

Reuben Zahler

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EDUCATION:

- 2005 Ph.D., University of Chicago, History Department
Dissertation: "Honor, Corruption, and Legitimacy: Liberal Projects in the Early Venezuelan Republic, 1821-1850."
Chair: Tamar Herzog
- 1999 M.A., University of Chicago, History
- 1991 B.A., Cum Laude with Distinction, Cornell University, History

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT:

- 2015-present Associate Professor, History Department, University of Oregon
- 2012-2015 Assistant Professor, History Department, University of Oregon
- 2010-2019 Director of General Social Sciences Program, University of Oregon, Eugene
- 2004-2012 Instructor, University of Oregon, Eugene
History Department, Political Science Department
- 2005-2010 Instructor, Clark Honors College, University of Oregon, Eugene

WORKS IN PROGRESS:

Book: *Illicit Sex and Violence: Women in the Courts of an Emerging Republic, Venezuela 1780-1860*

PUBLICATIONS:

Book

Ambitious Rebels: Remaking Honor, Law, and Liberalism in Venezuela, 1780-1850.
University of Arizona Press, 2013.

Winner of the 2014 Fernando Coronil Book Award, granted by the Latin American Studies Association.

Articles and Book Chapters

"Women, Murderesses, and the Law in Colonial and Republican Venezuela." Book chapter in *The Social History of Law in Post-Colonial Latin America*, Oxford University Press (in production).

"Women and Crime in Latin America's Nineteenth Century." *History Compass* (in production).

"The Reluctant President: Regime Change in Venezuela, 1834-35." In *The Oxford Handbook of Revolutionary Elections, 1800-1910*. Edited by Eduardo Posada Carbó and Andrew Robertson. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2026. eText

ISBN:9780197831465

“To Punish and Protect: Communal Responses to Infanticide in the Early Venezuelan Republic, 1830s-1860s.” *The Journal of Social History* 59:1 (Fall 2025), pp.46-64.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/jsh/shae016>

“*Escandalosas*: Plebeian Women and Violence in Venezuela’s Middle Period (1790-1860).” *Anuario de Historia de América Latina* v60 (2023).
<https://doi.org/10.15460/jbla.60.2182>

"Reforming Women, Protecting Men: The Prosecution of Infanticide in Venezuela’s Early Republic, 1820–60." *Law and History Review* 40, no. 2 Aug/Sept (2022).

“How Civic Virtue Became Republican Honor: Revolution and Republicanism in Venezuela, 1800-1840,” *Journal of World History* 31:2 (June 2020).

“Y para las damas, qué? Liberalism, Nationalism, and Gender in the Hispanic World.” In Eastman, Scott, and Natalia Sobrevilla Perea, eds. *The Rise of Constitutional Government in the Iberian Atlantic World: The Impact of the Cádiz Constitution of 1812*. Mobile, AL: University of Alabama Press (2015).

"Heretics, Vagabonds, and Businessmen: Foreigners in Venezuela’s First Decade of Independence." In *Connections after Colonialism: Europe and Latin America in the 1820s*, edited by Matthew Brown and Gabriel Paquette. Mobile, AL: University of Alabama Press, 2013.

“Liberal Justice: Judicial Reform in Venezuela’s Courts, 1786-1850,” *Hispanic American Historical Review*, 90:3 (August 2010).

"Honor and Capitalism: Work and Citizenship in Venezuela, 1821-50." *Selected Papers of the 2009 Consortium on the Revolutionary Era, 1750-1850*. Louisiana State University, Shreveport, LA, 2010.

“Complaining Like a Liberal: Redefining Law, Justice, and Official Misconduct in Venezuela, 1790-1850,” *The Americas* 65:3 (January 2009): 351-74.

“The Sounds of War or of Growing Democracy? Venezuelan Intellectuals Speak on the April Coup,” *Journal of Iberian and Latin American Studies* 8:1, July 2002: 179-85.

Non-Peer Reviewed Publications

Invited Articles

Invited journal article: “Medium- and Short-Term Historical Causes of Venezuela’s Crisis,” *Latin American Studies Association Forum*, Forum on the Venezuelan Crisis, Autumn 2017 (2000 words; Fall 2017).

Invited journal article: “How I integrate the History of Jews into My Teaching,” *Association for Jewish Studies Perspectives*, Forum on Pedagogy (350 words; Summer 2017).

Book Reviews

Pompeian, Edward P. *Sustaining Empire: Venezuela's Trade with the United States during the Age of Revolutions, 1797–1828*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 2022. *The Americas* 80:3 (July 2023): 515-16.

Schaefer, Timo. *Liberalism as Utopia: The Rise and Fall of Legal Rule in Post-Colonial Mexico, 1820-1900*. New York City: Cambridge University Press, 2019. *Law and History Review* (2021).

Lasso, Marixa. *Myths of Harmony: Race and Republicanism During the Age of Revolution*. Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2007. *The Americas* 65, no. 4 (April 2009): 144-45.

Maher, John, ed. *Francisco de Miranda: Exile and Enlightenment*, Nineteenth-Century Latin American Series. London: Institute for the Study of the Americas, 2006. *European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies* 83, October 2007: 151-53.

