STUDYING CHANGE TO MAKE CHANGE

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2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT

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an eventful year

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear LCHP Community,

The last in-person event that LCHP held was on March 8, 2020. It was devoted to the legacy of women's suffrage one hundred years after the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment.Forty-five brave souls made it to campus on the day of the LA Marathon for a stimulating afternoon filled with cutting-edge history, insightful political talk, and a clear sense of the connection between the two.

Little did we know that it would be the last event we held in person for more than sixteen months.Rumors of the impending coronavirus abounded, but we did not know then the scale and impact of the global pandemic.Only a few days later, we began to grasp what was transpiring when the UCLA administration moved all classes online effective immediately, on the last day of the quarter.

At LCHP, we asked ourselves how our approach can be of benefit in this radically transformed world. Our first step was to draw on our existing cadre of researchers to put together a small team to explore the way in which local and state authorities in California responded in the past to major health crises. The result was our report Pandemics Past and Present.

The COVID-19 pandemic prompted us to ask ourselves how major crises of different sorts had affected the University of California—and UCLA more specifically. Several months later, the country faced another crisis— an awakening to the enduring effects of structural racism punctuated by the murder of George Floyd. In the ensuing moment of reckoning, we began to ask about UCLA's own legacy of race and racism. We assembled two new teams of researchers working in parallel and at times intersecting fashion to explore the university's responses to past crises of scale and the history of racism at UCLA.

This is the kind of work that we should be doing: historically informed research that addresses questions of real—and in this case, local—urgency. Our goal, as our year-long report on houselessness in LA demonstrated, is to make clear why history matters – and to have an impact!

We encourage you to read about our work—and, should you be moved, to join in advancing it. LCHP is developing a distinctive model of applied historical research that can make a difference, as this annual report shows. We invite your partnership in expanding the reach and impact of our work. If you're interested in learning more about LCHP, please reach out to me at myers@history.ucla.edu or to our assistant director, Maia Ferdman, at maia@history.ucla.edu.

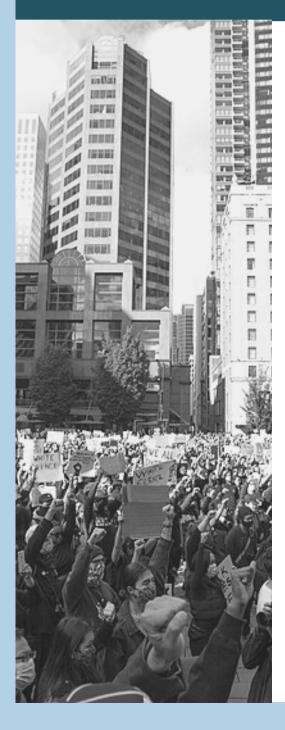
Sincerely,

David N. Myers, Director

ABOUT LCHP

Studying Change to Make Change





Vision: The UCLA Luskin Center for History and Policy (LCHP) imagines a world in which leaders, policymakers, and citizens regularly use history as a guide to civic engagement, policy formation, and an alternative and better future.

Mission: The UCLA Luskin Center for History and Policy (LCHP) aims to bring vital historical knowledge, perspective, and analysis to bear on key contemporary issues and policy deliberations.

Approach:

- Public Outreach: Promoting history as a central tool of informed public debate
- Education & Training: Training students and scholars to apply historical research to key present-day questions
- Research: Conducting influential research that models a new form of historically grounded policy analysis.



RESEARCH

LCHP conducts historical research on some of the most timely issues of the day, from homelessness in Los Angeles to US foreign policy in the Middle East.

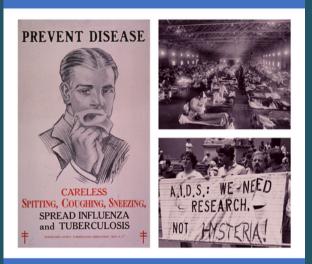
Collaborative teams of in-house researchers, including undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty, work together to research and compile our reports. Each report includes historically based policy recommendations.

LCHP released 2 reports during the Spring Quarter of 2020, and 5 reports during the 2020-21 academic year.

LCHP also awards grants to teams who conduct collaborative research or hold public programming that bring historical analysis to bear on key issues of contemporary relevance.

Read on to learn more about LCHP research.

