



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

CLLAS

CENTER FOR
LATINO/A & LATIN
AMERICAN STUDIES



CLLAS Impact Report 2017–18



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

from Director Gabriela Martínez

CLLAS produced a strong line-up of research and creative events throughout the year that filled rooms to capacity. We launched our 2017-2019 theme, “America, Bridge Between Oceans: Ships, Peoples, and Cultures Across the Pacific, the Caribbean and the Atlantic,” coordinated by CLLAS board member Alai Reyes-

Santos, associate professor of ethnic studies. During Latinx Heritage Month in October, poet and anthropology professor Ana-Maurine Lara led “Penelope’s Loom: A Creative Writing Workshop” designed for people of color and migrants living in the Pacific Northwest, and which culminated in a public reading. CLLAS produced a Town Hall meeting with 2017-2018 Wayne Morse Chair and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and filmmaker José Antonio Vargas. UO President Michael Schill welcomed Vargas to UO and made opening remarks about issues of immigration.

In November, CLLAS presented indigenous hip-hop artist Miguel Villega, aka Una Isu, whose rap calls attention to transnational social and political issues. Responding to the tragic hurricane season that devastated Puerto Rico, CLLAS organized a teach-in for students where Puerto Rican professors Cecilia Enjuto and Rocio Zambrana talked about Puerto Rico and its place in the contemporary colonial history of the United States.

We started our research series events in fall quarter with a presentation by associate professor Krista Chronister and doctoral student Yolanda Valenzuela, both from the Department of Counseling Psychology. Their research addresses Latina survivors of partner violence. In winter term, we featured the work of CLLAS research grantees and Tinker Field Research grantees at our Gender, Displacement, and Cultural Production Research Series. In spring term, we featured the research work of grantees in a panel entitled Latinx and Latin American Studies Intersections: Migration, Indigeneity and Belonging.

The highlight of our whole year was the March 2018 CLLAS Symposium, “Justice Across Borders: Gender, Race and Migration in the Americas,” which included 15 invited scholars engaged in a rich intellectual exchange and presentations with UO faculty and students. The symposium stretched the boundaries of traditional scholarship by engaging other types of knowledge production, including oral traditions, spoken word, performing art, and activism, bringing a multiplicity of voices to topics affecting the Americas—social injustice, racism, gender violence, and militarism, among others.

In collaboration with the UO Dreamers Working Group, CLLAS sponsored and helped organize the first “Higher Ed. Dreamer Summit: Supporting Oregon Students,” which brought together four community organizations and 13 community colleges and universities from across the state. Representatives shared effective practices, challenges, and strategies to help all students, and in particular those under DACA.

Thanks to all faculty and staff involved in the UO Dreamers Working Group for their tireless efforts in educating other faculty and staff about DACA students on this campus and others, and about immigration policy in general. This group provided Ally Training Workshops for over 250 people this year. I hope that we all continue to educate ourselves and resist acts of bigotry, hate, and discrimination toward minorities and international members of our community. CLLAS remains committed to equity and inclusion, not only as core ideas, but as a daily praxis. ■



International Studies graduate Brenda Garcia Millan (left) stands with a lawyer outside the Casa del Migrante migrant shelter in Tijuana, Mexico. Millan, whose research was supported by a 2017 Tinker Grant and a 2017 CLLAS Faculty Collaboration Research Grant, conducted research on Haitian migrants in Tijuana. Millan also received a 2018 Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) Award.

Community Spotlight

CLLAS continues to engage with communities throughout Oregon through the educational efforts of faculty, staff, and students, and with funding from individual donors, SELCO Community Credit Union, and many university departments, programs, centers, and other entities for projects and event programming. Here are some highlights for the year.

Latino Roots Report

On campus, the Latino Roots exhibit was displayed at several events, including SAIL, the CLLAS Town Hall, the CLLAS Symposium, and the Higher Ed. Statewide Dreamer Summit. In the community, highlights include both short- and long-term displays at River Road/El Camino del Río Elementary School, the Pisgah Heritage Festival, Noche Cultural, Fiesta Cultura, and Monarchas baseball games.

