

LA CORRIENTE LATINA

LLS CURRENT AFFAIRS

Latina/Latino Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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Welcome to 2021-2022

by Angharad N. Valdivia

Welcome and welcome back as we transition into a dynamic and evolving new normal in the CoVid era.

I am elated to be joining the faculty of the Latina Latino Studies Department as its new Chair. Although I am new in this role, I have a long-standing commitment to and engagement with this department and with the field of Latina/o/x Studies. I was actually one of the faculty members who comprised the group that generated the Latina Latino Studies program in the nineties and ushered in the faculty who transformed the program into a thriving department in 2007, under the leadership of Professor Isabel Molina-Guzmán. I have participated in the recruitment and hiring of many of the stellar faculty in LLS. As a proud U of I alum of the Institute of Communications Research and the first Latina professor to be hired at the assistant level and progressed through the full professor level at the University of Illinois, I am full of energy and excitement to add chairing LLS to my responsibilities. LLS is the fruit of student activism and demands, and I know the faculty and staff remain committed to our undergraduate students. I bring my research on Latina/o/x Studies, Media and Popular Culture, Gender and Girls studies, and Disney Studies along with my long-standing commitment to diversifying the professoriate as cornerstones of my career. Whether we examine issues of colorism within Latinx social media or the controversy regarding the whitewashing of Washington Heights in Lin Manuel Miranda's *In the Heights* -- visibility, production, and audience issues in contemporary media prove to be a barometer of power, belonging, and worth. I look forward to teaching a *Latinx Disney* course as well as *Latina Girls in Contemporary Television and Movies* in addition to taking turn teaching *The Bronze Screen and Latinx Media and Cultural Studies*.

To serve our student population, we remain committed to recruiting and retaining world class faculty. Over the summer, LLS hired two Assistant Professors and two Lecturers in addition to two Post-Doctoral Fellows who will enrich our intellectual community. Dr. Elizabeth Velásquez Estrada was a Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Associate here at LLS/UIUC for the past academic year and taught the *Criminalization and Punishment* class that some of you may have taken last Spring 2021 term. She is putting the finishing touches on a book entitled *Intersectional Justice Denied: Negative Peace and Persisting Violence in Post-Peace Accords El Salvador* and joins us as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Janett Barragán Miranda joins us from American University where she has been working on a book project entitled *Hungering for Equality: Mexicans and Mexican Americans From Post-World War II to Civil Rights* and also joins us as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Randy Rodriguez who has conducted research on Richard Rodriguez and Queer Aesthetics and Dr. Christian Ramirez whose research has focused on cultural exchange between indigenous and African peoples in Mexico both join us as Lecturers. We welcome Jack Caraves and Mauricio Ramirez as this year's Post-Doctoral Fellows. We are excited to welcome these excellent scholars and teachers to the department and will provide many opportunities for you to meet them.

Over the summer we bid farewell to Professor Rolando Romero, who was the inaugural director of the Latina Latino Studies program and retired from the Department. We thank him for his contributions, which were essential to the establishment of the department.

We also received news in April 2021 that the Chancellor and the Provost approved commitment for a new building for Ethnic Studies and Women and Gender Studies. Department heads have begun to meet with a design firm to determine a feasibility study. We will seek input from faculty, students, and staff as we proceed with this important and necessary project.

After a year and a half of mostly virtual events, we were looking forward to safe in person celebrations, lectures, and other events. At this point the CoVid situation is still in flux, and we remain committed to a safe environment for students, staff, and faculty. We will continue to follow safety measures to ensure the health of our entire community of learners. We will remain in open communication regarding the evolving situation.

Most of all I encourage you to take advantage of the many opportunities this great university offers for learning and engagement. Please come by and introduce yourself if you are new to our community so that we may get to know you. For those of you returning, I look forward to seeing you again and engaging in meaningful collaborations.

NEW FACULTY



Janett Barragán Miranda
PhD, UC Santa Barbara

Dr. Janett Barragán Miranda is currently working on her book manuscript tentatively titled, *Hungering for Equality*, a monograph about the Mexican origin community's struggle for food justice in the 1960s. Barragán Miranda completed her M.A. and Ph.D. in Chicana and Chicano Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She was also a visiting fellow in the History of Science Department and Harvard University and a Postdoctoral Fellow for Academic Diversity at American University. Through her experiences Barragán Miranda has been able to engage with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts. As a first-generation college student and the daughter of Mexican immigrants, Barragán Miranda is committed to mentorship and community building in the Latina/Latino Studies Department at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

In Spring 2022, Barragán Miranda will be teaching LLS 392 Chicana & Latinas: Self & Society and LLS 473 Immigration, Health and Society.