Mendinueta, Viceroy Pedro. *Memoria Sobre el Nuevo Reino de Granada, 1803. A Report Concerning the Viceroyalty of New Granada*. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 2004. *The Americas* 62, no. 3 (2006): 457.

Encyclopedia Articles

“Venezuela” in Francis, J. Michael, ed. *Iberia and the Americas: Culture, Politics, and History*. Santa Barbara and Oxford: ABC-Clio, 2005.

“Independence – Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela” in Francis, J. Michael, ed. *Iberia and the Americas: Culture, Politics, and History*. Santa Barbara and Oxford: ABC-Clio, 2005.

ACADEMIC SERVICE:

Anonymous Peer Reviewer

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| 2025 | Article: <i>History Compass</i> , “Women and the Law in Latin American History: An Intersectional and Diachronic Perspective” |
| 2025 | Article: <i>Law and History Review</i> , Infamous or Innocent Heirs?: Legal Debates over Property Confiscation during the Wars of Independence from Spain |
| 2025 | Article: <i>The Americas</i> , “Preludio de la paz: los crepúsculos de la deseada paz: Controversias en el debate público monárquico en la Venezuela de 1820” |
| 2025 | Article: <i>Hispanic American Historical Review</i> , “Concerning the English captain...The anticolonial political thought of Mariano Moreno” |

- 2021-23 Three rounds of reviews of: Article: *Law and History Review*, “Beyond ‘Death Do Us Part’: Spousal Intestate Succession in Nineteenth Century Hispanic America”
- 2022 Article: *The Americas*, ““The *Escribano* of Babel: power, exile, and enslavement in the Venezuelan plains during the war of independence (1806-1833)”
- 2020 Article: *The Americas*, “Engendering Liberal Revolution in Nineteenth Century Spanish America: Women, Partisan Politics and the Federalist War in Colombia, c. 1859-1862”
- 2020 Article: *The Latin Americanist*: “The Emergence of the Liberal Elites: Lawyers and Social Mobility in Mid-Nineteenth Century Cuba”
- 2019 Article: *History Compass*, “Simón Bolívar and Friends: Recent Biographies of Independence Figures in Colombia and Venezuela”
- 2019 Article: *The Journal of Global History*, “Miranda on the Balkans: Consuls, the Fall of Empires, and the Southeastern Origins of the Long Age of Revolution”
- 2019 Article: *The Americas*, “The Cry of Liberty: Sound, Riot, and Political Consciousness in an Andean Lettered City”
- 2019 Article: *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, “Marcos Perez Jimenez: Perpetual Conscience of Venezuela?”
- 2018 Article: *Journal of Iberian and Latin American Studies*, “Lawyers on the Spanish Atlantic on the Eve of the Revolutionary Era”
- 2016-17 Two rounds of review for: Article: *Journal of Latin American Studies*, “Independence for Those without Freedom: Slavery and Manumission in Mérida, Venezuela, 1810-54”
- 2016 Book: University of New Mexico Press, *Tides of Revolution: Information, Insurgencies, and the Crisis of Colonial Rule in Venezuela*
- 2016 Article: *Journal of Latin American Studies*, “Independence for Those without Freedom: Slavery and Manumission in Mérida, Venezuela, 1810-54”
- 2016 Article: *SAGE Open*, “Banning the Chimbángüeles: Public Celebration, Elite Attitudes, and State Regulation in Maracaibo and Zulia State, Venezuela 1880-1910”
- 2010 Article: *The Americas*, “Engendering Liberal Revolution in Nineteenth Century Spanish America: Women, Partisan Politics and the Federalist War in Colombia, c. 1859-1862”

- 2010 Article: *European History Quarterly*, "Together or Separate in the Fight against Oppression? Liberals in Peru and Spain in the 1820s"

Committees and Miscellaneous

- 2016 Selection Committee for the Fernando Coronil Book Award, Latin American Studies Association
- 2011-present Contributing faculty to the Latin American Studies program
- 2012-15 Serving member of Americas Reading Interest Group
- 2010-12 Advisory Committee, College Scholars Program, University of Oregon
- 2005-10 Academic Advisor, Clark Honors College, University of Oregon
- 2005-10 Committee Member for Senior Honors Theses, Clark Honors College, University of Oregon
- 2002-09 Database Consultant, Academia Nacional de Historia, Caracas, Venezuela

PRESENTATIONS:

Invited Papers

- 2022 "Women and the Law in Colonial and Republican Venezuela."
Conference on the Social History of Law in Post-Colonial Latin America,
Oxford University, UK
- 2013 Commentator at the Graduate Student Conference on International
History, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- 2012 "¿Y para las damas, qué? Liberalism, nationalism, and gender in the
Hispanic world." Conference title: "La Constitución de Cádiz de 1812 y su
impacto en el Mundo Atlántico" Pontificia universidad católica del Perú.
Lima, Peru.
- 2009 "Revolutionary honour, truth, and justice: Creating a modern legal system
in Venezuela (and Latin America) after independence, 1820-50."
Venezuelan Embassy, London, UK.
- 2009 "Heretics, Bums, and Businessmen: Foreigners in Venezuela's First
Decade of Independence (1820s)." Conference on Europe and Ibero-
America, Trinity College, Cambridge University, UK.
- 2003 "The Crisis in Venezuela: Towards Revolution or Reconciliation?" Latin
American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies Program, University of
Wisconsin, Madison.