CLLAS Symposium

In the spirit of building intellectual community, CLLAS hosted the symposium “Justice Across Borders: Gender, Race, and Migration in the Americas.” Participants explored what kinds of new knowledges, art, social transformations, and activism we can create together in the face of increasing inequalities and social violence across the continent. Emphasizing CLLAS’s thematic line of inquiry this year—America, Bridge Between Oceans—we asked: What happens when we put the Atlantic world in conversation with the Pacific? Our first two panels opened inquiry into the meaning of justice in the continent through presentations by UO scholars and alumni whose research on gender and racial justice in Latinx and Latin American communities exemplifies our existing excellence in those fields. Our keynote led into a conversation about comparative approaches to the study of art, colonialism, and militarism that represent the most cutting-edge trends in the field. A roundtable showcased strengths in environmental justice on campus and was devoted to a conversation about the possibilities for political solidarity among Caribbean, Latinx, and Pacific Islander migrants on the U.S. Pacific coast and islands. The plenary session panelists talked about how emerging migratory patterns, incarceration practices, immigration policies, black or Afro-Latino identities, and white nationalisms are impacting Latinx communities on the East and West Coasts.

CLLAS Research Series

The CLLAS Research Series fosters research excellence, interdisciplinarity, and intellectual community by funding and show-casing research in Latinx and Latin American Studies. Through Tinker Field Research Grants, Graduate Student Research Grants, Faculty Collaboration Research Grants, and our new Latinx Studies Seed Grant, CLLAS awards grant money to fund the research of UO scholars and community collaborators. CLLAS grantees share their research in public presentations that put their work into conversation with UO faculty and graduate students across disciplines and engage the larger Eugene-Springfield community. Grantees also contribute an article to the CLLAS newsletter *CLLAS Notes*, which is widely distributed on campus and beyond. ■

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OUR MISSION

The Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies (CLLAS) facilitates collaborative research, scholarship, intellectual community, and community outreach focused on Latin America and U.S. Latino/a populations. CLLAS has a particular interest in developing research to better educate the public on the history, contributions, and well-being of Latino/as and Latin Americans in Oregon.

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CLLAS Town Hall

Since coming out as an undocumented American in 2011, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist José Antonio Vargas has emerged as a prominent spokesman for the rights of other undocumented Americans. While at UO for a series of appearances as the 2017-18 Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics, Vargas said, "Living through the Trump era, I cannot think of a more compelling, provocative and harder question than 'How do we define American?'" Vargas uses storytelling as his tool to open up the parameters on this hot-button issue.

At a CLLAS-sponsored Town Hall on October 26 that featured Vargas in conversation with UO journalism professor Christopher Chávez, an overflow crowd of about 120 students, faculty, staff, and community members sat or stood in the sweltering autumnal heat to listen to Vargas tell stories through film clips and commentary. Prompted by Chavez's questions, Vargas talked about the mixed responses he has experienced since "coming out" as undocumented. Vargas said he had, for example, been set to come out in the *Washington Post*, the newspaper where he earned his Pulitzer for group coverage of the Virginia Tech shootings.

The article he had labored over for months, which detailed his experiences and had been thoroughly fact-checked by staff, was pulled at the last minute. Later, it was published instead by the *New York Times Magazine*. The publication of his story had immediate effects, he said, bestowing a status upon him that made it unsafe to have a fixed address, and forcing him to travel most of the time, and to live in hotels or stay with friends.

Prompted by Chávez, Vargas discussed the differences between being called an illegal immigrant vs. undocumented American. "Being



José Antonio Vargas (left) with Chris Chávez / photo by F. Crawford.

undocumented is a civil offense instead of a legal one," Vargas explained. "I am here in this country illegally, but I as a person am not illegal." He related his experience hearing the word "illegal" used interchangeably with the word "Mexican" in the state of Alabama, and he lamented what he called "moral bankruptcy," the fact that we as a country have grown so comfortable calling people illegal. He added: it's as if we're living through reconstruction and civil war all at once right now.