Dr. Elizabeth Velásquez Estrada earned her M.A. (2013) and Ph.D. (2017) in Anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin. Elizabeth's book in progress, tentatively titled, *Intersectional Justice Denied: Negative Peace and Persisting Violence in Post-Peace Accords El Salvador*, draws on two and a half years of ethnographic research in El Salvador. Her book examines the central paradox of Salvadoran male gang members who are simultaneously purveyors of violence and peacemakers. Elizabeth's research builds on working-class Salvadoran women's critical perspectives to unravel how gang members reproduce the state's negative notion of peace by seeking to restore political control predicated on the continued oppression of those they purport to protect. Her manuscript traces how women relatives of gang members engage in supporting and challenging gangs' peacemaking efforts and explores the layered politics of their demands for intersectional justice.

To deepen her existing research and prepare her book manuscript for publication, Elizabeth is currently analyzing how the U.S. and Salvadoran governments define MS-13 gang as an internal and transnational source of radical insecurity. This discourse obscures the root causes of violence in El Salvador and their connection to U.S. policies, violence which continues to create massive immigration of Salvadoran asylum seekers to the U.S. Elizabeth is also researching how gang members and their relatives have begun to challenge the state-led racialization of gangs in Salvadoran society and find parallels to the racial oppression of Black people in the U.S. This connection is enabling them to articulate a critique of mestizo Salvadoran society as based in racialized inequalities. She argues that the Salvadoran state has consistently used racist tropes to war against those it considers subversive or terrorist and emphasize their separation from society.

Elizabeth's research has been supported by the Inter-American Foundation's Grassroots Development Fellowship and the Social Science Research Council's Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship: Gender Justice in the Era of Human Rights. She has published in *Social Justice*, co-authored an article in *Cultural Anthropology* and has a forthcoming article in *American Anthropology*. She is a member of a collective of activist feminist scholars with whom she is currently co-editing a Wenner-Gren Foundation supported volume on racialized and gender violence in the field, tentatively titled, *Fugitive Anthropology*. She served as a mentor for the Association of Latine/Latinx Anthropologists (ALLA) in 2020-2021. Elizabeth taught at Pacific University in 2019-2020 and The Evergreen State College in 2018-2019.

In Spring 2022, Velásquez Estrada will be teaching LLS 320 Gender & Latina/o Migration and LLS 343 Criminalization and Punishment.



Elizabeth Velásquez Estrada
PhD, UT Austin

NEW LECTURERS



Christian V. Ramirez
PhD, Michigan State U

Dr. Christian V. Ramirez received his dual Ph.D. in Chicano/Latino Studies and Sociology from Michigan State University (MSU). He also holds a M.A. and B.A. in Sociology and a graduate certificate in Mexican American Studies from the University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley. Dr. Ramirez was most recently a lecturer in the Office of Latino/Latin American Studies (OLLAS) at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He was also the lead instructor for the International Engagement in Mexico study abroad course at MSU. This course focused on Mexico's colonial history, its' racial projects across time, and a service component in five cities including Huatulco, Oaxaca, Merida, Puebla, and San Cristobal de las Casas in Chiapas.

His research engages the cross-cultural exchange and rebellions forged by Indigenous and African peoples in colonial Veracruz. Through his research, Dr. Ramirez examines the multiple ways Afro-Indigenous peoples institutionally and epistemologically carved out routes to freedom in the 17th and 18th centuries. These histories challenge narratives of mestizaje and the discipline of Chicana Studies to complicate the Euro-Indigenous dichotomy.

His research has been published in *Equity & Excellence in Education* and *Río Bravo: A Journal of the Borderlands* and has been interviewed by news outlets about his activist work. His published and public work focus on access to Ethnic Studies for the Latinx community. He is the lead educational advisor for C.R.A.F.T Cultura, a civic organization located on the U.S.-Mexico border in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas.

Prof. Ramirez is teaching LLS 100 Intro to Latina/Latino Studies and LLS 220 Latina/o Migration in Fall 2021.

Dr. Randy Rodriguez completed a Ph.D. in American Studies at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, did graduate work in Government, focusing on political theory, at The University of Texas at Austin and Cornell University, and obtained a B.A. in Political Science with a minor in Spanish from Brigham Young University. He taught Chicana/o literature and cultural studies as a graduate instructor at the University of Minnesota, the Introduction to Minority Studies as a Visiting Assistant Professor at St. Cloud State University, and a variety of Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies courses as a Visiting Assistant Professor and Lecturer at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Dr. Rodriguez exemplified his critical, interdisciplinary approach to scholarship in a path breaking article "Richard Rodriguez Reconsidered" chosen by preeminent Latino Studies scholar Jose Limón to lead a special issue of *Texas Studies in Literature and Language* focusing on the successful and controversial essayist Richard Rodriguez who has confounded and angered scholars for decades. In the piece that one Chicana/o Studies scholar called "...probably the best interpretive piece on Rodriguez's work..." he argued that central to the trouble caused by Rodriguez was an inadequately addressed and understood gender/queer performance aesthetic that challenged and undermined the "straight" heterosexual expectations of his mainstream and academic readers. To properly understand the Richard Rodriguez "problem" one had to reevaluate and complicate the hardened demands of a limiting and, too often, uncritical heroic, resistant masculinity. Dr. Rodriguez brings this kind of innovative work to his teaching as well and looks forward to engaging with University of Illinois students to thoughtfully reimagine how we can engage and shape our worlds.

