

CLLAS Notes

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Winter 2017

CLLAS

CENTER FOR
LATINO/A & LATIN
AMERICAN STUDIES



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Interim director Gabriela Martínez

As our calendar year comes to a close, I am pleased to review the activities of the fall term, and to look ahead at what CLLAS has coming up. You can read more about some of our activities in this edition of *CLLAS Notes*, and learn details about several CLLAS-supported research projects being carried out by graduate students and faculty. CLLAS got off to a great start this academic year by screening the documentary *Mexican Dream*, which filled Knight Library's Browsing Room to capacity, attracting a mix of community members, and faculty, undergraduate and graduate students from across campus. The film, which was followed by a lively discussion and Q&A, focused on the stories of three families on both sides of the border. See the adjacent article to learn more about the documentary itself.

November 16–17, CLLAS participated in the Oregon Migration Symposium, which featured CLLAS's Latino Roots exhibition panels on both days. I was delighted to present the overarching history and impact of the Latino Roots in Oregon Project as part of the "Migration Public History" opening discussion. Dr. Lynn Stephen presented her current research on Guatemalan Mam refugees in Oregon.

2016-17 CLLAS faculty collaborative research grantees Erin Beck, Department of Political Science, and Lynn Stephen, Department of Anthropology, are at work on a project that explores accomplishments and challenges of Guatemala's new femicide law and specialized gender violence courts. This winter, professors Beck and Stephen will share a work-in-progress presentation open to the public. Their talk will focus on the history of the femicide courts using the case study of indigenous Mam women from Todos Santos Cuchumatán, Huehuetenango, to explore what the obstacles to women's access to gendered justice are, including monolingualism, isolation and poverty, as well as regional cultures of competing generational masculinities, and local justice systems that encourage women to reconcile with aggressors.

Our CLLAS Research Action Projects (RAPs) continue with their activities, and I invite you to read the report about each on pages 6–7. I also would like to point our readers to an open-access digital collection called ¡Presente! Art and the Disappeared <<http://presente.uoregon.edu>>. The collection, which is growing monthly as more permissions come in, involves the close study of details of works of art in a variety of mediums, such as photographs, prints, posters, textiles, sculptures, and installations. This is one important offshoot that has developed out of the work researchers Stephanie Wood, Center for Equity Promotion, and Carlos Aguirre, Department of History, have been conducting for the past year and a half. Research assistance and translation work that is making the digital site bilingual (English/Spanish) is being provided by Melanie Hyers and Jesús León-Monsalve (of CEQP); undergraduate assistants Colin Takeo and Connor Shields are working to process images and build the searchable database. A public presentation is scheduled for March 10 at the JSMA.

Coming up spring term, CLLAS is cosponsoring the Latin American, Latino, and Iberian Studies Association (LALISA) Conference organized by the Latin American Studies Program at the UO with LALISA partner institutions Lewis & Clark College, Reed College, the University of Puget Sound, Whitman College, and Willamette University. The conference "Peripheral Mappings: Social and Cultural Geographies from the Underside of Modernity" will take place April 13-15. The LALISA Conference, in its second edition, aims to investigate the validity and contemporary currency of the center-periphery model as a way to