This conversation between journalists included a discussion of objectivity and point-of-view in storytelling. Vargas told his audience that storytelling has been the province of people in power, that the master narrative has been that of white male heterosexuals. Telling the story, he explained, needs to be a question of representation and accuracy, not objectivity.

Vargas said that he calls objectivity a "colorblindness," something that he personally cannot any longer afford. People tell him he is no longer objective because he is an advocate, but objectivity, he countered, is for someone who has nothing to lose.

Vargas founded the nonprofit Define American as a vehicle to elevate the conversation around immigration through storytelling, and thus far he has produced and directed two documentaries. Vargas showed film clips from recent projects. ■

Research Support Provided by CLLAS

awarded 2017-18 for completion in AY 2018-19

Graduate Student Research Grants

- **"Migration Industry in Oregon: How Contractors Define Living and Labor Conditions of Farmworkers."** Diego Contreras, Sociology.
- **"Promotoras de Salud: Addressing Environmental Racism in Southern California."** Cristina Faiver-Sema, Geography.
- **"Latinx Theatre Commons' 2018 Carnival of New Latinx Work."** Olga Sanchez, Theatre Arts.

Faculty Collaboration Research Grants

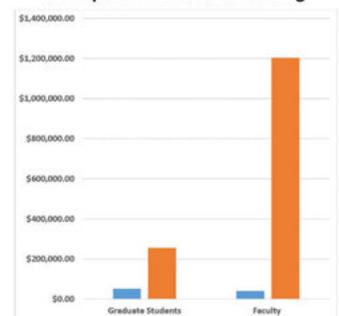
- **"Why Gwarayos Sing: Conservation of the Cultural and Natural Environment through Musical Ethno-education."** By Ed Wolf, Ethnomusicology and Derrick Hindery, International Studies and Geography.
- **"Visual Clave: The Expression of the Latino/a Experience Through Album Cover Art: 1940-1990."** Phil Scher, Anthropology, and Cheryl Hartup, JSMA.

Inaugural Latinx Studies Seed Grant

- **"A Child Should Not Long For Its Own Image: Literature and Visual Media for Queer Latinx Youth."** Ernesto Martinez, Associate Professor, Ethnic Studies.

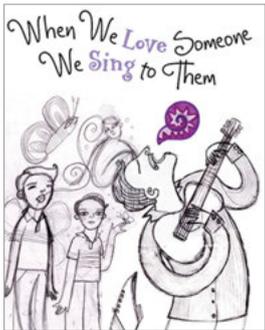
Project descriptions: cllas.uoregon.edu/grant-opportunities/2018-grant-recipients/

The Impact of CLLAS Seed Funding



Blue: CLLAS seed funding
Orange: Additional funds resulting from CLLAS seed funding
See "2017-18 By the Numbers" p. 3

CLLAS Awards Inaugural Latinx Studies Seed Grant



CLLAS awarded its first Latinx Studies seed grant for research or creative projects to Ernesto Martínez, associate professor in the Department of Ethnic Studies. “A Child Should Not Long for Its Own Image: Literature and Visual Media for Queer Latinx Youth,” entails four components: (1) the production of the short film *La Serenata*; (2) the premier screening of the film at the University of Oregon, followed by a discussion with the director and fellow collaborators; (3) a community conversation about queer Latinx youth with teachers and parents in the Eugene/Springfield area; and (4) free distribution of the bilingual children’s book *When We Love Someone, We Sing to Them* to local schools, libraries, and community centers.