Professor Rodriguez is teaching LLS 240 Latina/o Popular Culture and LLS 250 Latinas/os on the Bronze Screen in Fall 2021.



Randy Rodriguez
PhD, U of Minnesota

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES



Jack Cárvaves
PhD, UCLA

Dr. Jack Cárvaves (he/him/they/them) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences and teaches in the Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies Program at San José State University. He received his Ph.D. in Chicana, Chicano, and Central American Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles. Using qualitative mixed methods, Jack's research examines the role of transgender identity and gender variance in shaping migration, family relationships, identity formation, spirituality, and world-making for trans Latinxs in southern California. Jack has published in *The Journal of LGBT Youth*, the *Association for Mexican American Educators Journal*, *Transgender Studies Quarterly*, *Latino Studies* and in the anthology: *Queer and Trans Migrations: Dynamics of Illegalization, Detention and Deportation*. His research has been funded by the American Association of University Women (AAUW), the Latino Center for Leadership Development-Southern Methodist University, and the Institute of American Cultures and The Center for the Study of Women at UCLA. He is currently working on his book manuscript, *Trans Power: Trans Latinxs in Los Angeles Struggle for Self-Preservation*. Jack is also co-creator and co-host of the podcast, *Anzaldúing It*, along with Angélica Becerra—a podcast dedicated to navigating the borderlands of queer latinidad. With over half a million listens, the podcast has been used as a teaching tool for underrepresented students and has been featured on *Hiplatina*, *Autostraddle*, *PRIDE.com*, *GOMAG*, and was featured in the 2019 Google Youth Tech Summit.

Dr. Mauricio E. Ramírez earned his Ph.D. and M.A. in Latin American and Latino Studies with an emphasis on Visual Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz. He also holds an M.A.T. in Visual Arts from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and a B.A. in Arts from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Born and raised in San Francisco, he is an artist and curator with an interest in U.S. Central American and Latinx visual art of the San Francisco Bay Area. Mauricio was intrigued by public art and murals as a youth and grew up painting several community murals with the non-profit Precita Eyes Muralists in the Mission District of San Francisco. Recognizing the lack of scholarship on U.S. Central American artists and their influence on the San Francisco art scene, he dedicates his research to U.S. Central American visual artists of San Francisco. Recently, he co-curated *CARAVANA: Mobilizing Central American Art (1984-Present)* at SOMArts Cultural Center in San Francisco. This multidisciplinary traveling exhibition centers U.S. Central American artists living across the United States to examine their lived experiences in relation to the impact of mass migration, family separation, and the legacy of political action and solidarity with the people of Central America.

Mauricio is currently working on a book, "Painting Central America: U.S. Central American Visual Art of San Francisco," which explores the visual expressions and solidarity that emerged in San Francisco's Mission District as a response to the civil wars in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua beginning in the 1980s. His research sheds light on the history of Central American art and activism, the emerging 1.5 and second-generation U.S. Central American artists, and the intersections of Latinx solidarity with Central Americans. His research has been awarded grants from the University of California Office of the President, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Social Science Research Council, and UC Santa Cruz's Research Center for the Americas.



Mauricio E. Ramírez
PhD, UC Santa Cruz

CLASS OF 2021

After another year of living with the COVID-19 pandemic and the disruptions that it causes, the graduating class of LLS majors presented their senior project papers or thesis at a virtual end-of-the-year LLS major symposium on May 1st. Participants included the department faculty and staff and the family and friends of the majors. Below are the names of the majors and their paper titles. Also, listed below are the names of the LLS minor graduates. Congratulations to all of the LLS graduates!

Lydia Socorro Alvarez



"El Acción de Gentrificación: Exploring the Contradictions of Community Organizing, Art, and Social Media in the Pilsen Neighborhood of Chicago"

Karen Bahena



"Mi Cuerpo, Tu Cuerpo: The Latina Body in Media"

Karen Bucio



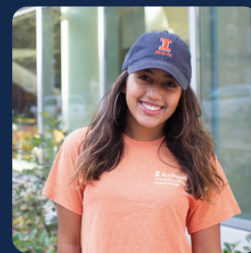
"Barriers to Healthcare Access Among Undocumented Immigrants"

Melody Contreras



"Fornésian Dreamscapes: Navigating Queer World Making"

Isabella Rose Márquez



"Reggaeton's Resistance: Bad Bunny & the Aesthetics & Politics of Perreo"

UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS

Jocelyn Rodriguez



"Reproductive Injustices of Latinas in the U.S."