PANDEMICS PAST AND PRESENT: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF CALIFORNIA HISTORY



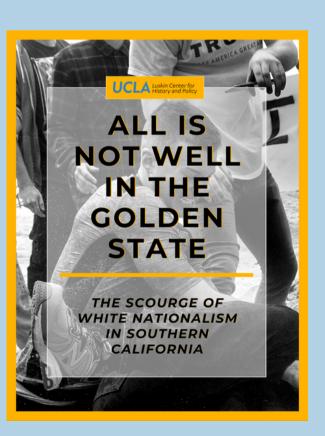
By Dr. Kirsten Moore-Sheeley, Jessica Richards, and Talla Khelghati

PANDEMICS PAST AND PRESENT: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF CALIFORNIA HISTORY

Released April 2020 Authors: Dr. Kirsten Moore-Sheeley, Jessica Richards, Talla Khelghati

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit last March 2020, LCHP researchers looked to the past to understand how California responded. A report examining the history of California's approach to three key pandemics of the past.

Read it here.

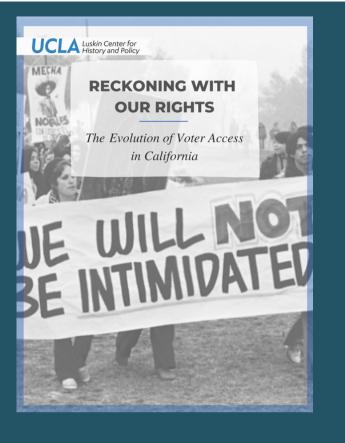


ALL IS NOT WELL IN THE GOLDEN STATE: THE SCOURGE OF WHITE NATIONALISM IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Released June 2020

Authors: Sareen Ishanyan, Gavin Quan, Noga Tour, and Jeremy Powel, Grace Johnston-Glick, Mayumi Okazaki, James Nee, Rachel Sass, and Matt Ospina, and Lacy Green. With support from Ph.D. candidate Sarah Johnson.

White nationalism is alive in Southern California today. This report examines white nationalism's history, ideology, and present-day operations, and provides some recommendations for confronting the dangers it poses. <u>Read it here.</u>



RECKONING WITH OUR RIGHTS: THE EVOLUTION OF VOTER ACCESS IN CALIFORNIA

Released September 2020 Authors: Alisa Belinkoff Katz, Zev Yaroslavsky, Izul de la Vega, Saman Haddad, Jeanne Ramin

This report takes a historical view to explain why the electorate in California specifically remains so demographically and socioeconomically skewed.

Read it here.



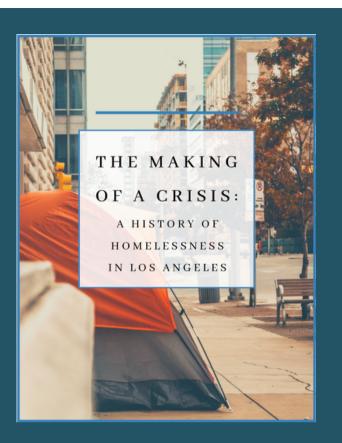
A CENTURY OF FIGHTING TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN LOS ANGELES 1920-2020

BY MARTIN WACHS, PETER SEBASTIAN CHESNEY, AND YU HONG HWANG

A CENTURY OF FIGHTING TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN LOS ANGELES (1920-2020)

Released October 2020 Authors: Martin Wachs, Peter Sebastian Chesney, Yu Hong Hwang Los Angeles is infamous for its ubiquitous, sprawling, and congested roads and freeways. But has traffic in Los Angeles always looked this way? This report, by LCHP Research Fellows (2019-20), details the history of fighting traffic congestion in Los Angeles. **Read it here.**

LCHP mourns the loss of Martin Wachs, Professor Emeritus of Civil & Environmental Engineering, former Chairman of the UCLA Department of Urban Planning, who passed away on April 12, 2021. Learn more about his extraordinary career and legacy <u>here</u>.



THE MAKING OF A CRISIS: A HISTORY OF HOMELESSNESS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Released February 2021

Authors: Dr. Kirsten Moore-Sheeley, Alisa Belinkoff Katz, Andrew Klein, Jessica Richards, Fernanda Jahn-Verri, Marques Vestal, and Zev Yaroslavsky.

This report takes a historical view to explain the historical roots of the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles County. It examines housing policy, racial dynamics, local governance issues, and policing practices.