DIRECTOR'S LETTER, continued on p. 2

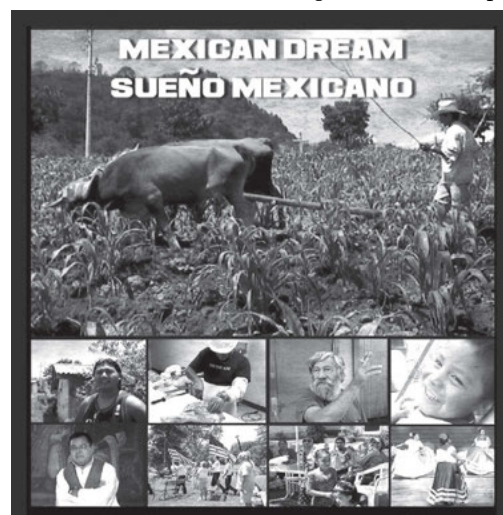
Mexican Dream

On October 20th, over one hundred students, faculty, and community members packed into the Knight Library Browsing Room to watch a screening of *Mexican Dream* (*Sueño Mexicano*), a documentary film directed by Jon Wetterau and Rogelio Alex Ruiz Euler. The film explores the global forces that have had a profound impact on local communities both in the United States and in Mexico. The first part of the film takes place in Magdalena Peñasco, a small township in the Sierra Mixteca, one of the poorest regions in Mexico. In this part of the film, the directors examine how global trade has undermined the local economy, motivating its residents to seek opportunities north of the border. The second part of the film focuses on life in Austin, Minnesota, where some residents of Magdalena Peñasco have found employment working for Hormel Foods, a pork processing factory.

The film provides a more thoughtful and nuanced discussion of the immigration debate than the one presented during the 2016 presidential election cycle, in which undocumented immigrants have been framed as rapists, criminals, and convicts. While political discourses have become toxic, our news organizations have been complicit, continuing to frame Latino immigrants either in terms of their criminality or their contributions to the economic well-being of the country. In short, mainstream media has, to a large degree, failed to find the basic humanity of the Latino community, only seeing undocumented immigrants as the "foreign other."

The film challenges this narrative by providing a more human face to this story. In doing so, the directors deftly show the ways in which business and government benefit from exploiting the labor of undocumented immigrants. As a result of these practices, these migrants confront hostilities in their new communities. The film also explores how migrants negotiate living in an "in-between space," never feeling quite at home in their new land yet disconnected from their former homes. The screening followed with a lively Q & A session with Dr. Daniel Hosang and Dr. Christopher Chávez, in which a variety of topics were addressed including racial conflict, competition for labor, global food production, and the struggle to maintain connections to home-country while being far away. ■

—by Christopher Chávez, Assistant Professor, UO School of Journalism and Communication.



DIRECTOR'S LETTER, *continued from page 1*

understand Latin American, Latino, and Iberian cultural productions and social formations.

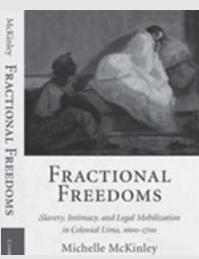
Also in the spring CLLAS will offer a closed workshop for recruited K-12 teachers led by Lynn Stephen and Carmen Urbina, co-director of the Oregon Center for Educational Equity, and coordinated by CLLAS GTF Cecilia Valdovinos. Stephen and Urbina are conducting the project "Immigration Education: Curriculum on Undocumented Families," which aims to generate curriculum, dialogue, and other activities to support children who are themselves undocumented and/or have other family members who are undocumented. This project involves a one-time workshop with teachers from North Eugene High School, Springfield High School, Churchill High School, and Woodburn High School. The teachers will participate in activities that, for example, involve making an immigration timeline with students, and that promote public-speaking and writing events to encourage discussions regarding immigrant students and families. The workshop will focus on the following questions: 1) How do mixed status families highlight the contradiction of a nation of immigrants following settler colonialism that continues to promote exclusion and deportation?; 2) How do youth in mixed status families cope with the tensions and challenges that they face at home, in school, and at work? What can other youth do to support them?; and 3) What is the concept of *transborder* and how do families that are spread across national, geographic, racial, ethnic, and language borders stay connected and make contributions in the multiples locations in which they participate?

As we give thanks this holiday season and look forward into the new year, I strongly believe that now, more than ever, we must continue supporting and doing the research and community engagement work we do at CLLAS.