Gabriel Sanabria



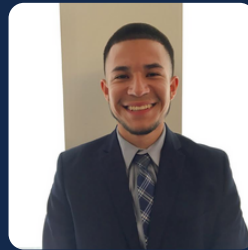
"Pushing the Boundaries of Gender: The Life of Jenni Rivera"

Jailine Santiago



"Resisting Neoliberal Conceptualizations of Worthiness: Articulations of Care for My (un)Deserving Parents"

Ivan Saucedo



"City Under Siege"

Cristian Solorzano



"Border Patrol: What it Takes to Be a Racist"

UNDERGRADUATE MINORS

Mario Barajas
Rosario Barrera
Xiomara F. Cardona
Fatima Castillo
Lesly Castro
Cerrera Galvan
Acacia R. Hernandez
Roy Jaime

Mariah Maldonado
Maria T. Martinez
Armando Miranda
Bryana M. Rivera
Jarissa E. Vega
Luis Velazquez-Perez
Montserrat Villalpando

GRADUATE MINOR

Aída Rosalia Guhlincozzi
Ph.D., Geography and Geographic Information Science
Dissertation: "¿Hablas Español?" Constraints encountered by Latina immigrant women seeking linguistically appropriate health care in the Chicago suburbs
(Faculty Advisor: Prof. Sara McLafferty)



Intersectional Justice Denied: Dominant Masculinity, Racialization, and Violence in El Salvador's Post-Accords Peacemaking

What are the needed conditions for peace? A decade ago, I began to explore this question in El Salvador, a dominant macho society and site of skyrocketing violence. Based on ethnographic research with women relatives of males who are both purveyors of violence and peacemakers, I argue that from the 1992 Salvadoran Peace Accords that ended twelve years of civil war emerged a notion of negative peace, or end of armed conflict with the state, that views gender and racialized violence as low-grade, ongoing, parts of everyday life. In this talk, I discuss how women relatives of male gang members navigate excavating politics of solidarity by both supporting and critiquing their relatives' adaptation of the model of negative peace to their peacemaking practices. I suggest that the way to attain substantive peace is to proactively engage in intersectional justice to redress multiple and intersecting forms of violence. Without this attention, violence in El Salvador will continue to increase. That violence in turn will increase mass migration to the U.S. and a border crisis in which the U.S. government sees deportation of Latinx families and a U.S.-Central America transnational war on gangs as its solution to attain regional political stability.

Dr. Elizabeth Velázquez Estrada
Postdoctoral Research Associate

Wednesday, November 4
4:00-5:30pm



Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://illinois.zoom.us/j/9115164119>
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF LATINA/LATINO STUDIES

Planning for a Successful Semester

Monday, September 21
6:00 - 8:00pm

Remote learning presents a whole new set of challenges for students this semester. Stay on top of course material, managing your time, and navigating your schedule.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY LATINO CULTURAL, LA CASA DE INDIANA UNIVERSITY-BLOMINGTON, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA CAMPUS/LA CASA CULTURAL AND LATINO/LATINA STUDIES PRESENT



AN EVENING WITH ELIZABETH ACEVEDO

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH | 5:00 P.M. CDT | VIRTUAL EVENT

National Poetry Slam Champion Elizabeth Acevedo received the 2018 National Book Award for her New York Times best selling novel, *The Poet X*. She is also the winner of the Boston Globe Hornbook Award Prize for Best Children's Fiction and the author of *Clap When You Land*, *With the Fire on Her Back*, and *Another Brooklyn*.

Free and Open to the Public | Register at tinyurl.com/ElizabethAcevedo2020

DEPARTMENT OF LATINA/LATINO STUDIES
More than a Scholar: A Symposium to Honor Dr. Edna Viruelli-Fuentes' Legacy in Scholarship, Public Health, and Higher Education

Wednesday, February 17
12:00-3:00PM CT

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/MoreThanAScholar>



- Speakers:**
- Dolores Acevedo-Garcia**
Brandeis University
 - Aida Rosello Guhlincozzi**
University of Illinois-Champaign
 - Alejo Llázn**
University of California, Irvine
 - Sandra Nadezda Martínez Díaz Covarrubias**
University of Guadalajara, Mexico
 - Patricia Miranda-Hartuff**
Wayne State University
 - Lisa Ortiz**
University of Iowa
 - Rocio Salazar**
CME Legal Group, Chicago, IL
 - Cindy San Miguel**
Sinor Urban Health Institute, Chicago, IL
 - Susan Whiteleaf**
Freelance Book Editor, Ann Arbor, MI

FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM VISIT
<https://illinois.edu/research/latino/studies/more-than-a-scholar>

