

Jason E. Pierce, Ph.D.
Professor
Chair, Department of History
Angelo State University
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Research Interests

History of the American West; American Indian history, public history; environmental history; race and racial identity; immigration history; Russian/Soviet history (outside field).

Education

- 2008 Doctor of Philosophy, University of Arkansas. Dissertation title: "Making the White Man's West: Whiteness and the Creation of the American West." Advisor: Elliott West. GPA: 4.0
- 2005-2007 Doctoral Candidate, University of Arkansas
- 2003-2005 Doctoral student, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.
- 1998-2000 Master of Arts in History, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon. MA Thesis title: "A Paradise of One's Construction: Identity, Nature, and Land-use in Hood River County, Oregon." Advisor: William L. Lang. GPA: 3.88
- 1993-1998 Bachelor of Arts in History and English, Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado. GPA: 3.70

Academic Work Experience

- 2019-present Chair, Department of History, Angelo State University, San Angelo. Duties include assessment of departmental programs, student recruitment and retention; faculty hiring and evaluation; finance and budgeting; day to day management of department.
- 2020 Full Professor of History, Angelo State University, San Angelo.
- 2015-2019 Associate Professor of History, Angelo State University, San Angelo.
- 2009-2015 Assistant Professor of History, Angelo State University, San Angelo.
- 2008 Instructor, Upward Bound Program, Northwest Arkansas Community College. Class taught: History of the American Indian.
- 2008 Instructor. Northwest Arkansas Community College. Classes taught: U.S. History Survey to 1877; U.S. History Survey since 1877.

- 2007 Instructor. University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Classes taught: U.S. History Survey to 1877; U.S History Survey since 1877.
- 2004-2007 Teaching Assistant. University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Classes taught: U.S. History Survey to 1877; U.S. History Survey since 1877; Western Civilization I; Western Civilization II; Honors World Civilization I;, and Honors World Civilization II.
- 2003-2006 Assistant Director, Arkansas Center of Oral and Visual History. University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Duties included assisting with grant-writing, editing transcripts, and conserving oral materials. Projects included oral histories of *The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* newspaper and the William Jefferson Clinton History Project.
- 1998-2000 Rose Tucker Fellow. Rose Tucker Fellow, Oregon Historical Society, Portland, Oregon. Duties included: conservation and preservation of historic materials, database creation and input, exhibit development, research, writing, and helping K-12 teachers incorporate primary sources into the classroom.

Courses Taught

Angelo State University

Hist 1301: U.S. History to 1865
 Hist 1302: U.S. History 1865-Present
 Hist 2372: Historiography and Introduction to Public History
 Hist 3301: Texas History
 Hist 3344: U.S Environmental History and Politics
 Hist 4302: History of the American West
 Hist 4314: Historic Preservation, Research and Writing
 Hist 4325: Indians of North America
 Hist 4370: Capstone in History
 Hist 4371: Internship in History
 Hist 6330: Historical Records and Site Preservation (graduate course)
 Hist 6342: American Social Movements (graduate course)
 Hist 6373: Historiography (graduate course)
 USTD 1201: Critical Thinking
 GS 1181: The Human Condition
 GS 1181: The Western in American Culture

University of Arkansas

Hist 1003: Western Civilization I
 Hist 1013: Western Civilization II
 Hist 1103: World Civilization I
 Hist 1123: World Civilization II
 Hist 2003: U.S. History to 1877

Publications

Books

Texas: An Environmental History, with Dr. Kenna Archer and Dr. Char Miller. Under contract with Texas Tech University Press, 2025.

Daily Life in the American West. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO/Greenwood Press, 2022.

Making the White Man's West: Whiteness and the Creation of the American West. Niwot: University Press of Colorado, 2016.

Articles

“We and Bobby Lee,” with Dr. Michael Powers. *The Public Historian*, Vol 45, no 4 (November 2023).

“Marvelous, Maligned, and Misunderstood: The Strange History of the Mesquite Tree in Texas.” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (Spring 2014).

“The Winds of Change: Windsurfing and the Development of Hood River County, Oregon.” *The Oregon Historical Quarterly* (Fall 2007).

“Creating the Natural State: Outsiders, Insiders and the Buffalo National River.” *The Ozark Historical Review* (Spring 2006).

“Environmental History and the Archival Profession.” *Easy Access*. Summer 2000.

Book Reviews

Review of *The Falls of Wichita Falls: An Environmental History of the Red Rolling Plains* by Jahue Anderson, *Western Historical Quarterly*, *Western Historical Quarterly*, Volume 55, Issue 3, Autumn 2024, Pages 235–236, <https://doi.org/10.1093/whq/whae028>

Review of *Whiteness in Plain View: A History of Racial Exclusion in Minnesota* by Chad Montrie, *New Mexico Historical Review*, forthcoming.