Saludos,

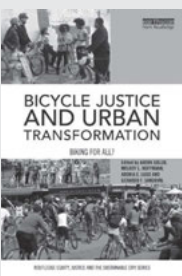
*Gabriela Martínez, CLLAS Interim Director
Associate Professor, School of Journalism and Communication*

Recent Books in Latino/a & Latin American Studies



***Fractional Freedoms: Slavery, Intimacy, and Legal Mobilization in Colonial Lima, 1600-1700*, by Michelle McKinley, Associate Professor, UO School of Law (2016, Cambridge University Press, 294 pages). Studies in Legal History series.** "*Fractional Freedoms* explores how thousands of slaves in colonial Peru were able to secure their freedom, keep their families intact, negotiate lower self-purchase prices, and arrange transfers of ownership by filing legal claims. Through extensive archival research, Michelle McKinley excavates the experiences of enslaved women whose historical footprint is barely visible in the official record. She complicates

the way we think about life under slavery and demonstrates the degree to which slaves were able to exercise their own agency, despite being caught up in the Atlantic slave trade. Enslaved women are situated as legal actors who had overlapping identities as wives, mothers, mistresses, wet-nurses and day-wage domestics, and these experiences within the urban working environment are shown to condition their identities as slaves. Although the outcomes of their lawsuits varied, *Fractional Freedoms* demonstrates how enslaved women used channels of affection and intimacy to press for liberty and prevent the generational transmission of enslavement to their children."—*from the publisher*



***Bicycle Justice and Urban Transformation: Biking for All?* Edited by Aaron Golub, Melody L. Hoffmann, Adonia E. Lugo, Gerardo F. Sandoval, Associate Professor, PPPM (2016, Routledge, 270 pages).** "*Bicycle Justice and Urban Transformation* demonstrates that for those with privilege, bicycling can be liberatory, a lifestyle choice, whereas for those surviving at the margins, cycling is not a choice, but an often oppressive necessity. Ignoring these 'invisible' cyclists skews bicycle improvements towards those with choices. This book argues that it is vital to

RECENT BOOKS, *cont. on p. 5*

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CLLAS NOTES WINTER 2017

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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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NEWS & UPDATE

New Leadership at Sister Center

Long-time faculty affiliate and former executive board member Michelle McKinley was named the director of the UO Center for the Study of Women in Society for a three-year term that began in July. Dr. McKinley is the Bernard B. Kliks Associate Professor of Law at UO and teaches Immigration Law and Policy, Public International Law, International Criminal Law, and Refugee & Asylum Law. Joining her as the new CSWS operations manager is Dena Zaldúa, who has a strong background in civil rights work and development for nonprofits. Zaldúa is also a new member of the CLLAS Executive Board.

“States of Immigration” study

Daniel Tichenor, a UO political science professor and CLLAS faculty affiliate, is engaged in a “States of Immigration” study with professors Robin Dale Jacobson from the University of Puget Sound and Elizabeth Durden of Bucknell University. The researchers were recently awarded a \$200,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to help them pursue this research over the next two years. “The states with the highest immigrant populations tend to inform many people’s views on this hot-button issue,” Tichenor said. “Examining pairs of states that are less studied and have strikingly different attitudes on immigration should give us a deeper understanding of the historical and contemporary challenges surrounding immigrant integration.” — adapted from *Around the O*

CLLAS-supported faculty research

Two faculty affiliates whose research was supported by a CLLAS Faculty/Collaborative Research Grant in 2014 have found renewed support from the UO Center on Diversity and Community (CoDaC) through its Faculty-in-Residence program during the 2016-17 academic year.

Audrey Lucero, assistant professor of language and literacy education, College of Education, and Claudia Holguin, assistant professor of Spanish, Department of Romance Languages, were granted funding by CoDaC to continue their project, “Strengthening Networks of Support Among Latin@ Students at UO,” which investigates the social and academic experiences of Latin@ student at UO. Lucero commented: “This is an exciting opportunity for us and a valuable endorsement from the university about the importance of this work.”

