

WILLIAM J. SUAREZ-POTTS

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Education

Harvard University

Ph.D., November 2005, A. M., 1999 – History

University of Pennsylvania Law School

J.D., 1987; Associate Editor, *Journal of Comparative Business and Capital Market Law*, 1985-86 (selected through writing competition; the journal has since been renamed)

University of California at Berkeley

B.A., History, 1981

Academic Employment

2018-present	Rice University , Houston, TX Associate Professor of History
2006-2018	Kenyon College , Gambier, OH Associate Professor of History (2012-2018) Assistant Professor of History (2006-12)
2005-2006	Harvard University , Cambridge, MA Lecturer, Committee on Degrees in History and Literature
1998-2004	Teaching Fellow, Department of History

Fields of Research and Teaching

Legal history; labor history; Mexican and Latin American history; U.S.-Mexican Borderlands; and the history of capitalism

Publications

Book: *The Making of Law: The Supreme Court and Labor Legislation in Mexico, 1875-1931* (Stanford University Press, 2012). Reviewed in the *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, *Latin American Research Review*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *Rechtsgeschichte*, *The American Historical Review*, *The Journal of Economic History*, *European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, the *Hispanic American Historical Review*, *América Latina en la Historia Económica*, and H-NET.

Articles and Chapters: “La Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación y los Derechos Laborales y Sociales, 1924-1928,” in Centro de Documentación y Análisis, Archivos y Compilación de Leyes, *Estudios sobre la Suprema Corte de Justicia realizados en Estados Unidos* (SCJN, forthcoming, 2018).

“The Ambiguity of Labor Justice in Mexico, 1907-1931,” in Leon Fink and Juan Manuel Palacio, eds., *Labor Justice across the Americas* (University of Illinois Press, 2018).

“La Constitución de 1917 y la Ley Federal del Trabajo de 1931,” in Gerardo Esquivel, Francisco Ibarra Palafox, and Pedro Salazar Ugarte, eds., *Cien Ensayos para el Centenario. Constitución Política de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos*, vol. 3 (UNAM, Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas, and Instituto de Belisario Domínguez, 2017).

“El artículo 123 y la incorporación de legislación social a la Constitución de 1917: Discurso y realidad, 1906-1931,” in Catherine Andrews, ed., *La tradición constitucional en México (1808-1940)* (CIDE, SRE, AGN, 2017).

“La Interpretación Judicial del Artículo 123 Constitucional, 1917-1934,” *Revista del Centro de Estudios Constitucionales* 3, no. 4 (Jan.-June, 2017).

“El derecho del trabajo y la revolución de 1910,” in Laura Rojas and Susan Deeds, eds., *México a la luz de sus revoluciones*, vol. 2 (El Colegio de México, 2014).

“The Railroad Strike of 1927: Labor and Law after the Mexican Revolution,” *Labor History* 52, no. 4 (November 2011): 399-416.

“The Mexican Supreme Court and the *Juntas de Conciliación y Arbitraje*, 1917-1924: the Judicialisation of Labour Relations after the Revolution,” *Journal of Latin American Studies* 41 (November 2009): 723-755.

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- Book Reviews:** Review of Zachary Brittsan, *Popular Politics and Rebellion in Mexico: Manuel Lozada and La Reforma, 1855-1876*, for *The Americas* (forthcoming).
- Review of Jürgen Buchenau, *Mexican Mosaic: A Brief History of Mexico*, published in H-NET, October 2012.
- Review of Kevin Middlebrook, ed., *Dilemmas of Political Change in Mexico* for *Latin American Politics and Society*, Summer 2005.
- Review of Ramón Eduardo Ruiz's *Memories of a Hyphenated Man* for the *Hispanic American Historical Review*, May 2005.

Works in Progress

“Social Justice, Politics, and Law in Mexico, from the *Maximato* to *Alemanismo*,” book project concerning social legislation, labor movements, politics, and corruption, from ca. 1929 to 1952, during which time Mexico’s post-revolutionary regime was consolidated and the nation’s modern legal culture took shape.

“Law, Sovereignty, and Wealth in the Formation of Mexico,” book project concerning the evolution of law, constitutional politics, and economic relations in Mexico, in connection with legal and political currents in the Atlantic world, in the first half of the 19th century.