LLS.ILLINOIS.EDU | 217-245-0370 | 1207 W OREGON ST, URBANA, IL 61801

LLS 2020-2021 Events

Department of LATINA/LATINO STUDIES

Latina/Latino Studies Workshop: "Under the Influence: The Afterparty of Brown Pleasurable Vulgarity"

Wednesday, April 14
3:30-5:00pm

Written in an epistolary style, this chapter focuses on different tribute parties that took place after late Chicana singer Jenni Rivera's death. It theorizes brown pleasurable vulgarity, as a structure of feeling that Mexican/Latinx immigrants engage in to survive the violence of middle-class affective compartments. I argue that through this working-class affective register, misioneros and fans model for us spaces and their children, do not their joy at the stake of us, that situate immigrants into respectable erasing/not deserving, but rown vulgarities, they h their bodies and



Dr. Yessica Garcia Hernandez
Postdoctoral Research Associate

For this workshop:
<https://illinois.zoom.us/j/9115164119>

You will receive a confirmation email containing information about the workshop. The paper will be sent to you 1 week before the workshop so you can prepare comments before the event. You must register to receive the paper.

217-265-0370 | 1207 W OREGON ST, URBANA, IL 61801

Department of Latina/Latino Studies
Teach for America (TFA) Latinx Panel

Tuesday, November 10
5-6PM

Teach for America (TFA) is working hard every day to end educational inequity. One of the elements to end this involves recruiting diverse leaders from all backgrounds. Listening to current people in the workforce can help you gain insight without accepting the journey just yet.

Take this informational opportunity to listen to current Latinx TFA corps members and alumni!

Learn about a potential life-changing career path with TFA!

Get to know your 2020-2021 campus ambassador to explore your TFA journey!

Consider becoming a TFA corps member after graduation!

Zoom Information:
<https://illinois.zoom.us/j/9115164119>

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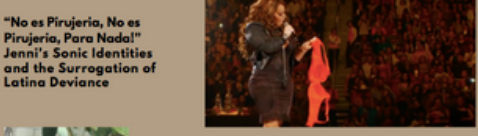
DEPARTMENT OF LATINA/LATINO STUDIES
GRADUATE RESEARCH WORKSHOP

Wednesday, May 5th
2:30pm - 3:30pm

Presenter: Sakshi Bhardwaj (Economics)
Title: Effect of the 1996 Welfare Reform on Undocumented Immigrants

This paper examines the labor market effects of ending the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for undocumented immigrants in the United States. The Welfare Reform Act of 1996 required that tax filers have a valid Social Security number to claim the EITC, thus disqualifying undocumented Mexican immigrants from receiving benefits. The loss of substantial EITC funds sharply reduced work by single mothers but not by other undocumented immigrants.

Zoom Information:
<https://illinois.zoom.us/j/9115164119>
Meeting ID: 861.5872.1073
Password: 033380



"No es Pirujeria, No es Pirujeria, Para Nada!" Jenni's Sonic Identities and the Surrogation of Latina Deviance

How does listening to the details of Latina music fandom provide us new insights to theorize the erotic hegemony of Latina sexualities? This presentation engages this question through the phenomenon of late 1990s/early 2000s singer Jenni Rivera. Born and raised in Southern California, Rivera was the first female singer to achieve international stardom in the genre of Mexican regional music, particularly Banda Sonoreña. In 2002, she tragically died in an airplane crash at age 43. Rivera's fans admired her not only for her music, but also for being a single mother who took ownership of her sexuality, survived domestic violence, and fought for the rights of immigrants and poor women. In this presentation, I examine the musical subculture Rivera and her fans were a part of—how this space allowed them to craft sonic identities in a transnational Latinx context—but also the cultural meanings expressed and generated by the sexually explicit Barcelona of Latina fans in relation to Rivera's performances. I argue that Rivera and the social elements of her fan-gatherings created an inter-generational, women-centered sonic pedagogical space that transmitted sonic pedagogies of deviance-lessons that center erotic sovereignty and a refusal of heteronormative responsible femininity. Moreover, I show that the radical deviance in Jenni's music lead to the space of piracy, an unregulated responsibility that allowed fans to embrace alternative (stuffy) ethics for/with each other. Since sex-positive environments are rarely received without moral panics, I end the presentation exploring how sonic pedagogies of deviance captured what I am calling a sexual respectable ambivalence, a mode of respectability that uses logic of surrogation to shame and police the pleasures of piracy.

Dr. Yessica Garcia Hernandez
Postdoctoral Research Associate

Wednesday, October 14
4:00-5:30pm

Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://illinois.zoom.us/j/9115164119>

FEELING DICONNECTED?
...Use ART to move back together!!