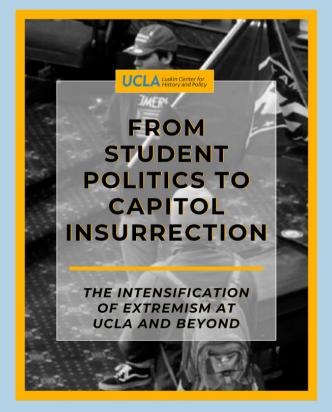
<u>Read it here.</u>

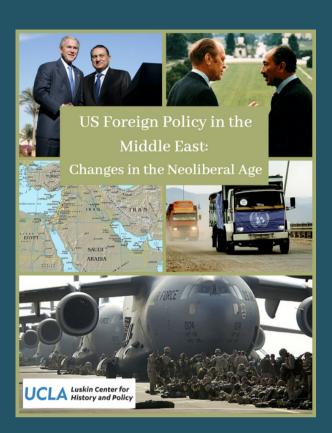
FROM STUDENT POLITICS TO CAPITOL INSURRECTION: THE INTENSIFICATION OF EXTREMISM AT UCLA AND BEYOND

Released March 2021

Authors: Grace Johnston-Glick and James Nee (National section); Lacy Green and Gavin Quan (State section); Brandon Broukhim and Talla Khelghati (UCLA section). Edited by Erin Onarecker.

This report tracks the intensification of rightwing extremist activity on national, state, and local levels, and explores how white nationalism made its way to the UCLA student body. It was researched and written as a follow-up to the report on white nationalism in Southern California. <u>Read it here.</u>





U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST: CHANGES IN THE NEOLIBERAL AGE

Released June 2021

Authors: Mariam Aref, Leila Achtoun, Jessica Brouard, and Karina Ourfalian. Introduction edited by Firyal Bawab. Edited by Philip Hoffman, Lily Hindy, and Monica Widmann.

The Middle East Research Initiative (MERI) involved a dedicated team of undergraduates working under the guidance of three dedicated UCLA Ph.D. candidates to examine the longterm motives and effects (both domestically and internationally) of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East.

Read it here.

SKEWED RECOVERY: MINORITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO IRAQ IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Released June 2021 Authors: Philip Hoffman, Lily Hindy, and Monica Widmann

Also part of the Middle East Research Initiative, this report situates current trends in American humanitarian aid in Iraq within a broader history of Western intervention.

Read it here.

By Lily Hindy, Philip Hoffman. and Monica Widmann

UCLA Luskin Center for History and Policy

Skewed Recovery:

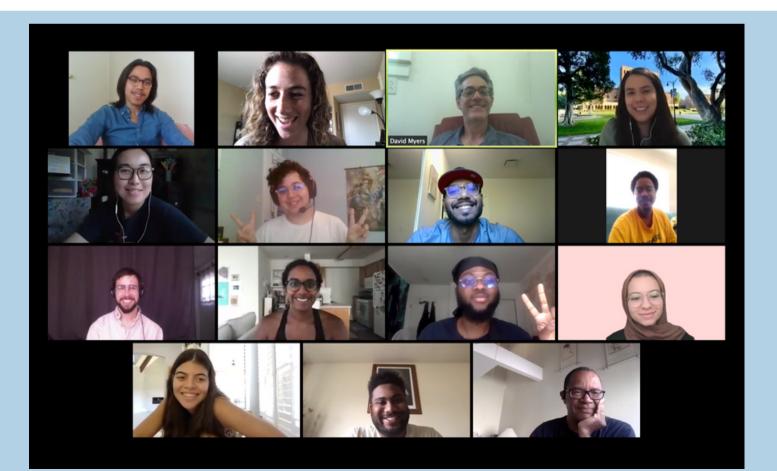
Minority Assistance Programs to Iraq in Historical Perspective

RESEARCHING THE UNIVERSITY

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to the protests against racial injustice in Summer 2020, LCHP launched two ongoing research teams that look inward at university history. The two teams will be completing reports on these topics by the end of summer 2021, and we plan to present the findings to a variety of audiences in fall. The research teams are:

The Legacy of Race and Racism at UCLA: This project takes a deep dive into the patterns and trends in the history of racism at UCLA in order to understand what steps UCLA should take to make it a more just and equitable institution.

How Does UCLA Respond to Economic Crisis? This project seeks to understand how UCLA, and the larger UC system, responded to past crises, especially the 2008-09 recession. It focuses on decision-making processes and their lingering institutional and intellectual effects.



RESEARCH GRANTS



Each year, the UCLA Luskin Center for History and Policy funds visionary research projects and programs that bring together in-depth historical research and cutting-edge policy analysis. This year, we broadened our call for proposals to include public facing and artistic projects that also engaged partner institutions across Los Angeles. Read more about the projects <u>here</u>.