Review of *Leveraging an Empire: Settler Colonialism and the Legalities of Citizenship in the Pacific Northwest* by Jacki Hedlund Tyler, *American Historical Review*, vol. 129, Issue 2 (Summer 2024)

Review of *Making a Modern U.S. West: The Contested Terrain of a Region and Its Borders, 1898-1940* by Sarah Deutsch, *Western Historical Quarterly*, 53, no. 4 (Winter 2022)

Review of *The Three-Cornered War: The Union, the Confederacy, and Native Peoples in the Fight for the West*. *New Mexico Historical Review*, 97, no. 1 (Winter 2022).

Review of *Forgotten Futures, Colonized Pasts: Transnational Collaboration in Nineteenth-Century Greater Mexico* by Cara Anne Kinnally. *California History* (Fall, 2020).

Review of *Copper Stain: Asarco's Legacy in El Paso* by Elian Hampton and Cynthia C. Ontiveros. *The Journal of Southern History*. Volume LXXXVI, No. 2 (May, 2020).

Review of *The American West and the World* by Janne Lahti. *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*. Volume 123, No. 1 (January, 2020).

Review of *Gold Mountain Turned to Dust: Essays on the Legal History of the Chinese in the Nineteenth-Century American West* by John R. Wunder, ed. *The Historian*, 81, no. 3, 491-492. DOI: 10.1111/hisn.13213.

Review of *Race Experts: Sculpture, Anthropology, and the American Public in Malvina Hoffman's Races of Mankind Exhibit* by Linda Kim. *Journal of South Texas*, forthcoming.

Review of *Scandinavians in Chicago* by Erika Jackson. *History: Review of New Books*, 47, no. 5, 108-110.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03612759.2019.1631666>

Review of *Frontier Rebels: The Fight for Independence in the American West, 1765-1776*. *Indiana Magazine of History*, Vol. 115, no. 2 (June, 2019).

Review of *Out Where the West Begins, Vol. 2* by Phil Anschutz. *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* Vol. 110, no. 1 (Winter 2018/2019).

Review of *Man-Hunters of the Old West* by Richard DeArment. *Western Historical Quarterly*, 49, no. 2 (Summer 2018), 225.

Review of *Epiphany in the Wilderness: Hunting, Nature, and Performance in the Nineteenth-Century American West* by Karen R. Jones. *Kansas History* 40, no. 1 (Spring 2017), 74.

Review of *Prep School Cowboys: Ranch Schools in the American West*. Melissa Bingmann. *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 120, no 4 (April 2017), 524-25.

Review of *Mythic Frontiers: Remembering, Forgetting, and Profiting from Cultural Heritage Tourism*. Daniel R. Maher. *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 75, no. 3 (Autumn, 2016), 273-75.

Review of *Valentine T. McGillicuddy: Army Surgeon, Agent to the Sioux*, by Candy Moulton. *The Great Plains Quarterly* 32, no.4 (Winter 2012): 69-70.

Review of *The History of White People* by Nell Irvin Painter. *The Journal of World History*, 23, no. 3 (September 2012): 216-220.

Review of *Bound to Have Blood: Frontier Newspapers and the Plains Indian Wars* by Hugh J. Reilly. *Military History of the West* 42 (2012), 51-52).

Review of *Range of Glaciers: The Exploration and Survey of the Northern Cascade Range*, by Fred Beckey. H-West, H-Net Reviews, February, 2004. URL: <http://www.hnet.msu.edu/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=159171081144618>.

Review of *Writing Naturally: A Down to Earth Guide to Nature Writing*, by David Peterson. *High Country News*, 27 (May 2002): 15.

Selected Awards

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| 2022 | Gary and Pat Rodgers Distinguished Faculty Nominee. |
| 2017 | Carolyn Bancroft Award for Best Book in Western American History, Nominee |
| 2017 | Gary and Pat Rodgers Distinguished Faculty Award Nominee |
| 2012 | Gary and Pat Rodgers Distinguished Faculty Award Nominee. |
| 2011 | Faculty Research Enhancement Grant. Angelo State University. San Angelo, Texas. |
| 2006 | Visiting Summer Scholar. Autry National Center, Los Angeles, California. |
| 2003-2007 | Distinguished Doctoral Fellow. University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. |
| 2004 | Guest Lecturer. Teaching American History Grant. Durango, Colorado |

- 2000 Recipient of Pacific Northwest Archivists' "At Large Student Scholarship" 2000.
- 1998-2000 Rose Tucker Fellow. Portland State University, Portland, Oregon.
- 1998 "History Student of the Year." Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado.
- 1998 Magna Cum Laude, Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado.