STRING FIGURING

Artist-Educator and LLS grad student Catalina Hernandez-Cabal invites you to join *String Figuring*: Come play with an imaginary string figure that

Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://illinois.zoom.us/j/9115164119>

Image by Mary Kate Ford

A semester-long ONLINE project of exploration and sharing of our spaces and experiences.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 5PM
REGISTER AT:
<https://illinois.zoom.us/j/9115164119>

Department of LATINA/LATINO STUDIES
LLS Spring Colloquium

"The Struggle for Food Assistance in the Mexican-Origin Community"

Wednesday, April 21
3:30-5:00pm

Dr. Janet Barragán Miranda
Postdoctoral Fellow for Academic Diversity, American University

During the post-WWII era the façade of a prominent middle class often overshadowed the constant presence of poverty and hunger throughout the nation. Still, throughout the decade of the 1960s the issue of hunger was being exposed in reports, films, books, and newspaper articles, making it impossible for the public and policymakers alike to look away from the seriousness of hunger. To counter the problem of hunger, governmental initiatives were implemented across the country, including the Food Stamps Program which by the late 1960s had the highest budget and number of participants. These initiatives, however were not without their shortcomings which stemmed from unclear eligibility rules, mistrust in welfare institutions, as well as stereotypes of people on public assistance. This study follows the community of Mexican origin as they navigated the expose of hunger and created solutions to counter the shortcomings of governmental food assistance initiative namely the Food Stamps Program. By utilizing archival repositories in innovative ways it accounts for the dearth of sources about the community of Mexican origin, this research talks back to the responses from the community. At the center of this study are the people who advocated for themselves by creating their own grassroots food assistance programs, using the United States Department of Agriculture, and taking to the streets to march for equal access to food assistance, ultimately proved that it was civil right not to be hungry.

Janet Barragán Miranda is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow for Academic Diversity at American University Washington D.C. There she serves as a member of the university-wide initiative for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Barragán Miranda completed her M.A. and Ph.D. in Chicana and Chicano Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She is currently working on her book manuscript titled, *Hunger for Equality: A Monograph about the Mexican origin community's struggle for food justice in the 1960s*. As a first-generation college student and the daughter of Mexican immigrants, Barragán Miranda is committed to mentoring and community building. She is currently member of the Latina and Latino Affinity Group and a mentor in LLS's Mentorship Program at American University.

Meeting ID: 873 8872 7315
Password: 553858

Department of LATINA/LATINO STUDIES

Latina/Latino Studies Workshop: "Towards a Borderland Activist Research: Vulnerability, Methods, and Political Engaged Scholarship"

Wednesday, May 12
3:30-5:00pm

This work in progress explores the contradictions inherent in activist research methods by considering the complexities that researchers from historically marginalized communities face. It asks the question: "How do we analyze the limits of 'horizontal collaboration' within a methodological framework that is rooted in a top-down approach? As a guiding principle of activist research methods, building trust between researchers and their counterparts. This work in progress explores the contradictions inherent in activist research methods by considering the complexities that researchers from historically marginalized communities face. It asks the question: "How do we analyze the limits of 'horizontal collaboration' within a methodological framework that is rooted in a top-down approach? As a guiding principle of activist research methods, building trust between researchers and their counterparts. This work in progress explores the contradictions inherent in activist research methods by considering the complexities that researchers from historically marginalized communities face. It asks the question: "How do we analyze the limits of 'horizontal collaboration' within a methodological framework that is rooted in a top-down approach? As a guiding principle of activist research methods, building trust between researchers and their counterparts.

Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://illinois.zoom.us/j/9115164119>

Department of LATINA/LATINO STUDIES
LLS OPEN HOUSE

Join us for our Fall 2020 Open House! Meet new Latina/Latino Studies faculty and students, say hi to old friends, and make new ones. Register for the event here: <https://tinyurl.com/OpenHouse2022>

Wednesday, September 23
4:00-6:00pm



LRN CARES WITH LLS

LRN (Latina Resilience Network) began as a collaboration with La Casa Cultural Latina and LLS (Latina/Latino Studies) in Fall 2013 to address the mental health wellness and wellness of Latinx students through trainings, workshops, and courses. LLS Cares began in Fall 2018 as a space for Latinx students and allies to come together to learn and practice self-care and community support through the use of reflection, meditation, processing, and engagement in community building. This year LRN and LLS Cares are coming together as LRN Cares with LLS to continue to build community and support for Latinx students, staff and the larger Chicago/Latina community.

- Tuesday, February 9 (5:30-6:30pm): Art Therapy "Supplies provided"
- Tuesday, March 9 (5:30-6:30pm): Plantitas are Here for You: Herbal Medicine 101 "Supplies provided"
- Tuesday, March 23 (5:30-6:30pm): Stress Less Therapy "Supplies provided"
- Tuesday, April 6th (5:30-6:30pm): Walking Through In Distance: Exploring Possibilities of Connection Through Art
- Tuesday, April 27 (5:30-6:30pm): TBA

*Supplies can be picked up at La Verantita at La Casa Cultural Latina (1203 W. Nevada, Urbana) during the following classtimes:
Wednesday 2-4pm
Thursday 11-4pm
Friday 11-30pm

PLEASE REGISTER FREE & OPEN TO EVERYONE SPRING 2022

THE MANY PROFESSIONS YOU CAN PURSUE WITH A LLS DEGREE: LLS ALLUMS AND PROFESSORS SHARE THEIR JOURNEY

Wednesday November 11
5-6:30pm

Do you like the idea of pursuing a Latina/Latino Studies degree but are unsure of what career path to explore? Come hear discussion with a couple of LLS professors and LLS major alumni who have used their LLS degree to pursue a wide range of career paths and professions.

