern University Riot in Houston, 1967.” Paper presented at the 2013 Spring meeting of the East Texas Historical Association, Galveston, Texas, February 2013.

Panel Commentator, “The War on Poverty Down South: Local Struggles for Racial and Economic Justice,” (papers by Crystal Sanders, William Clayson, and Thomas Kiffmeyer), 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southern Historical Association, Mobile, Alabama, November 2012.

“A People’s War on Poverty: Prophetic Christianity, Urban Politics, and the Struggle for Democracy in Houston.” Paper presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Urban History Association, New York, New York, October 2012.

Panel Chair and Commentator, “From Emancipation to Liberation: One Hundred Years of Southern Black Activism,” (papers by Roberautrice Eddie and Adam Robinson), Fall Meeting of the East Texas Historical Association, Nacogdoches, Texas, September 2012.

“Model Cities, Local Politics, and the End of the War on Poverty in Houston, 1969-1976.” Paper presented at 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Houston, Texas, March 2011.

“New Left Activism and the War on Poverty in Houston, 1965-1969.” Paper presented at “Student

Activism, Southern Style: Organizing and Protest in the 1960s and 70s,” University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, March 2010.

“The Coalescence of Religious and Secular Radicalism: The Ecumenical Fellowship and the War on Poverty in Houston, 1964-1969.” Paper presented at the 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, San Diego, California, January 2010.

“Grassroots Challenges to the Liberal War on Poverty in Houston: Volunteers in Service to America and the Prophetic Religious Tradition.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Texas State Historical Association, Austin, Texas, March 2009.

“The War on Poverty in Houston: Grassroots Community Mobilization and the Antipoverty Struggle of the 1960s.” Paper presented at the 4th Biennial Conference of the Urban History Association, Houston, Texas, November 2008.

“Women’s Pentagon Action: Ecofeminism, Direct-Action Civil Disobedience, and the Cold War.” Paper presented at the Symposium on Bodies of Work, Agents of Change, Rice University’s Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Houston, Texas, April 2008.

“Local Implementation of Antipoverty Programs in Houston in the 1960s: A Reevaluation of Lyndon Johnson’s War on Poverty.” Paper presented at the Conference on The War on Poverty and Grassroots Struggles for Racial and Economic Justice, Miller Center of Public Policy, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, November 2007.

## Invited Papers

“*Baker v. Wade* in Historical Perspective.” Meeting of Gamma Sigma Kappa, Special Celebration of LGBTQ History Month, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, October 2017.

“*Morales v. Texas*: The Texas Constitution, the Equal Rights Amendment, and the Struggle to be Legally Gay.” Sam Houston State University Constitution Day Event, Huntsville, Texas, September 2017.

“Before *Lawrence v. Texas*: Legal Challenges to Texas Sodomy Laws, 1867-2003.” Fellowship Lecture Series, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, July 2017.

“Religion and LGBTQ Communities.” Meeting of Gamma Sigma Kappa, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, October 2016.

“Using Primary Documents to Teach the New Deal of the 1930s.” District-Wide Professional Development Seminar, Conroe Independent School District, Conroe, Texas, August 2016.

“The Presidency of Richard Nixon.” District-Wide Professional Development Seminar, Conroe Independent School District, Conroe, Texas, August 2016.

“Houston’s War on Poverty.” Northwoods Unitarian-Universalist Church, Huntsville, Texas, January 2016.

“*Lawrence v. Texas* (2003): Myth vs. Reality in the Overturning of the Texas Homosexual Conduct Law.” Sam Houston State University Constitution Day Event, Huntsville, Texas, September 2015.

"Using Primary Documents to Teach the Age of Reagan." District-Wide Professional Development Seminar, Conroe Independent School District, Conroe, Texas, August 2015.

"A People's War on Poverty: Prophetic Christianity, Confrontational Politics, and the Struggle for Democracy in Houston during the 1960s." Monthly Meeting of the Walker County Democratic Club, Huntsville, Texas, May 2015.

"Grassroots Activism and the Fair Housing Act of 1968." Public Program titled Texas Social Justice Series: Access to Fair Housing, held at the Bullock Texas State History Museum, Austin, Texas, March 2015.

"The History of LGBTQ Communities and Religious Institutions." LGBTQ Religious Experience Summit hosted by the Episcopal Student Center, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, March 2015.

"A Union of Theology and Activism: The Ecumenical Fellowship UCC and the War on Poverty in Houston." Northwoods Presbyterian Church, Contemporary Issues Forum, Houston, Texas, September 2014.