Selected Presentations and Papers Given

- 2023: "Nature and Place in the Lonestar State: Toward an Environmental History of Texas," Texas State Historical Association Meeting, El Paso, Texas.
- 2022: Session comment on "Indigenous Lands and Locations" panel. Presented at the Western History Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas.
- 2020: Session comment on "Whiteness and White Homelands" panel. Presented at the Western History Association Annual Meeting, Virtual.
- 2018: "Conceiving Texas: Environmental Perceptions and the Invention of Anglo-Texas." Paper presented at the Western History Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas.
- 2014: "Lincoln Looks West," Angelo State University Civil War Lecture Series, January 2014.
- 2013: "Marvelous, Maligned, and Misunderstood: The Strange History of the Mesquite Tree in Texas" for the Tom Green County Genealogical Society, March 2013.
- 2012: "How to do Oral History," public workshop, October 2012.
- 2012: "Tuberculosis in Texas and the West," Tom Green County Genealogical Society, May 2012.
- 2011: "Building Partnerships: Celebrating 100 years of the O.C. Fisher Building." Speech in commemoration of the centennial of the O.C. Fisher Building
- 2009: "Session Comment: Toward a Multi-Species History?" Paper presented at the Mid-America Conference on History, Norman Oklahoma.
- 2009 "Indians in the Military," Speech given at Goodfellow Air Force Base in commemoration of Native American History Month, November of 2009.

- 2007: “Making the White Man’s West: Whiteness and the Creation of the American West.” Paper presented at the Western History Association Conference, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
- 2006: “Unbearably Human: Werner Herzog’s *Grizzly Man* and the American Character.” Paper presented at the International Film and History Conference, Dallas Texas.
- “A Climate of Anxiety: Racial Degeneration and Westward Expansion,” Paper presented at the Mid-America Conference on History, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- 2005: “State Standards and History Education,” Guest Lecturer, Teaching American History Grant, Durango, Colorado.
- 2004: “Creating the Natural State: Outsiders, Insiders and the Buffalo National River,” Paper presented at the Mid-America Conference on History, Springfield, Missouri.

University Service

- 2020: College Curriculum Committee.
- 2018: College T&P Committee.
- 2016-Present University Core Curriculum Committee.
- 2014-2016: University Academic Assessment Committee Member.
- 2014: Chair, Department Presidential Award and Distinguished Student Awards Committee.
- 2014: Department Scholarship Committee.
- 2013: Search Committee Chair for Department Instructor Positions.
- 2012-2013: College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee member.
- 2010-2012: History representative to the Faculty Senate.
- 2012: Search Committee Chair (search terminated).
- 2011: Coauthor “The Q.U.E.S.T. for Success (Question, Understand, Engage, Support, Teach): Creating a Community of Active Learning and Engagement for the 21st Century,” winning proposal on community

engagement and active learning for Southern Association of Colleges (SACs) reaccreditation.

- 2011: Served on Ad-hoc Committee to revise University Operating Policies and Procedures.
- 2011: Served on Ad-hoc Committee to analyze University Policies based on SACs accreditation standards.
- 2011: Search Committee Member, History Department.

Professional and Community Service

- 2024: NEH Program Grant Reviewer.
- 2021-Present: Board Member, Mayer Museum, San Angelo.
- 2023-Present: West Texas Historical Association Board Member.
- 2019: Review of *Black Montana* manuscript for possible publication by the University of Nebraska Press.
- 2019: West Texas Historical Association Annual Meeting Selection Committee, Chair
- 2018: West Texas Historical Association Annual Meeting Program Committee.
- 2016-2025 Board Member, Fort Concho National Historic Site. Oversee Fort Concho's preservation, research, and education efforts.
- 2012-2014 Board Member, San Angelo Cultural District. Helped coordinate long-term development plans for the area near Fort Concho and the San Angelo Art Museum.
- 2001-2002: Volunteer with Colorado Preservation Inc., a Denver-based historic preservation organization, 2001-02. I provided assistance with public-relations work. I have also written several short articles based on their "Most Endangered Places" list of threatened historic sites.

Job-related Skills

I am trained in the use of Blackboard CE, Microsoft Word, Excel, and Powerpoint.

Languages

Reading Comprehension of Spanish.
Basic Reading Comprehension of German.

Interests

My interests include hiking, cycling, camping, reading, and writing. In 1998 my wife and I backpacked the 475 mile Colorado Trail from Denver to Durango. In 1994 I was a member of the first Collegiate National Championship Mountain Bike Team at Fort Lewis College in Durango.

References for Jason Pierce, Angelo State University

Former Department Chair

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Other Professors

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Dr. William “Bill” L. Lang
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Community References

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