Panelist Participants:
PROFESSOR JULE A. BOWLING
PROFESSOR NATALIE URBANA
IRIAN FERNANDEZ, ESQ.
CINDY SAN MIGUEL, MPH

LRN CARES WITH LLS

LRN (Latina Resilience Network) began as a collaboration with La Casa Cultural Latina and LLS (Latina/Latino Studies) in Fall 2013 to address the mental health wellness and wellness of Latinx students through trainings, workshops, and courses. LLS Cares began in Fall 2018 as a space for Latinx students and allies to come together to learn and practice self-care and community support through the use of reflection, meditation, processing, and engagement in community building. This year LRN and LLS Cares are coming together as LRN Cares with LLS to continue to build community and support for Latinx students, staff and the larger Chicago/Latina community.

- Tues, Sept 8 9:30 - 4:30pm Yoga — with Chelsea
- Tues, Oct 6 8:30 - 6:30pm Eating Disorder workshop — with Catalina
- Tues, Oct 20 9:30 - 4:30pm Place-making art workshop — with Catalina
- Tues, Oct 27 9:30 - 4:30pm Pre-Election Meditation and Group Support — with Bili, Shyla, & Lucero
- Tues, Nov 17 9:30 - 10:30pm Workshop

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LLS Scholarships and Undergraduate Research Award Winners



left to right: Isabella "Issy" Marquez, Erica Gonzalez, Lydia Alvarez

It gives us great pleasure to announce the winners of this year's LLS scholarships and paper award.

Isabella "Issy" Marquez, Latina/Latino Studies, English, and Political Science major, and May 2021 graduate, is the winner of the Dr. Jorge Chapa Memorial Scholarship in Latina/o Studies. Issy graduated Magna Cum Laude and as a James Scholar and with High Distinction in Latina/Latino Studies. When Issy added Latina/Latino Studies as a third major she became interested in Latina/o literature and the analysis of Latinidad through language. She will continue exploring these interests as a MA/PhD student in English and a Latina/Latino Studies graduate minor at UIUC starting in Fall 2021.

Erica Gonzalez, Latina/ Studies and Community Health major, is the winner of the LLS Major Scholarship. Erica is a rising senior and is the Latina/Latino Studies student outreach and media coordinator. Erica's inspiration to pursue degrees in Latina/Latino Studies and community health was largely influence by Prof. Viruell-Fuentes when Erica took LLS 100 during her first year. She is currently engaged in a summer internship at Crisis Nursery in Urbana where she is assisting them with their communication efforts generally and outreach to Latina/o populations in Champaign-Urbana. After graduation next year Erica plans to pursue a career that focuses on health inequality and health care access for Latina/o populations and others who are most marginalized.

Lydia Alvarez, Latina/ Studies and Spanish major, and May 2021 graduate, is this year's winner of the LLS Undergraduate Research Award. This award recognizes exceptional undergraduate research and/or critical analysis in the field of Latina/Latino Studies. Lydia graduated with High Distinction in Latina/Latino Studies. Lydia's paper titled, "El Acción de Gentrificación: Exploring the Contradictions of Community Organizing, Art, and Social Media in the Pilsen Neighborhood of Chicago," tracks the transition of community organizing among the Latinx population in Pilsen to better understand how social media has worked to effectively organize the community. The overall purpose of the paper is to understand the role and effects of political and social organizing within the Latinx community of Pilsen, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who applied for the scholarships and paper prize. We received a lot of wonderful applications. We wish we could have provided awards to everyone.

Fall 2021 Course List

- LLS 100** Intro Latina/Latino Studies
- LLS 200** US Race & Empire
- LLS 201** US Racial & Ethnic Politics
- LLS 220** Latina/o Migration
- LLS 230** Latina/o Genders & Sexualities
- LLS 235** Race and the Politics of Reproduction
- LLS 240** Latina/o Popular Culture
- LLS 242** Intro to Latina/o Literature
- LLS 248** Latin American Diaspora through Film: Beyond Braceros, Narcos, and Latin Lovers
- LLS 250** Latina/os on the Bronze Screen
- LLS 260** Graffiti and Murals
- LLS 279** Mexican-American History
- LLS 281** Constructing Race in America
- LLS 305** Theories of Race, Gender, and Sexuality
- LLS 308** Spanish in the United States
- LLS 310** Race and Cultural Diversity
- LLS 357** Literatures of the Displaced
- LLS 370** Latina/o Ethnography
- LLS 385** Theory and Methods in LLS
- LLS 387** Race, Gender and the Body
- LLS 390** Independent Study
- LLS 396** Policing Latinx (Im)migrant Communities
- LLS 396** Latinx Feminisms
- LLS 433** Foundations of Bilingual Education
- LLS 449** Issues in Latinx Education
- LLS 479** Race, Medicine, and Society
- LLS 495** Senior Honors Thesis
- LLS 590** Independent Study

