

## **Michelle Turk**

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College of Liberal Arts  
History Department  
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### **Education**

#### **University of Nevada, Las Vegas - Ph.D., 2011**

- Major: History
- Minor: Public History
- President's UNLV Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2010-2011.

#### **University of California, Irvine - B.A., 2004**

- Major: History
- Minor: Global Peace and Conflict Resolution
- Minor: English

### **Academic Positions**

- Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Department of History, 2021-Present.
- Instructor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Department of History & Honors College, 2017-2021, 2008-2011.
- Instructor, College of Southern Nevada, Department of Social Sciences, 2012-2014.
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Department of History, 2004-2005.
- Methods:
  - Designs and teaches courses in web-based, hybrid, and in-person formats.
  - Develops courses with interdisciplinary partnerships.
  - Integrates multimedia and humanities approaches to teaching history.
  - Uses instructional technology to enhance pedagogical technique.
- Courses:
  - U.S. History Colonial Period to 1877
  - U.S. History 1865 to Present
  - Nevada History
  - Exploring American Politics

- Global Issues
- History of Science
- History of American Labor

## Public History

- Primary Historian, VR Hoover Dam: A Virtual Reality Game Exploring the History and Construction of an American Icon, National Endowment for the Humanities, Digital Project for Public Grants, 2021-Present.
  - Envisions new pedagogy and scholarly insights for the use of historically-based, educational games with an interdisciplinary team of educators and graphic designers.
  - Serves as primary historian and consultant for the VR prototype.
  - Writes game scenes and dialogue, and integrates curriculum for secondary education.
  - Facilitates testing and provides assessment for the VR prototype in classroom settings.
- Deputy Director, Preserve Nevada, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2005-2008.
  - Oversaw the operation of a non-profit in historic preservation, managing the organization's functions, fulfilling financial requirements, and designing and maintaining its web presence.
- Public History Coursework, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2005-2008.
  - Public History Methods Practicum
  - Public History Internship
  - Public History Theory Colloquium
- Research Associate, Lake Mead National Recreation Area Historic Resource Study, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2006.
  - Compiled a historic properties document for the Lake Mead National Recreation Area that listed and evaluated the condition of their historic properties and landscapes.
- Research Associate, Yosemite National Park Administrative History, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2005.
  - Researched the administrative history of Yosemite National Park, focusing on the history of law enforcement.

## Publications

### Book

- Turk, Michelle Follette. *Gambling with Lives: A History of Occupational Health in Greater Las Vegas*. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2018; expanded and revised edition published under a new title, 2020.
- Turk, Michelle Follette. *A History of Occupational Health and Safety: From 1905 to the Present*. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2018; paperback edition, summer 2020.

## Journal Articles

- Turk, Michelle Follette. "The Last Detroit? Twenty-First Century Employment in Fabulous Las Vegas," *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly*, Volume 63, Numbers 3-4, Fall/Winter 2020, 164-167.
- Turk, Michelle Follette. "Why Do So Many Nevadans Still Die on the Job? Decades after 187 Laborers Perished at the Hoover Dam Construction Site, the State's Safety Rules Are Out of Sync with Modern Workplaces." *Zócalo Public Square*, Jan. 16, 2019.
- Turk, Michelle Follette. "Work on the River: Employment at the Hoover Dam," *Journal of the West*. Volume 52, Number 2, Spring 2013, 66-76.
- Turk, Michelle Follette. "In Memoriam: Kirk Cammack, M.D.," 2007 Annual Scientific Session. *Western Surgical Association*, Nov. 2007.
- Turk, Michelle Follette. "Dead Roses and Blooming Deserts: The Medical History of a New Deal Icon." *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly*. Volume 50, Number 3, Fall 2007, 239-264.
- Follette, Michelle Ann. "Memory and Politics: Perceptions of the Past in the Yugoslav Wars," *Psi Sigma Historical Journal 1* (Summer 2005).

## Contributing Authorship

- "The Yosemite Way: An Administrative History of Yosemite National Park." Lincoln Bramwell and Andy Kirk, (Washington DC: National Park Service, 2009).