La Serenata is a film adaption of the children’s book Martínez wrote. “Both the screenplay and the book,” Martínez said, “tell the story of a Mexican-American boy who learns from his parents about serenatas and why demonstrating romantic affection proudly, publicly, and through song is such a treasured Mexican tradition. One day, the boy asks his parents if there is a song for a boy who loves a boy. The parents, surprised by the question and unsure of how to answer, must decide how to honor their son and how to reimagine a beloved tradition.”

Martínez told CLLAS, “The film and the children’s book are a response to the lack of Latinx representation in contemporary cultural production for youth. For example, Latinxs constitute 18 percent of the U.S. population. However, only 2.9 percent of children’s books reflect Latinx communities.”

CLLAS plans to award one seed grant each academic year of up to \$2,500 to support research or creative projects in Latinx Studies that fits within the CLLAS mission. Projects that include collaboration between UO units, involve the wider Eugene/Springfield, Oregon, or Latinx communities/organizations/institutions in the U.S. or propose other forms of community engagement are particularly welcome, but not required. ■

Second Year Tinker Foundation Grants

Tinker Field Research Grants are open to students across all academic disciplines and graduate degree programs to assist master’s and doctoral students with travel and field-related expenses for brief periods of field research in Latin America. Administered by CLLAS, the program is funded by the Tinker Foundation, with matching funds from the UO Office of Academic Affairs and the Graduate School.

Tinker Grant Recipients

awarded 2017-18 for completion in AY 2018-19

- **“Scientific Diplomacy as an Interdisciplinary Logic: A Case Study of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research.”** Lourdes Ginart, Geography.
- **“Mass Media and Activism in Argentina.”** Liam Machado, Art History.
- **“Environmental Justice and the Local Effects of Glacier Melt: A Case Study in the Peruvian Cordillera Huayhuash.”** Holly Moulton, Environmental Studies.
- **“State Responses to Gendered Violence: Lessons Learned from a Comparative Case Study of Costa Rica and Guatemala.”** Caitlin O’Quinn, Political Science.
- **“Indigeneity and Mobilization: ¿How do collective identities of lowland indigenous nations in Bolivia influence their strategies to implement their right to self-determination and cultural promotion?”** Maria Pomes Lorences, International Studies.
- **“Sounds of Power — Peruvian Colonial Pipe Organs in the Interplay of Cultures.”** Natascha Reich, Musicology.
- **“Indigenous Maya Labor in the World Heritage site of Chichén Itzá.”** Sofia Vidal, Anthropology.

Project descriptions: cllas.uoregon.edu/grant-opportunities/2018-grant-recipients/

2017-18 By the Numbers

• Graduate research grants awarded	10
• Faculty research grants awarded	3
• Funding for graduate students (since 2008)	\$52,000
• *Additional funding raised by grad students (resulting from CLLAS grants provided since 2008)	\$255,752
• Funding for faculty collaboration projects (since 2008)	\$40,398
• *Additional funding raised by faculty (resulting from CLLAS grants provided since 2008)	\$1,203,234
• Events	21
• Professional development workshops	5
• Events cosponsored	11
• Event attendance	942
• Internal funds raised	\$28,150
• External funds raised	\$10,500
• Community Partners	27
• CLLAS Community (Email list, event attendees, social media followers)	2487
• Latino Roots exhibits	11

*See “The Impact of CLLAS Seed Funding” bar graph p. 2

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Please consider making a tax-deductible financial gift to CLLAS. Use the following link for online giving instructions: cllas.uoregon.edu/about/giving

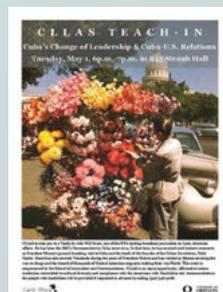
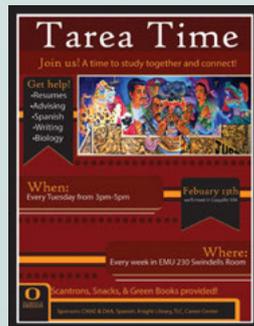
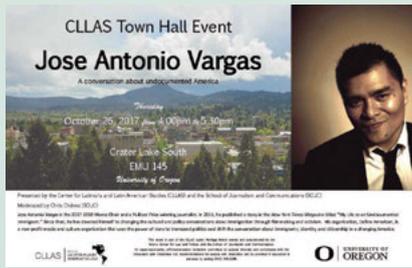
By mail, send checks to CLLAS, c/o Eli Meyer, 6201 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-6201.