FACULTY, STAFF & AFFILIATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Xiomara Cervantes is the winner of the 2021 Premio Sylvia Molloy for Best Article in the Humanities for "Paz's Pasivo: Thinking Mexicanness from the Bottom," presented by the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Sexualities Studies Section. Xiomara was also awarded the 2021 Andrew W Mellon Career Enhancement Fellowship by the Institute for Citizens & Scholars (formerly the Woodrow Wilson Foundation).

David Cisneros was named the 2020 Córdoba-Puchot Scholar of the Year by the Latina/o Studies Division of the National Communication Association.

Julie Dowling is a co-winner of this year's Public Sociology Award of the American Sociological Association's International Migration Section.

Nic Flores has recently co-published with A. Spieldenner (2021) "Sweet Nothings: A Journey of (Gay) Sex without Condoms," in *Communicating Intimate Health* (pp. 3-17), Lexington Books. In July 2021 Flores presented "From Inclusion to Equity: An Overview of the Transformative Access Project" in the Professional Education Series of the Recovery Village Columbus Drug and Alcohol Rehab.

Mónica González Ybarra was awarded the 2021 Cathy Acevedo Award at the 2021 La Casa Congratulatory. The award is presented to a faculty or staff member who has shown extraordinary commitment to Latina/Latino students and the Latina/Latino campus community and has shown advocacy for the issues, challenges and successes that shape our higher education experiences.

Natalie Lira was awarded the 2020-21 Latina/Latino Studies Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award honors the Department's best teachers.

Juan Mora graduated with a PhD in History and is now working at Indiana University-Bloomington as a Postdoctoral Fellow with the Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society (CRRES) and as an Assistant Professor in the Department of History.

Carolina Ortega graduated with a PhD in History and is now a tenure-track Assistant Professor of History at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Sandra Ruiz was awarded a Humanities Research Institute (HRI) Campus Fellowship for the 2021-22 academic year for her project titled, "Minoritarian Pedagogy: Psychoanalytic Affections in the Space of Aesthetics." Ruiz was also named a 2021 Conrad Humanities Scholar. Ruiz plans to use the award to continue her work on several book projects, including a book of poetry entitled "The Edge of Death," and two theoretically focused books called "Grief-time: The Aesthetic Life" and "Minoritarian Pedagogy: Psychoanalytic Affections in the Space of Aesthetics."

Elizabeth Velásquez Estrada has an article titled "Intersectional Justice Denied: Negative Peace and Persisting Violence in Post-Peace Accords El Salvador" forthcoming in *American Anthropologist*.

PROFESSOR ROLANDO ROMERO RETIRES

by A. P. Rodriguez and A. N. Valdivia

Professor Rolando Romero, the first director of the Latina/Latino Studies Program who directed the unit from 1996 to 1998, retired this Summer 2021. Professor Romero is our first faculty member to retire and achieve the rank of Associate Professor Emeritus. Professor Romero was born in northern Mexico and moved to Texas in his teens. He majored in Finance at the Wharton School, completed all the requirements for a degree in Spanish, and was one of the founders of MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán) while a student at the University of Pennsylvania. He also worked as a voting rights research analyst for the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund and the Texas Rural Legal Aid.

In 1996 he was hired as the Inaugural director of the Latina/Latino Studies Program and was tasked with composing the faculty with a plan to eventually transition into a Department. He worked with the College of LAS and several Latina/o professors across campus to develop a vibrant program, which under his leadership developed an undergraduate minor.

A humanities scholar, Professor Romero specializes in US Latina/o literature, Mexican literature, cultural studies, and film theory. He taught classes such as 19th Century US Latina/o Literature, Latina Literature and Iconography, Bilingualism in US Latina/o Culture, Contemporary US Latina/o Literature, and Latina/os on the Bronze Screen. Professor Romero published in journals such as *Discourse: Journal for Theoretical Studies in Media and Culture* and *Borderlines: Studies in American Culture*, and in various edited volumes. Professor Romero was also an active member of the UIUC faculty senate.

Undoubtedly, Professor Romero has made an impact on many lives. As he enters a new chapter, we at LLS thank him for many years of dedication to the department and wish him lots of happiness and adventures in retirement.