Daniel HoSang Awarded Williams Fellowship

CLLAS faculty affiliate Daniel HoSang, head of the Department of Ethnic Studies and an associate professor of both ethnic studies and political science, was selected as a recipient of UO’s annual Williams Fellowships. These fellowships honor faculty members whose work elevates undergraduate education.

Two Faculty Affiliates Receive CSWS Research Grants

Mayra Bottaro and Alai Reyes-Santos each received a CSWS 2016-17 CSWS Faculty Research Grant to support their projects. Bottaro, an assistant professor in the Department of Romance Languages, was awarded funding for “Unstable Fetishisms: Labor, Gender, and Class in Nineteenth-Century Argentine Fiction.” Reyes-Santos, an associate professor in the Department of Ethnic Studies who will become codirector of CLLAS in AY 2017-18, was awarded funding for “Maritime Boundaries, Water Doors: Gender, Sex, and Race in the Caribbean and the Pacific, 1898-1945.”

“Borders, Migration, and Belonging”: Wayne Morse Center

UO’s Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics selected “Borders, Migration, and Belonging” as its new theme starting fall 2017. The Center offers ongoing support for faculty and graduate student research as well as Project Grants to community organizations, university faculty and departments, and student organizations to support educational events and activities related to the Center’s theme of inquiry. Detailed information is on the Center’s website. ■

NEW TO CAMPUS

Juan-Carlos Molleda, Dean, School of Journalism and Communication

Dr. Molleda began his tenure in July as the new Edwin L. Artzt Dean of the School of Journalism and Communication. Originally from Venezuela, he comes to UO from the University of Florida, where he was chair of the Department of Public Relations. There, he created and directed the online master’s program in global strategic communication and was a Fulbright senior specialist as well as an affiliated faculty member for the Center for Latin American Studies. Dr. Molleda intends to expand SOJC’s international reach, especially to Latin America and the Pacific Rim.



Dr. Juan-Carlos Molleda

Derek Burdette, Assistant Professor of Art History

Dr. Burdette teaches courses on the art history and history of Latin America, as well as the relationship between art and imperialism in the early-modern world. His current book project, *Miraculous Celebrity: The History of Wonder-Working Images in Baroque Mexico City*, examines the role that miraculous imagery played in Mexico City during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Maria Fernanda Escallón, Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Dr. Maria Fernanda Escallón is a socio-cultural anthropologist and archaeologist interested in cultural heritage, race, diversity politics, ethnicity, and inequality in Latin America. Her work examines the consequences of cultural heritage declarations and draws attention to the political and economic marginalization of minority groups that occurs as a result of recognition.

Cheryl Hartup, Associate Curator of Academic Programs and Latin American Art

Cheryl Hartup is an art historian specializing in the art of Latin America and the Caribbean. She brings significant curatorial experience, a network of international contacts in the field of Latin American art, and a commitment to the role of teaching museums in our community and beyond.

Laura Pulido, Professor of Ethnic Studies and Geography

Dr. Pulido is a qualitative social scientist who works at the intersection of geography and ethnic studies, especially Chicano/a Studies. She explores the racial processes that shape places and how place informs race. Starting in graduate school she has been deeply interested in studying what drives people to become activists, their vision for changing the world, and how they go about implementing their visions. Specifically, her research has focused on working-class people of color engaged in anti-racist and class-based struggles. Of special concern is how such people articulate their racial and class politics and the spatialities of those processes. She has explored these fundamental questions through a variety of lenses, including environmental justice, radical politics, labor activism, tourism, and racial identity. All of her research is located in the southwestern U.S., with a particular focus on Los Angeles.

