

Alexander Aviña

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Crossing borders—national, disciplinary, and methodological borders—characterizes my research and teaching as a public-facing historian. My academic training as a historian of Latin America and my personal experience of growing up in the United States with undocumented Mexican migrant parents aid my ongoing efforts to cross and bring together the fields of US and Latin American history. This is an urgent endeavor, as key issues of our time—migration, violent border regimes across the globe, rising authoritarianism, political assaults on higher education—demand historical perspective and insight willing to traverse national and subfield boundaries. I have learned this lesson firsthand in my work as an expert witness and country conditions report author for refugee asylum cases. If elected, I hope to bring these experiences—along with the goal of fostering internal democracy within the AHA—to my work as member of the Nominating Committee.