The Collecting Community History Initiative: The West During COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter | Tyree Boyd-Pates of The Autry Museum of the American West, Dr. Stephen Aron, Dr. Brenda Stevenson (learn more)

The Politics of Power: The Historical Evolution of Architecture and Cultural Identity In Minority Communities | Hao Ding, Dr. Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris

Essential Workers, Health Crisis and Policy: A Public History of Farm Labor | Project Members: Dr. Tawny Paul, Dr. Daniel Diaz (learn more)

Constructing Death In Medical Examiner Reports | Dr. Terrence Keel, Armond Lee





PUBLIC OUTREACH

Promoting history as a central tool of informed public debate is core to LCHP's mission. When in-person programming came to a halt in March 2020, we asked ourselves: how can LCHP continue to curate important and timely conversations about present-day issues using a historical lens?

We launched *Then & Now*, a bi-weekly podcast that connects past to present, in April 2020. Each episode invites a guest to reflect on a timely current event through both historical and modern-day angles.

LCHP also curated a blog series that showcased History Department faculty "short takes" on current events, and cosponsored numerous virtual events throughout the year.

LCHP Podcast

LCHP's podcast, Then & Now, was launched shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic took hold in April 2020. Then & Now connects past to present, using historical analysis and context to help guide us through modern issues and policy decisions. Every other week LCHP interviews historians, policymakers, and thought leaders about what happened then, and what that means for us now.





Then & Now episodes cover a breadth of topics, ranging from voting rights, to anti-Asian hatred, to political polarization.

Find episodes by topic here.

Listen to Then & Now wherever you listen to your podcasts!









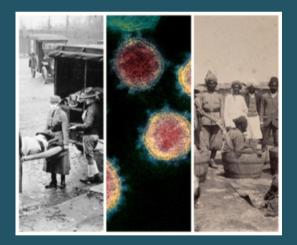
virtual

PROGRAMMING & CONTENT

Short Takes by UCLA Historians about Pandemics and Fascism

This blog mini-series featured short reflections by UCLA History faculty about present-day crises.

The first focused on the COVID-19 pandemic and public health approaches throughout history (<u>read it here</u>). The second focused on the insurrection on January 6th and fascist trends over the past one hundred years (<u>read it here</u>).







Why History Matters: "Reckoning With Our Rights: The Legacy of Voter Access in California"

On October 1, the History Department's *Why History Matters* series and LCHP organized a panel discussion that discussed the results of the LCHP research report on voting rights in California.

The panel was introduced by Professor Carla Pestana, UCLA Department of History Chair, and Dean Darnell Hunt, Dean of Social Sciences. The panel, moderated by Zev Yaroslavsky, featured: Alex Padilla (then California Secretary of State), Alisa Belinkoff Katz (Associate Director, LA Initiative and author of the report), Lorrie Frasure (Acting Director, Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies and Associate Professor, UCLA Department of Political Science and African American Studies), and Dean Logan (Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk of Los Angeles County).

Watch the event here.

LCHP also co-sponsored and supported numerous virtual programs throughout the academic year. Check out a full list of LCHP's co-sponsored events here.



EDUCATION/TRAINING

In addition to producing valuable research and promoting the use of history to inform policy-making, LCHP is also dedicated to inculcating a "habit of mind" in undergraduate and graduate students alike. LCHP trains students in historical and policy-based research methods and provides them with hands-on experience and mentorship.

For example, LCHP Director David Myers taught a History 191 seminar in Spring 2021 called "How Can History Make the World Better? Theory and Practice of Applied History" and Tyree Boyd-Pates helped design and teach a course on curating contemporary history in Spring 2021 based on his fellowship work with LCHP. In Summer 2021, LCHP also launched our inaugural Summer Research Institute to expose students to the myriad ways history can be used to shape policy. Read on to learn more about this effort.



SUMMER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The inaugural LCHP Summer Research Institute attracted 60 outstanding UCLA undergraduate and graduate students who immersed themselves in historical research methods. From June 21 to 23, students were exposed to the myriad ways in which historical research and knowledge can make a difference in the world. They learned about historical and data-driven research methods and examined different modes of applying historical knowledge to present-day problems and issues. Students worked on their own LCHP-style research proposals throughout the three days and presented them to the group at the end of the institute.

SRI featured outstanding UCLA presenters who offered a wide range of expertise: Aomar Boum, Heather Briston, Eddie Cole, Kenya Covington, Danielle Dupuy, Kelly Lytle Hernandez, Alisa Belinkoff Katz, Jazz Kiang, Katherine Marino, Todd Presner, Grace Hae Rim Shin, and Zev Yaroslavsky.

