

Oct. 3, 2017

CONTACT: Dr. Alex Hunt, 806-651-2457, ahunt@wtamu.edu

COPY BY: Rana McDonald, 806-651-2129, rmcDonald@wtamu.edu

### **Borderlands Historian to Present Nall Lecture at WTAMU**

CANYON, Texas—The Center for the Study of the American West (CSAW) at West Texas A&M University will host award-winning U.S.-Mexico borderlands historian Dr. Brian DeLay for its fall 2017 biannual (fall/spring) Garry L. Nall Lectures in Western Studies. DeLay's lecture, "The Texas Gun Frontier and the Travails of Mexican History," will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19 at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Hazlewood Lecture Room. Immediately following the lecture will be light refreshments and a book signing with DeLay.

The guest speaker also will participate in a Question and Answer session from 3-4 p.m. that day in Cornette Library's Blackburn Room. The Q&A is open to the public, and topics could run from DeLay's area of expertise to his writing and publishing.

DeLay is associate professor of history at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of the widely celebrated and multiple award-winning book, *War of a Thousand Deserts: Indian Raids and the U.S.-Mexican War*, published by Yale University Press in 2008. DeLay has since gone on to publish the edited collection, *North American Borderlands*, with Routledge in 2012; his other publications include numerous essays and articles in such high-profile historical journals as the *American Historical Review*, the *Journal of the Early Republic*, and *Diplomatic History*, as well as book chapters in several essay collections with university presses.

CSAW is fortunate to have DeLay give its fall 2017 Nall Lecture. He is one of the leading historians in the exciting field of borderlands history, which analyzes interactions between social groups, empires and nation states across space and time.

"DeLay's work," says CSAW associate director Tim Bowman, "embodies the promise of transnational histories as well as taking indigenous peoples seriously as actors in their own right."

DeLay's *War of a Thousand Deserts* "played a substantial role in shaping the field of borderlands history," continues Bowman, "and it is incredibly exciting that we at the WTAMU community can have the opportunity to learn from him, as well as to get a sneak peek at some of his latest research. His work is truly cutting edge."

The Center for the Study of the American West (CSAW) was founded in fall of 2016. CSAW's mission is to foster the study of the American West by developing curriculum, producing public events and awarding research grants. CSAW also strives to foster interdisciplinary research and coordinate relevant efforts between WTAMU's academic wing and the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, where it has its office. CSAW understands the Texas Panhandle region as its

central focus within the greater American West. The biannual Nall Lectures, typically October and April, are its primary public outreach events.

Co-sponsors for the event include the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Cornette Library, WT's Distinguished Lecture Series and the Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities.

For further information, contact Dr. Alex Hunt at 806-651-2457 or [ahunt@wtamu.edu](mailto:ahunt@wtamu.edu).