

# Writing in History Contest Winners

Dear readers,

We write to you to officially announce the winners of this year's *Writing in History Contest*. We had a very strong pool of essays and we are excited to say that the strength of the submissions has increased since last year. The narratives in these winning works of research are wonderful and the organization is strong. What is more, each of these papers addressed their existing historiographies and explained how their works further it. Great stuff! Below is our summary of the contributions of the winning papers.

## **First Prize: Frisia Corrales**

*Frisia Corrales has given us a strong piece of original research on how representation of homosexuality has changed in telenovelas over the past decade. After engaging historiography, she goes directly to a close reading of scenes from four different popular telenovelas (in Spanish, but aimed at Latino audiences throughout the US). In each telenovela, Frisia pulls key lessons about homosexual representation and the ways in which scripts, directors, and characters further (or challenge) stereotypes and prejudice present in the broader community. This is a seriously original piece of work and a valuable contribution to the literature!*

## **Second prize: Paul Brancaccio**

*Paul Brancaccio's research paper asks what factors made it possible for Mary Tudor to take the throne from her cousin Lady Jane Grey after the previous king--the young teenager Edward--had designated the protestant Lady Grey to fill the throne. He argues that a mix of factors including religion, family, political culture, made the coup possible. The work is primarily a synthesis of existing monographs on the topic, but the argument is new. What is more, Brancaccio does incorporate three primary sources at critical moments in the paper to strengthen his argument. The selection committee was especially impressed by the strong reading of these sources that managed to reveal hidden assumptions of the time period.*

## **Third prize: Ali Bhatti**

*Here Ali Bhatti has presented us with a history of legal struggles for preservation property rights in the Black Hills area of the Dakotas. Moving from the mid 19th century to the present debates over the Dakota Access Pipeline, Bhatti shows us that multiple corporations and government institutions have repeatedly violated and denounced Native America (especially Lakota tribe) claims to sovereignty over the region. Bhatti suggests that longstanding government commitment to exploitation of natural resources combined with legal expedients resulted in the systematic dispossession of land and citizenship from the Lakotas.*

Thank you all so much for your support in this contest!

With gratitude,

Drs. Micah Oelze, Judith Mansilla, and Grace Solís