**Contested Empire: Speakers’ Biographies**

**Will Fowler** is Professor of Latin American Studies at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. Dr. Fowler’s lecture is entitled, “The Mexican Intelligentsia and the Texan Revolution of 1835–36.” The presentation will analyze the manner in which a number of prominent nineteenth-century Mexican intellectuals and politicians viewed the Texan War of Independence. Drawing upon the writings of such Mexican leaders as Lucas Alamán, José María Boqué, Carlos María de Bustamante, and José María Tornel, Fowler presents a wholly different account of Anglo-Texan agency and the role of the U.S. government in the events of 1835–36. Dr. Fowler has written extensively on nineteenth century Mexico. His book, *Santa Anna of Mexico* (2009), is widely regarded as the best biography of the controversial Mexican leader. He is also the author of *Mexico in the Age of Proposals, 1821-1853* (1988); *Tornel and Santa Anna, The Writer and the Caudillo* (2000); and a textbook, *Latin America since 1780* (2008). He is also the editor of *Forceful Negotiations: The Origins of the Pronunciamiento in Nineteenth Century Mexico* (2011).

**Amy S. Greenberg** is the Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of History at Pennsylvania State University. Her paper, entitled, “Time’s Noblest Empire is the Last”: Texas Secession in the Presumed Course of American Empire,” asks the question: How did Texas secession fit into the vision Americans held of the course of their future empire? Her talk will examine how U.S. citizens, particularly in the Northeast, imagined the secession of Texas might influence the course of their own emerging empire in 1835–6. Dr. Greenberg is a scholar of antebellum America with particular interests in the transformation of gender norms and the relationship between the United States and the wider world. She is the author of a new book on opposition to the U.S. war with Mexico entitled, A Wicked War: Polk, Clay, Lincoln, and the U.S. Invasion of Mexico, published by Alfred A. Knopf. She is also the author of the widely acclaimed Manifest Manhood and the Antebellum American Empire (2005), and the editor of a primary source reader, Manifest Destiny and American Territorial Expansion (2011).

**Sam W. Haynes** is a Professor of History and Director of the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies at UT Arlington. His paper, “Heirs to a Revolution: The Anglo-Texan Rebellion as Historical Reenactment” will examine the impact of the American Revolution on the 1835-36 separatist movement in Texas. Specializing in the Jacksonian period and American expansionism, he is the author of three books and several co-authored texts, including Unfinished Revolution: The Early American Republic in a British World, and James K. Polk and the Expansionist Impulse. Haynes has served as an historical consultant for the PBS documentary, “The U.S.-Mexican War,” and two History Channel documentaries, “The Presidents,” and “The Mexican War.” His current projects include a book on the Texas Revolution, and the development of a website on the war between the United States and Mexico. Entitled “A Continent Divided: The U.S.-Mexico War,” the website is a multi-year project to digitize the Mexican war holdings of UT-Arlington’s Special Collections, a repository for one of the most comprehensive archives relating to the conflict in either the United States or Mexico.

**Eric Schlereth** is an Assistant Professor of Historical Studies at the University of Texas at Dallas. His lecture, “Quitting the Nation: The Politics of Border Crossing in Mexican Texas,” will explore Anglo migration to Texas under Mexico’s colonization policy during the 1820s and early 1830s. Dr. Schlereth argues that expatriation provides a new intellectual, legal, and political context for understanding the origins of the Texas Revolution. Dr. Schlereth received his PhD in American History at Brandeis University. He is the author of An Age of Infidels: The Politics of Religious Controversy in the Early United States (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013), which explores the political consequences of debates over religious knowledge in the United States between 1776 and 1840. His next book will explore the history of expatriation in North America from 1750 to 1870.

**Miguel Soto**, professor of history at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico, will present a paper entitled, “Politics and Profits: Mexican Officials and Land Speculation in Texas, 1824-1835.” Professor Soto received his PhD in History at the University of Texas at Austin. He has written widely on early nineteenth century U.S.–Mexico border relations and is the translator and editor of the Spanish language edition of David Pletcher’s The Diplomacy of Annexation: Texas, Oregon and the Mexican War. He is the author of four books, including Transition and Political Culture: From Colony to Independent Mexico (2004) and Approaching History (1998). He has also published more than 40 articles and book chapters, focusing primarily on nineteenth century Mexico and its relations with the United States.