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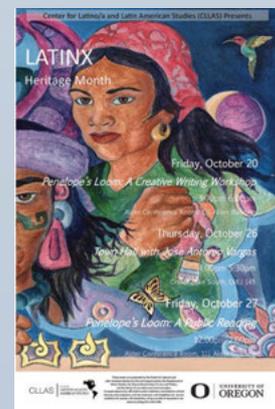
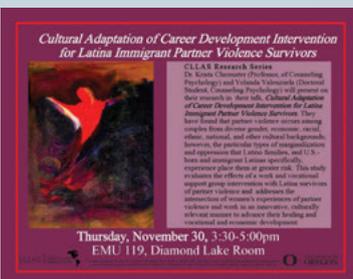
A YEAR OF CLLAS EVENTS

Talks, Workshops, Films, Forums, Lectures, and Symposia

showcasing research, promoting diversity



Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies Presents



CLLAS Events 2017-18

Fall Quarter 2017

- Penelope's Loom: A Creative Writing Workshop: Ana Lara (Anthropology).
- "Town Hall with Jose Antonio Vargas," presentation and discussion: Christopher Chávez (School of Journalism and Communication/SOJC).
- Penelope's Loom Public Reading: Ana Lara (Anthropology).
- CLLAS Faculty Mixer.
- CLLAS Graduate Student Mixer.
- A Conversation with Indigenous Hip Hop artist, Una Isu—Miguel Villegas (Nuu Savi/Mixteco rapper)
- "History of Environmental, Economic, and Political Debts: Puerto Rico and the US," CLLAS Teach-In: Cecilia Enjuto Rangel (Romance Languages), Rocío Zambrana (Philosophy).
- "Cultural Adaptation of Career Development Intervention for Latina Immigrant Partner Violence Survivors," CLLAS Research Series: Krista Chronister (Counseling Psychology), Yolanda Valenzuela (Counseling Psychology).

Winter Quarter 2018

- Graduate Student Grant-Writing Workshop: Gabriela Martínez (School of Journalism and Communication/SOJC), Erin Beck (Political Science).
- "Cultural Production, Displacement & Internationalism in Latin America," CLLAS Research Series Graduate Student Conference.
- "Creating Communities of Welcome: Understanding Motives to Assist Immigrants and Refugees in a Hostile Era," CLLAS Research Series.
- CLLAS Professional Development Series: Faculty Collaborative Research Grants.
- "Justice Across Borders, Gender, Race, and Migration in the Americas," CLLAS Symposium: Alai Reyes-Santos (Ethnic Studies).

Spring Quarter 2018

- "From Manila to London to Rio: Two Cases Outside the Canon," CLLAS Workshop: Chuong-Đài Võ (Asia Art Archive).
- NEH Grant Writing: CLLAS Professional Development Series: Stephanie Wood (Education).
- "Latinx & Latin American Studies Intersections: Migration, Indigeneity & Belonging" CLLAS Research Series Graduate Student Conference.
- CWSW/CLLAS Open House.
- Higher Ed. Dreamer Summit: Supporting Oregon Students.
- "Cuba's Change in Leadership and Cuba-US Relations," CLLAS Teach-In: Will Grant (BBC).
- "Translation & Interpretation Experiences & Perceptions among Latina/o High School Language Brokers in Oregon," CLLAS Research Series: Angel Dorantes (Education Studies).
- Latinx Studies Retreat: Alai Reyes-Santos (Ethnic Studies).