

Josthin Amado

San Bernardino, CA 92404 • (909) 313-6601 • jamadohe@uci.edu

Department of History, University of California, Irvine

EDUCATION

University of California, Irvine (UCI) 2020–present

Ph.D. Candidate in History (expected filing: June 2027)

Dissertation: “Workers, Labor Rights, and Democracy during the Guatemalan Revolution, 1944–1954”

Committee: Heidi Tinsman (chair), Kevan Aguilar, Rachel O’Toole, Alex Borucki

California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA) 2018–2020

M.A. in History of Labor in Latin America — Cumulative GPA: 4.0

University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) 2014–2018

B.A. in History, Minor in Labor Studies — Cumulative GPA: 3.24

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

This dissertation examines how Guatemala’s 1947 Labor Code and the labor tribunals created under the country’s new Ministry of Labor and Social Prevision reshaped power relations between employers and workers — urban and rural, Ladino and Indigenous — during the democratic opening known as the “Guatemalan Spring” (1944–1954). Drawing on labor-tribunal case files, government ministry records, and national and student newspapers, the project positions labor law as a central and underexamined arena of democratic struggle, tracing how petitions and workplace conflict advanced — and ultimately helped undermine — popular support for Guatemala’s democratic experiment. The dissertation contributes an original framework to Central American history, Latin American labor history, and the broader study of law and democratic development.

PUBLICATIONS

Amado, Josthin. “Framing Resistance.” Review of *Beyond Norma Rae: How Puerto Rican and Southern White Women Fought for a Place in the American Working Class*, by Aimee Loiselle. *Contingent Magazine*, April 26, 2025.

Amado, Josthin. Review of *China’s Environmental Challenges*, by Judith Shapiro. *Perspectives: A Journal of Historical Inquiry* 47 (Spring 2020).

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

“A New Guatemalan Spring.” UCI School of Humanities, 2023. Commentary on Guatemala’s 2023 presidential election.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Graduate Division Dissertation Completion Fellowship, UCI 2026

Application submitted June 2026 — decision still pending as of July 2026

Pre-Professor Program (PREPP), CSU East Bay Spring 2026

California State University system-wide program. Selected and completed — confirmed via program acceptance and completion correspondence.

WAC+WID Graduate Scholars Fellowship, UCI 2025–2026

Not independently confirmed — verify current status before circulating

DTEI Summer Teaching Fellowship, UCI 2025

Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation — confirmed program participant, Summer 2025 History Team cohort.

Summer Dissertation Grant, UCI 2023, 2024

Application materials on file; award confirmation not independently verified — check with Dept. of History graduate coordinator

SECOLAS Graduate Student Travel Grant 2023

Application on file; award confirmation not independently verified

Department of History Research Grant (donor-funded), UCI 2023

Sourced from a personal thank-you letter to the donor; not independently verified

Summer Language Study Award, UCI School of Humanities 2021

Application on file; award confirmation not independently verified

Eugene Cota-Robles (ECR) Fellowship, UCI 2020–present

Multi-year fellowship; renewed support funded dissertation archival fieldwork in Guatemala, 2023–2024

UC Irvine Minority Serving Institution Enhancement (MSIE) Award 2020

UC Irvine Diversity Recruitment Fellowship 2020

Eugene Finger Hut Award, Outstanding Graduate Student, CSULA 2020

Department of History Summer and Winter Research Awards, UCI 2021–2022

Higher Education Emergency Grant 2020–2021

The five entries above (2020–2022) are sourced from a personal funding ledger dated Jan. 2023, predating available email records — confirm against UCI Graduate Division records before circulating

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, Department of Composition, UCI 2025–2026

Designed and taught an introductory writing course, applying historical-thinking pedagogy (argumentation, contextualization, use of evidence) to foundational academic writing instruction.

Course Designer & Instructor, History 70D, UCI Summer 2025

DTEI Summer Program — “Silences, Archives, and Power in 20th-Century Latin America.” Designed and taught an asynchronous, five-week intensive course on archives, memory, and historical production in Latin America, developed with faculty mentor Dr. Rachel O’Toole.

Teaching Assistant, UCI 2021–present

Departments of History, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Spanish, and Composition. Courses include U.S. History (History 40B), Latin American History, Gender Studies, and First-Year Writing. Led discussion sections, graded written work, and held office hours.

Teaching Facilitator / Graduate Assistant, CSULA 2018–2020

Assisted faculty with course delivery, facilitated student discussions, and supported undergraduate research mentorship.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Dissertation Archival Research, Guatemala 2023–2024

Guatemala City, San Marcos, and Izabal. Conducted primary-source research in national and regional labor-tribunal archives; funded by the Cota-Robles Fellowship and Department of History research grants.

Academic Research Consortium, UCSB Summer 2019

Researched transnational connections between U.S. and Guatemalan labor unions; conducted a historiographic review of U.S. and Latin American labor studies.

Research Seminar (HIST 167Q: Labor Studies), UCSB 2018

Researched the effects of CAFTA-DR on labor violence in Guatemala using declassified state documents.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

SECOLAS Annual Conference, Antigua, Guatemala

March 2023

"The Labor of Democracy: Indigenous and Ladino Workers' Rights and Social Justice in Guatemala, 1944-1954."

CSULA Student Symposium on Research and Scholarship

February 2020

"Neoliberalism and the Weakening of Unions: The US, Guatemala, and the Central American Free Trade Agreement."

Academic Research Consortium, UCSB

August 2019

"Historiographic Review of U.S. and Latin American Labor History."

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher, UCI History Project & UCI Teacher Academy 2026-present

Supporting the "Fortifying Liberty's Legacy" program bringing primary-source analysis, disciplinary literacy, and historical content to K-12 educators.

Editor-in-Chief, Perspectives: A Journal of Historical Inquiry

2020

California State University, Los Angeles. Directed editorial operations for the department's peer-reviewed graduate history journal.

Student Ambassador, Admissions and Recruitment, CSULA

2019-2020

Community Outreach / Political Mobilization, Power California

2019

Paid Research Intern, UC Global Food Initiative, UCSB

2018

SERVICE

- Student volunteer, AFSCME Local 3299, UCSB (2018) — advocated for UC service and maintenance workers' rights and benefits through strikes and campaigns.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Phi Alpha Theta, National History Honor Society
- Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA)

LANGUAGES

English (native) • Spanish (native/fluent)