## Selected Conference and Invited Presentations

- "Virtual Reality in the Classroom: A Demonstration and Presentation," Panel of interdisciplinary researchers presenting their collaboration on virtual reality educational gaming, College of Arts & Sciences and College of Visual & Performing Arts, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth: April 13, 2022.
- "Teaching Generation Z about Depression-Era Work," *Hoover Dam and the Shaping of the American West*, a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Secondary Teachers, Boulder City, Nevada: July 8, 2021.
- "Danger in the Desert: The Origins of Health and Safety in the Las Vegas Workplace," Lecture for the Southern Nevada American Society of Safety Professionals, Las Vegas, Nevada: February 18, 2021.
- "Gambling with Lives: A History of Occupational Health in Greater Las Vegas," Book Lecture for the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Reno Branch, Reno, Nevada: February 13, 2021.
- "Neon Metropolis: Hal Rothman's Las Vegas in the 21st Century," Western History Association 59th Annual Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada: October 16-19, 2019.
- "The Best Little Town by a Dam Site, and the Dam Site: Boulder City and Hoover Dam," Tour for the Western History Association 59th Annual Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada: October 16-19, 2019.
- "Hoover Dam and the Occupational Health Movement," in *The Unique Challenges, Achievements, and Impact of Healthcare in Las Vegas*, The Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada, July 31-August 2, 2019.

- “Health and Safety at the Hoover Dam,” *Hoover Dam and the Shaping of the American West*, a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for College and University Faculty, Boulder City, Nevada: July 8-20, 2018.
- Labor, The Great Depression, and the Hoover Dam,” *Hoover Dam and the Shaping of the American West*, a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Secondary Teachers, Boulder City, Nevada: July 12-17, 19-24, 2016.
- “Health in a Sin City: A History of Medicine in Las Vegas, 1905 to the Present,” Plenary Lecture for the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science (SAHMS) 18th Annual Meeting, Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas” March 17, 2016.
- “Gambling with Lives: A History of Working Hazards on the Las Vegas Strip,” Lecture for the Northern Arizona History Academy Teaching American History (NAH TAH). Las Vegas, Nevada: March 2, 2013.
- “Reconstructing the Hoover Dam: Teaching Like a Historian,” Lecture for the Northern Arizona History Academy Teaching American History (NAH TAH), Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona: October 20, 2012.
- “Dead Roses and Blooming Deserts: Occupational Health and Environmental Concerns at Hoover Dam,” in *Working to Death: Occupational Health and the Environment in the American Workplace*, The American Society for Environmental History Conference, Boise, Idaho: March 12-16, 2008.
- “On the Edge of Illusion: Lake Mead and Las Vegas” The American Society for Environmental History Conference, Baton Rouge, Louisiana: February 28–March 3, 2007.
- “The Preserve Nevada Project: A Graduate Student Working in Public History,” Preserve Nevada’s Heritage 2006 Symposium, Ely, Nevada: September 7-9, 2006.
- “Saving Lives to Make the Desert Bloom: Occupational Health and the Boulder Canyon Project,” Nevada Historical Society Biennial and the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada: May 23-24, 2006.

### **Professional Organizations and Activities**

- Associate Editor, *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly*, 2021-Present.
- Manuscript Reviewer, University of Nevada Press
- Preserve Nevada Board of Directors
- The Labor and Working-Class History Association
- Western History Association
- Graduate Student Program Committee Member, “Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association’s (PCB-AHA) Annual Meeting,” Pasadena, California, August 7-9, 2008.
- Project Manager, “Preserve Nevada’s Heritage 2006 Symposium,” Ely, Nevada, September 7-9, 2006.
- Graduate Student Program Committee Member, “Phi Alpha Theta Southwestern Regional Meeting,” Las Vegas, Nevada, April 9, 2005.

## **Media**

- Interviewed for the HISTORY Channel documentary “The Engineering That Built The World,” Season 1, Episode 8, The Hoover Dam, Nov. 21, 2021.
- Interviewed by Marshall Allen, "Cellphone Data Shows How Las Vegas is "Gambling With Lives" Across the Country," *ProPublica*, Aug. 18, 2020.
- Interviewed for the Commission of the Las Vegas Centennial documentary “The City of Las Vegas: The Twenties,” May 16, 2020.
- Interviewed by Jessie Bekker, “Las Vegas’ Sunrise Hospital still spreading its wings at 60,” *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, Dec. 14, 2018.
- Interviewed by Jennifer Solis, “Child lead poisoning on rise, prevalence unknown,” *Nevada Current*, Aug. 6, 2018.
- Interviewed for KNPR’s State of Nevada, “The Workplace in Nevada: Speed versus Safety,” July 3, 2018.

## **Fellowships and Awards**

- President’s UNLV Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2010-2011.
- College of Liberal Arts Dean’s Graduate Student Stipend Award, 2010.
- Charles Redd Center Summer Award, 2010.
- Harold L. Boyer and Judith Boyer Fellowship, 2008-2009.
- Carol Corbett Award, Best Paper on Southern Nevada, 2007.
- Dean’s Honor List, University of California, Irvine, 2001-2004.
- Cal Grant Recipient, University of California, Irvine, 2001-2004.
- East Asian Rim Scholarship Recipient, University of California, Irvine, 2003.