Conferences and Invited Presentations

- Since 2008:** “Social Legislation, the Constitution of 1917, and Decision-Making on Mexico’s Supreme Court,” October 28, 2017, American Society for Legal History Conference, October 28, 2017, Las Vegas.
- “Law, Politics, and Justice in Nineteenth Century Mexico: Litigation between the United Mexican Company and the Owners of San Acasio, 1833-1840,” September 26, 2016, Department of History, Rice University, Houston.
- “La Cuestión de Jurisprudencia,” Seminario “Constitución, Justicia y Democracia,” Centro de Estudios Constitucionales de la Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación, February 4, 2016, Mexico City.
- “La Interpretación Judicial del Artículo 123 Constitucional,” Seminario “La Constitución de 1917 y el Poder Judicial de la Federación (1917-1934),” of the Supreme Court of Mexico, February 4, 2016, Mexico City.

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Conferences, cont.:

“El Artículo 123: la Incorporación de Legislación Social a la Constitución de 1917,” Seminario Internacional: La Tradición Constitucional de México, CIDE, June 19, 2015, Mexico City.

“Derecho, Política, y Justicia en las Primeras Décadas de Independencia: Litigio entre la Compañía Unida Mexicana de Minas y los Accionistas de San Acasio, 1833-1841,” the XIVth Reunión Internacional de Historiadores de México, September 19, 2014, Chicago.

“La Conformación de la Justicia Laboral en México,” Latin American Studies Association Conference, May 22, 2014, Chicago.

“The Making of Law,” Book Presentation and Discussion at the Seminario Permanente de Historia e Instituciones Económicas of the Colegio de México, June 18, 2013, Mexico City.

“Justice, Law, and Practice in Early Nineteenth Century Mexico,” Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies, April 6, 2013, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

“El Poder Legislativo, Sus Relaciones con el Ejecutivo, y la Promulgación de la Ley Federal del Trabajo de 1931,” October 24-25, 2012, Coloquio XXVI Legislatura, Colegio de México, Mexico City.

“The Legal Development of the Nonexistent Strike in Mexico: The Railroad Strike of 1927, the Federal Labor Board and the Supreme Court,” Latin American Studies Association Conference, May 25, 2012, San Francisco.

“Free Labor, Evolving Communities and Networks, and the Supreme Court in Mexico, 1880–1910,” January 7, 2012, the American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Chicago.

“Judge-Made Law, Labor, and the State in Mexico, 1927-1930,” American Society for Legal History Conference, November 19, 2010, Philadelphia.

“El Derecho del Trabajo y la Revolución de 1910,” Thirteenth Reunion of Mexican, U.S. and Canadian Historians, October 28, 2010, in Querétaro, Mexico.

“The Mexican Supreme Court and the Making of Labor Law, 1917-1934,” American Society for Legal History Conference, November 15, 2008, Ottawa.

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Grants, Fellowships, and Honors

2014, 2012, 2010, and 2008	Kenyon Faculty Development Grants (4)
2006	First Prize for Dissertation in Labor History (Awarded by the Editorial Board of <i>Labor History</i>)
2004-05	Visiting Research Fellowship at the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, University of California, San Diego
2004	Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center and Harvard College, Office of the Dean
2004 and 1996-98	Prize Fellowships
2003	Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship
Summer of 2002	Tinker Summer Research Travel Grant
1998-2001	Three Mellon Fellowships

Legal Employment

Staff Attorney: Camden Regional Legal Services, Bridgeton, N.J. (1989-90, 1994-96); Friends of Farmworkers, Inc., Philadelphia (1990-93); and Passaic County Legal Aid Society, Paterson, N.J. (1987-89). Practiced law in federal and state courts and before administrative agencies, specializing in labor and employment matters on behalf of agricultural workers, as well as in landlord-tenant and public entitlement law for other indigent individuals and groups.

Service

Article reviewer for the *Hispanic American Historical Review* and *Secuencia*. For the American Society for Legal History: member of Program Committee for the annual conference (2007-08); member of Standing Committee on Conferences and the Annual Meeting (2010-13). For Kenyon College: Participation on various history departmental committees (2006-2018), and on the legal studies steering committee (2006-08, 2014-15); member of international studies steering committee (2011-13, 2016-18); volunteer in faculty advising cluster pilot program (fall 2008); member of subcommittee on writing (2011); senior history honors reader (2006-2017); senior thesis reader for international studies program (2007-18); external departmental reviewer of faculty promotions (2008, 2010, 2012); member of mentoring committee for political science professor (2012); member of search committee for visiting assistant professorship of political science (2017) and of search committee for visiting assistant professorship in Latin American history (2018).