Tasia Smith, Assistant Professor of Counseling Psychology

Dr. Smith’s current research focuses on the prevention and reduction of health disparities among underserved populations. Her research interests include obesity prevention among adolescents; identifying risk and protective factors that influence engagement in health-promoting behaviors; and the interaction of mental and physical health. ■

Criminal Alien-Nations: Deportation and Navigating Northern Mexico

by Tobin Hansen, PhD candidate, Department of Anthropology

Snoop and I hang out on the stairs, talking, under the portico of a dental office with black lettering in the window: “English Spoken.” People come and go on this bustling street two blocks south of the U.S.-Mexico border fence. Snoop explains, with characteristically artful English, how men deported from the United States negotiate northern Mexico border cities: “There’s a lot of places you can’t go, you know, if you’re a deportee. You gotta’ watch out for the cops and the Mafia [organized crime]. It’s different for white people [border-crossing U.S. tourists]. They get the juice card. They can go anywhere they want. It’s the super juice card [laughing]—it’s the platinum card!” Snoop indicates the direct influence of constructed social difference markers—such as race, nationality, and socioeconomic status—on individual prerogative for moving through the world. His comments also suggest the complexity with which places and their embedded social dynamics shape everyday interactions.

With generous support from CLLAS and others, I have conducted ten months of ethnographic research in Nogales, Sonora, with some of the tens of thousands of “criminal alien” men deported to northern Mexico each year of the last decade. To gain a better understanding of deportees’ perceptions of social belonging, I asked a fundamental question: How do deportees navigate social and spatial geographies in their receiving communities?

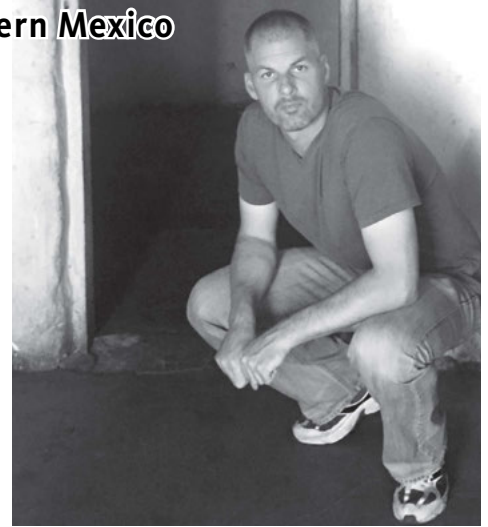
This inquiry becomes particularly critical for deportees that embody non-local, outsider identities. For example, the segment of “criminal alien” deportees I work with have few or no memories of Mexico and are seen as criminal, *pocho* (“Americanized”) outsiders. They came to the United States with family as child migrants decades ago. As adults, they became ensnared in U.S. crime control regimes, were incarcerated in U.S. prisons, designated “criminal aliens,” and deported back to Mexico. For example, Snoop was brought to Los Angeles at six months old and had never been back to Mexico until he was deported at 48, in 2012. Like Snoop, several deportees have described the various vulnerabilities engendered by their precarious social positioning—family separation, difficulty securing shelter and daily sustenance, mental and physical distress, lack of job opportunities, and interpersonal violence at the hands of organized crime or corrupt police. These risks are implicated in the embodied experiences of deportees’ marginalization. Deportees’ susceptibilities in Nogales have become apparent over long hours with deport-

ed men as we walk—or avoid walking—around streets and neighborhoods and talk, in groups or one-on-one, at places where deportees wash cars, sell kitschy Mexican crafts, gather after a day of work at a bilingual call center, or hang out, as Snoop and I do on this bright spring day outside the dental office.

As we talk, Snoop exhibits his usual wit. But that doesn’t dampen his keen self-awareness. Despite the levity of our repartee, we both keep our eye out for police, who routinely extort Snoop for a few pesos, or, if he has nothing on him, book him into jail for 36 hours. Snoop combines wit with sharp observation as he outlines his perception of the social hierarchy in northern Mexico:

It’s the Mafia [organized crime] at the top. Then white people [border-crossing U.S. tourists]. Then rich people. Then the police maybe. Then the people that own businesses, your everyday José [laughing]. You know, the people that own businesses, that have like food carts and stuff... All I know is we’re [deported people] way at the bottom. We’re below the peasants. It’s the heathens, the peasants, then the deportees, way down here [laughing].

