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Sterling Evans to Present 2012 Driggs Lecture on the Northern Plains and NAFTA History

Summary: Sterling Evans, Louise Welsh chair of Oklahoma, southern plains, and borderlands history at the University of Oklahoma, will be the featured speaker in this year's O. Truman Driggs Distinguished Lecture in History, which will take place on Tuesday, September 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the HFA Recital Hall.

(September 24, 2012)-Sterling Evans, Louise Welsh chair of Oklahoma, southern plains, and borderlands history at the University of Oklahoma, will be the featured speaker in this year's O. Truman Driggs Distinguished Lecture in History, which will take place on Tuesday, September 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the HFA Recital Hall. Evans's lecture, "Nothing New About NAFTA: Connecting the Northern Plains (and Minnesota) to a Greater North American History," will address a variety of different angles involved in North American grain production during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

According to Evans, farmers in the United States and Canada became dependent on Mexico for harvesting crops, and in Mexico, Indians were forced into a brutal labor regime to accommodate this dependency. Therefore, a proto-North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) trade pattern that had industrial, diplomatic, economic, political, labor, and environmental effects evolved in these three nations. Evans will highlight the similarities between these patterns and contemporary policies between the United States, Canada, and Mexico with NAFTA.

Dr. Sterling Evans is the Louise Welsh chair of Oklahoma, southern plains, and borderlands history at the University of Oklahoma, and is the editor and author of a number of articles and books. His research and interest in the history of the transnational Great Plains, the U.S.-Mexican and U.S.-Canadian borderlands, agricultural history, and environmental history combined in his award-winning book *Bound in Twine: The History and Ecology of the Henequen-Wheat Complex for Mexico and the American and Canadian Plains*. Evans's current project is his book *Damming Sonora: Water, Agriculture, and Environmental Change in Northwest Mexico*. Evans received his doctorate in history from the University of Kansas.

The lecture will be streamed [online](#).

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