- 2003 “Media, Gunmen, and the Tactics of Confusion: Chavez’s Venezuela Torn Apart.” Center for Latin American Studies, University of Chicago.

Conferences and Presentations

- 2026 Panel Commentator: Reframing the Age of Revolutions, Part 1: The Global Silver Trade, the South Atlantic, and the Iberian World, 1750–1850. American Historical Association.
- Panel Commentator: Reframing the Age of Revolutions, Part 2: Constitutionalism, Legal Culture, and Plebeians in the Global Iberian World, 1750–1850. American Historical Association.
- 2024 Panel Chair and Commentator: Infanticide in the US and Canada: Race, Class, and State Control of Reproduction, 1870-1910. American Historical Association.
- 2023 “Community Responses to Infanticide in the Early Venezuelan Republic.” Conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies.
- 2022 “Scandal and Poor Women: Rumor and Murder in the early Venezuelan Republic.” Conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies.
- 2019 “Controlling Gender and Morals: Female Criminality in the Early Venezuelan Republic.” Conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies.
- 2018 "Killing Babies and Getting Away with It: Judicial Leniency with Infanticide, Venezuela, 1811-63." Conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies.
- 2017 “Why Did You Kill Your Baby: Infanticide, Motherhood, and the Courts in Venezuela, 1811-1863.” Works in Progress Series, History Department, University of Oregon
- 2017 “Why did you kill your baby? Infanticide in Venezuela’s early republic (1811-1850).” Conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies.
- 2016 “Women Killing Babies: Infanticide and Abortion in Venezuela’s Middle Period (1780-1850).” Latin American Studies Association
- 2015 Panel commentator: “‘A Fragile Harmony’: Economic Tensions, Social Frictions, and Political Instability in Venezuela During the Age of Revolutions, 1780-1810.” American Historical Association.

- 2014 "Unruly women: Patriarchy and Orthodoxy in the Early Venezuelan Republic." Conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies.
- 2014 "Secular Heretics: Poor Men and Other Threats to the 'Orthodoxy' of Patriarchy in the Early Venezuelan republic." American Historical Association
- 2013 "The Catholic Roots of Honor and Citizenship in the Early Venezuelan Republic." Conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies.
- 2011 "Violent Opposition: Venezuelan Liberals, Conservatives, and Rebels in the 1840s." American Historical Association.
- 2009 "Honor and Capitalism: Economic Productivity and Citizenship in Venezuela, 1821-50." Consortium on the Revolutionary Era.
- 2009 Round Table Discussant: "Reclaiming Gran Colombian Studies." American Historical Association.
- 2007 Round Table Discussant: "Left Behind or Left Ahead? Current Andean Political Trends in Historical Perspective." American Historical Association.
- 2007 "The Creation of Liberal Justice: Court Reform in Post-Independence Venezuela, 1821-50." American Historical Association.
- 2006 "Bums, Vice, Poverty, and Honor in the Early Venezuelan Republic, 1821-1835." American Historical Association.
- 2005 "Abusive Administrators, Offensive Creditors: Political, Economic, and Moral Corruption in the Early Venezuelan Republic (1821-50)." American Historical Association.
- 2004 Chair of panel: "To Build the Republic: Forging Political Vision in 19th and 20th Century Venezuela." Latin American Studies Association. Paper title: "*Derecho, Gente Decente, Ley, y Virtud*: Honor and the Liberal Ethos in Venezuela, 1821-48."
- 2001 "Honor and Liberalism in the Early Venezuelan Republic." Mellon Conference for Latin American History, Harvard University.

COMPETITIVE AWARDS:

- 2015 Faculty Research Grant from the Center for the Study of Women in Society, University of Oregon

- 2015 Summer Stipend for Humanities and Creative Arts Faculty, University of Oregon
- 2014 Fernando Coronil Book Award, 2014. Given by the Latin American Studies Association
- 2014 Travel grant from the Center for the Study of Women in Society, University of Oregon
- 2009 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend
- 2002-03 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship
- 2000-03 Mellon Fellowship for Latin American History
- 2001 Mellon Fellowship Field Research Grant
- 2000 Hewlett Field Research Grant

Other Awards:

- 2009 Excellence in Teaching Award from the National Society of Leadership and Success (Sigma Alpha Pi)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Survey courses: Latin American History, Colonial to Modern; World History, Ancient to Modern; European History, Early Modern

Seminars on Latin America: Gender During the Age of Revolution; The Cold War; History of the Catholic Church; Sex and Honor in the Hispanic World; Political and Economic Development

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

American Historical Association
Conference on Latin American History
Latin American Studies Association
Rocky Mountain Conference on Latin America