Snoop’s colorful description reaffirms the precarious social positioning of deportees as ostracized outsiders. Despite deported men’s diversity of linguistic and occupational skills, cultural capital, and life experience, they often share circumscribed boundaries that go beyond the obvious national exclusion from the United States. The construction of social and political space delimits deportees’ movements within it. Many deportees I work with, for example, haven’t left Nogales in years, since they were deported. They often resettle in border cities that align with major highways to their U.S.-



Above: Tobin Hansen, in the field. • Below left: This abandoned house, nicknamed “the Dungeon,” is perched on a hill above downtown and serves as a place for deportees to avoid police and the so-called Mafia [members of organized crime].

home in hopes that family will visit. Moreover, for many deportees, their stark economic dispossession impedes any possibility to move away from the border cities, where they can at least deploy English skills and hustle odd jobs for small amounts of money.

Analyzing both perceptions of social positioning and movement in space allows for a richer understanding of the consequences of deportation on deportees themselves. This approach draws from critical phenomenology and seeks to recognize the humanity in people’s subtle shifts in ways of being-in-the-world. It examines experiences and understandings of self in relation to others, and, crucially, connects coercive state practices—such as deportation—with their lived consequences.

The grounded experiences of people like Snoop help tease out the inequalities embedded within broad social, economic, and political structures that lead to state expulsion and population displacement. ■

—Tobin Hansen is a doctoral candidate in cultural anthropology. He researches gender, care, gangs, the post-prison diaspora, and deportation in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. This work has been funded by CLLAS, as well as the Wenner-Gren Foundation, a Social Science Research Council fellowship supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Center for the Study of Women in Society, Global Oregon, and the Center on Diversity and Community.



Journalistic Coverage on Unaccompanied Children

by Ricardo J. Valencia, PhD candidate
School of Journalism and Communication

In 2015, I received a CLLAS summer research grant for research on the journalistic coverage of unaccompanied children in the U.S. southern borders. I was interested in the relations between the population of Central American-born immigrants and the news coverage during summer 2014. In the period between May and July 2014, the media covered how thousands of children and families were crossing the U.S. southern borders. Those families arrived from Mexico, but especially from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. This situation forced President Barak Obama to request from Congress hundred of millions of dollars to deal with a situation Republicans called an “administration made” disaster. In that context, both Democrats and Republicans were in open contest towards the 2014 mid-term elections.

For this research, I selected two groups of newspapers: Group 1 consisted of newspapers in cities with high concentrations of Central Americans (*The New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times*), and Group 2 consisted of two newspapers in cities with low concentrations of Central Americans (*The Oregonian* and *The Seattle Times*). I conducted a content analysis on more than 150 news pieces and 900 sources of information. Information sources are those who “speak” in the coverage.



Ricardo Valencia presented findings about his research at a CLLAS Graduate Student Research Talk in January 2016.

The most frequent type of source in both groups of newspapers were Non-Latin sources, especially the ones connected to the political debate in Washington D.C. In Group 1, 46.3 percent were Non-Latin sources, 29.9 Latinas and the rest unnamed. In Group 2, 44.7 percent were Non-Latin sources, 25.7 percent Latin, and the rest anonymous sources. However, there was a significant difference between the two groups of media in one aspect: newspapers of Group 1 placed more often the news about the phenomenon on their front pages, while in Group 2, this action was a rarity.

In short, we can see that 1) there is national pattern of source selection. Publics in Los

Angeles, New York, Seattle, and Portland accessed similar type of sources. And 2) there is a relation between the concentrations of immigrants and the relevance that the media provide to this phenomenon. In this case, media in big and diverse cities such as Los Angeles and New York gave more prominence to the spike of the number of unaccompanied children than in places with fewer concentrations of Central Americans such as Oregon and Washington State.