"A People's War on Poverty: An Experiment in Participatory Democracy." Monthly Meeting of the Houston Property Rights Association, Houston, Texas, July 2014.

"Freedom Riders: Would You Get on the Bus?" Community Event titled Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Huntsville Independent School District Administration Building, Huntsville, Texas, January 2014.

"The Civil Rights Movement and the War on Poverty." Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, January 2014.

"The War on Poverty and the Civil Rights Movement in Houston in the 1960s." Atascocita High School, Humble, Texas, December 2013.

"The Historical Context of the March on Washington." The 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the March on Washington of 1963, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, September 2013.

"Houston's African American Community and the War on Poverty in the 1960s." Black History Month Symposium, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, February 2013.

"The War on Poverty in Houston." Monthly meeting of the Friends of the Texas Room, Houston Public Library, Houston, Texas, January 2012.

## **Courses Taught**

Sam Houston State University, 2011-Present

HIST 1301: United States History to 1876

HIST 1302: United States History since 1876

HIST 3379: Recent America, 1945 to Present

HIST 3394: America in the 1960s

HIST 3399: American LGBT History

HIST 4363: History of American Slavery (undergraduate research seminar)

HIST 4367: History of the American South (undergraduate research seminar)  
HIST 4369: The Civil War and Reconstruction  
HIST 5373: The Civil War and Reconstruction (graduate readings seminar)  
HIST 5374: History of the American South (graduate readings and research seminar)  
HIST 5376: Contemporary America, 1933-Present (graduate readings seminar)  
HIST 5097: The Age of Reagan (graduate readings seminar)  
HIST 5097: American LGBT History (graduate readings seminar)  
HONR 3375: Honors Difficult Dialogues Seminar  
HONR 3331: Honors Seminar in Cold War Civil Rights

University of St. Thomas, 2010-2011

HIST 2333: United States History to 1877  
HIST 2334: United States History since 1877  
HIST 4393: Slavery in America  
HIST 4344: American Presidents  
MLA 6393: American Biography: The 1960s (graduate research seminar)

Rice University, 2006-2010

HIST 118: America and the World since 1848  
HIST 253: American Biography: The 1960s  
HIST 351: United States History since 1945

Lone Star College, 2006, 2008

HIST 1302: United States History since 1877

University of North Texas, 2005

HIST 1302: United States History since 1865

## **External Funded Grants**

University of North Texas Special Collections Research Fellowship. Awarded by the Friends of the University of North Texas Libraries, March 2017.

Albert J. Beveridge Grant for Research in the History of the Western Hemisphere. Awarded by the American Historical Association, June 2008.

Moody Research Grant. Awarded by the Lyndon B. Johnson Foundation, LBJ Library, December 2007.

## **Honors and Awards**

Honorable Mention, Julia Ideson Award for Texas History and Culture, for "A Grassroots War on Poverty." Awarded by the Friends of the Texas Room, Houston Public Library, November 2011.

John W. Gardner Award for the most original dissertation written by a graduate student in the School of Humanities, Rice University, May 2010.

Captain Charles Septimus Longcope Award for the best dissertation written by a history graduate student, Rice University, May 2010.

Rice University Dissertation Completion Fellowship. Awarded by the Office of Graduate and

Postdoctoral Studies, Rice University, May 2009.

## **Service**

Member of the Michael Katz Award Committee for Best Dissertation, Urban History Association, 2016-2017

Member of the SHSU Constitution Day Committee, 2016-present

Member of the SHSU College of Humanities and Social Sciences' Working Group on Serving the LGBTQIA\* Community, 2017-present

Member of the SHSU College of Humanities and Social Sciences' Assistant Professor Advisory Committee, 2017-2018

Chair of SHSU History Department's Online Course Design Stipend Committee, 2017

Member of SHSU College of Humanities and Social Sciences' Writing Enhanced Committee, 2017-present

Member of SHSU College of Humanities and Social Sciences' Committee on Online Education, 2015-2016

Member of SHSU History Department's Graduate Affairs Committee, 2012-2015, 2016-present

Member of SHSU History Department's Search Committee for African History, 2016

Member of SHSU History Department's Curriculum Committee, 2015-2016

Member of SHSU History Department's Budget Committee, 2015-2016

Member of SHSU History Department's Search Committee for Civil War and Reconstruction Era History, 2014-2015

Member of SHSU History Department's Search Committee for European Military History, 2013

Program Committee, Texas State Historical Association Annual Meeting, 2014

Faculty Coordinator for Black History Month Event, University of St. Thomas, 2011

## **Professional Affiliations**

American Historical Association  
 East Texas Historical Association  
 Southern Historical Association  
 Urban History Association