LCHP IN ACTION

LCHP worked hard this year to make sure all the important content and research that we produced was heard, read, and absorbed by the broader public. Check out some of the places LCHP has showed up in the media and beyond.

LCHP IN THE MEDIA



- <u>LA Times Op-Ed: Modern California is all about</u> voter access. <u>History reveals a far grimmer voting-</u> rights past</u> by Alisa Belinkoff Katz
- <u>LA Times Op-Ed: What we should have learned</u> <u>from L.A.'s long history of homelessness</u> by Marques Vestal and Andrew Klein
- <u>Streetsblog: A Historical Perspective on Los Angeles'</u> <u>Traffic Congestion Fight</u>

CITATIONS

- <u>Injunction against City of LA by</u> <u>Judge David Carter</u>
- <u>Cal State LA Pat Brown Institute</u> <u>"We're not going back" report</u>
- <u>Daily Bruin: Examining the rise of</u> <u>Christian Secor and the 'alt-right'</u> <u>movement at UCLA</u>
- <u>LATimes Column: Is homelessness</u> <u>a property rights issue or a human</u> <u>rights issue? We have to decide</u>

PRESENTATIONS

- Dr. Kirsten Moore-Sheeley presented homelessness report findings to Chrysalis staff
- The Race and Racism at UCLA research team presented to the UCLA Honorary Naming Committee
- Talla Khelghati and Brandon Broukhim presented their findings on extremism on campus to key UCLA administrators

UCLA HIGHLIGHTS

UCLA

- UCLA Newsroom: <u>California has removed most</u> <u>obstacles to voting</u>. <u>Why are so many still not</u> <u>going to the polls?</u>
- UCLA Newsroom: <u>The history of homelessness in</u> <u>Los Angeles points to new approaches</u>
- UCLA Magazine: <u>Breakthroughs and Discoveries</u>
- UCLA Newsroom: <u>Understanding today's anti-</u> <u>Asian violence by looking at the past</u>

THE LCHP COMMUNITY

<u>Staff</u>

Prof. David N. Myers, Director Maia Ferdman, Assistant Director Ann Major Asiroh Cham

<u>2020-21</u>

Board of Advisors

Secretary Lonnie G. Bunch III Janet Clayton The Honorable Michael Dukakis Prof. James Gelvin Carole Goldberg The Honorable Jane Harman Prof. Tobias Higbie Meyer Luskin Dr. Carla Pestana Dr. Rosalind Remer Prof. Angela R. Riley Dean Gary M. Segura Prof. Raphael Sonenshein The Honorable Zev Yaroslavsky

Faculty Advisory Committee

Prof. Aomar Boum Prof. Soraya de Chadarevian Prof. Katsuya Hirano Prof. Kevin Y. Kim Prof. Katherine Marino Prof. Minayo Nasiali Prof. Geoffrey Robinson Prof. Brenda Stevenson

<u>Interns</u>

Emily Chau (2020-21) Jackson Gregory (2020-21) Saman Haddad (Summer 2020) Atreyi Mitra (2020-21) Héctor Osorio (Summer 2020) <u>Senior Research Fellows</u> Prof.Eddie Cole Prof. Aomar Boum Alisa Belinkoff Katz Zev Yaro<u>slavsky</u>

Summer 2020-Spring 2021

<u>Graduate Student and Post-Graduate</u> <u>Research Fellows</u>

Desmond Fonseca, Jessica Guzmán, Ariel Hart, Lily Hindy, Phillip Hoffman, Fernanda Jahn-Verri, Nadeeka Karunaratne, Jazz Kiang, Andrew Klein, Kirsten Moore-Sheeley, Kyle Nelson, Matt Phillips, Abdullah Puckett, Jessica Richards, Debanjan Roychoudhury, Grace Hae Rim Shin, Izul de la Vega, Marques Vestal,

<u>Undergraduate Student Research</u> <u>Fellows</u>

Leila Achtoun, Firyal Bawab, Jessica Brouard, Brandon Broukhim, Madison Deyo, Mariana Gonzalez, Lacy Green, Saman Haddad, Grace Johnston-Glick, Kayleah Kellybrew, Talla Khelghati, Armond Lee, Gabriela Legaspi, Mariam Aref Mahmoud, James Nee, Kosi Ogbuli, Erin Onarecker, Héctor Osorio, Karina Ourfalian, Victoria Pfau, Gavin Quan, Jeanne Ramin, Sarah Son, Skylar Weatherford, Mariam Zahran, Nicole Zhang

STAY IN TOUCH! follow us to hear about LCHP activities in the coming year!

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Luskin Center for History and Policy



luskincenter@ history.ucla.edu