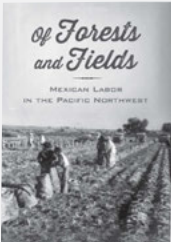
I interpret these finding in two senses. The first one is that national media influence the agenda of local media, especially due to budget constraints. *The Oregonian* and *The Seattle Times* depend on the reproduction of news produced by other media such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, Associated Press, and the *Los Angeles Times*. Their staffers wrote only two out of 56 articles published in *The Oregonian* and *The Seattle Times*. In *Los Angeles Times* and the *New York Times*, the tendency is the opposite. Secondly, it seems that reporters and editors are aware of the racial makeup of their communities and by looking at their front pages, this aspect becomes clear. ■

—by Ricardo J. Valencia, PhD student, UO and an expert in Strategic Communications, PR, Public Diplomacy, U.S. Media and Foreign Policy. He won third place in the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) Minorities and Communication’s student research paper competition for his study, partially funded by CLLAS, “At the border: A comparative examination of U.S. newspaper coverage about unaccompanied immigrant minors.”

New Book by UO Graduate



Mario Sifuentez, assistant professor of history at University of California-Merced, spoke about his new book, *Of Forests and Fields: Mexican Labor in the Pacific Northwest*, on the UO campus on October 28. Published by Rutgers University Press, the book includes several chapters on Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), the Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United organization, whose papers are housed in UO Libraries Special Collections and University Archives.



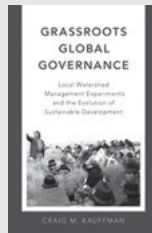
Employing an innovative approach that traces the intersections between Chicana/o labor and environmental history, Sifuentez shows how ethnic Mexican workers responded to white communities that only welcomed them when they were economically useful, then quickly shunned them. He vividly renders the feelings of isolation and desperation that led to the formation of ethnic Mexican labor organizations like PCUN, which fought back against discrimination and exploitation. *Of Forests and Fields* not only extends the scope of Mexican labor history

beyond the Southwest, it offers valuable historical precedents for understanding the struggles of immigrant and migrant laborers in our own era.

Sifuentez grew up in Eastern Oregon, the child of migrant farmworkers, and attended UO, graduating with a triple major in political science, history and ethnic studies in 2002. He earned an MA in history at UO in 2004, and went on to receive his PhD at Brown University in 2010. His talk was sponsored by the Department of Ethnic Studies and cosponsored by CLLAS. To watch an interview with Sifuentez recorded during his visit by UO Today, go to the Oregon Humanities Center website at: <http://ohc.uoregon.edu/uotoday.html> ■

RECENT BOOKS, continued from page 2

contextualize bicycling within a broader social justice framework if investments are to serve all street users equitably. ‘Bicycle justice’ is an inclusionary social movement based on furthering material equity and the recognition that qualitative differences matter.”



Grassroots Global Governance: Local Watershed Management Experiments and the Evolution of Sustainable Development, by Craig Kauffman, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science (Oxford University Press, Dec. 2016, 272 pages).

“When international agreements fail to solve global problems like climate change, transnational networks attempt to address them by implementing ‘global ideas’—policies and best practices negotiated at the global level

locally around the world. *Grassroots Global Governance* not only explains why some efforts succeed and others fail, but also why the process of implementing global ideas locally causes these ideas to evolve. Drawing on nodal governance theory, the book shows how transnational actors’ success in putting global ideas into practice depends on the framing and network capacity-building strategies they use to activate networks of grassroots actors influential in local social and policy arenas.”—from the publisher

Book chapters and recent Journal articles by affiliated faculty

For descriptions of recent journal articles written by CLLAS-affiliated faculty and graduate students, in keeping with the CLLAS mission, go to: clas.uoregon.edu/research/journal-articles-2/

