

Nico Soto  
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## Education

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Exp. 2026    Ph.D., History, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)  
2019            M.A., History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM)  
2016            B.A., History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM)

## Professional Experience

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2022-2023    Researcher, Working Group on “Race Laws in the U.S. Southwest: Laws and their Impacts 1836-Present,” directed by Professor Monica Muñoz Martínez, *Crossing Latinidades Humanities Research Initiative*  
2020-Present    Teaching Assistant, History Department, UIC

## Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

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2024            Emerging Scholar in Residence, Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy, UIC  
2024            Dissertation Research Grant, Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy, UIC  
2024            President’s Research in Diversity Travel Assistance Program, Academic Affairs, UIC  
2024            Provost’s Award for Graduate Research, Graduate College, UIC  
2023            Summer Research Grant, History Department, UIC  
2022-2023    Crossing Latinidades Pre-Doctoral Research Fellowship, Mellon Foundation  
2017-2019    Advanced Opportunity Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, State of WI

## Publications

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### Dissertation in Preparation

Exp 2026        “Migrants and the Pickle Industry: How Seasonal Mexican Farmworkers Reshaped the Upper Midwest Heartland, 1964-1994”  
*What happened to migrant labor in the Midwest after the Bracero Program? The central contention of this dissertation examines that question and analyzes how Latino migrant labor continues to sustain pickling in the upper Midwest long after the braceros. Despite some legislative victories and moderate success settling migrants out of the stream, poor farm labor conditions persist into the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. This work examines migrant labor experience in the pickle industry in Wisconsin and Michigan.*

### Book Reviews

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2024            Soto, Nicolas. Review of *Strangers No Longer: Latino Belonging and Faith in Twentieth-Century Wisconsin*, by Sergio M. González. forthcoming in *Annals of Iowa*, 2025.

- 2021 Soto, Nicolas. Review of *Somos Latinas: Voices of Wisconsin Latina Activists*, by Arenas, Andrea-Teresa and Eloisa Gómez. *Voyageur Magazine: Northeast Wisconsin's Historical Review* 37, no. 2 (Winter/Spring 2021): 64.
- 2021 Soto, Nicolas. "Using Imperial Language to Approach America's Deportation Regime." Review of *The Deportation Machine: America's Long History of Expelling Immigrants*, by Adam Goodman. *Ab Imperio* 2021, Issue 3 (2021): 288-297.

### **Public History and Digital Humanities Projects**

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- 2025 "Race Laws in the U.S. Southwest: Research Group on Laws and Their Impacts, 1836-Present." Digital Law Database. Project funded by the Crossing Latinidades Research Initiative. Project Forthcoming.
- 2025 "Timemapper: DOJ Voting Cases in Arizona, 1973-2003" Digital Humanities Project. Project funded by the Crossing Latinidades Research Initiative. Upcoming 2025

### **Conference Presentations and Panels**

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- 2025 "Part of the Problem: How Land-Grant Universities in Wisconsin and Michigan Perpetuated Migrant Labor Struggles during the 1960s and 1970s. Panel Paper. *Organization of American Historians Conference on American History*, Chicago, Illinois, April 3, 2025. [Accepted]
- 2024 "How the Department of Justice Enforced Section 2 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act in Arizona, California, and Texas post-1965." *Crossing Latinidades Symposium*. Recovering Laws and Histories of Inequality in the U.S. Southwest. The University of Texas-Austin, August 14, 2024.
- 2024 "Migrants and Mechanization: Pickling Agribusiness in Wisconsin and Michigan After the Bracero Program, 1964-1981, *Midwestern History Conference*, Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 30, 2024.
- 2023 "Grant Writing for History Graduate Student" Presentation, Brown Bag, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, November 8, 2023.

### **Teaching Assistant Experience**

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- 2025 Latino/a History
- 2024 Western Civilization since 1648
- 2023 Modern Mexico
- 2022 Early America: From Colonization to Civil War and Reconstruction
- 2021 The World Since 1400