Research Action Projects: Report of Activities 2015-16

**Afro-Descendant and Indigenous Peoples in the Americas
Reported by Juan Eduardo Wolf (School of Music and Dance)**

During Winter and Spring 2016 quarters, the Research Action Project on Afro-descendant and Indigenous Issues organized a Works-In-Progress Series. Professors from the University of Oregon and Portland State University presented drafts of their current research and received feedback from peers. Topics included everyday experiences of racism in Latin America, Mam refugees and gender violence, styles of Blackness in Chilean border music, and Nature being given legal rights in Ecuador. The sessions were generally well attended, with participation from the public in the Q & A program.

**Human Rights and Social Memory in Latin America RAP
Project 1, reported by Carlos Aguirre (Department of History) and
Stephanie Wood (Research Associate, Center for Equity Promotion)**

With initial encouragement from June Black at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (June is now at another art museum in Idaho) our RAP has been moving forward, nevertheless, researching the theme of human rights as expressed in art. Works of art can provide powerful imagery that contribute to social and cultural memory.



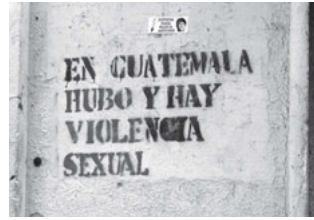
Mural at the human rights archive that holds records of the forcibly disappeared in Guatemala/ photo by Stephanie Wood.

For example, the textile appliqué work known widely as arpilleras and produced by women in Chile who were protesting the abuses of the Pinochet dictatorship of the late 20th century now stands as an iconic type of protest. The arpilleras have conveyed a meaningful message in a medium that might have appeared on the surface to be non-threatening, given that this was stitchery produced by women and often in a religious setting. But the women's relentless call, "¿Dónde están?", asking for the whereabouts of the people who were extra-judicially disappeared and summarily executed, garnered not only national but inter-

national attention and outcries for an end to the abuses. Photography, paintings, sculpture, performances, and many additional media have also been wielded by artists across Latin America to draw attention to injustices and abuses of many kinds, lodging potent, enduring messages in our hearts and minds.

Earlier this year Stephanie Wood visited the University of Essex to view and photograph pieces in the outstanding collection of Latin American art housed there <<http://www.escala.org.uk/>>, much of which has a human rights dimension. Stephanie also hopes to target equally relevant museums and libraries in Texas to expand this research. She has begun processing some of her research findings with assistance from a team at the College of Education that includes Melanie Hyers and Jesús León-Monsalve, creating an open-access digital collection called *¡Presente! Art and the Disappeared*, which will be launched publicly in 2017.

She will also be incorporating materials gathered by Carlos Aguirre during his research visits to Santiago de Chile and Buenos Aires, Argentina, in August 2016. In Santiago de Chile, Carlos visited several memory sites and museums, including the government-sponsored Museum of Memory and Human Rights, two former detainment and torture centers (Villa Grimaldi and Londres 38), the Santa Lucía Clinic (a space where political prisoners were held while undergoing medical attention, and that now houses a museum and an art collection), the National Institute for Human Rights, and various other sites. In Buenos Aires, Carlos visited the Museum of Latin American Art (MALBA) to see the exhibit by Chilean artist Voluspa Jarpa on human rights and memory, as well as the ESMA Memory Space, where various human rights collectives have exhibits and collections related to art, memory, and human rights. In La Plata, Carlos visited the Museum of Art and Human Rights and the Provincial Commission for Memory. In all these sites he interviewed museum and archive staff, talked to activists, took pictures of different types of artifacts, and collected printed and other materials. All the materials gathered during this trip will be extremely useful for our work on art, memory, and human rights in Latin America.



Project 2, reported by Lynn Stephen (Department of Anthropology) and Erin Beck (Department of Political Science)

Our project explores two new legal paths that Guatemalan women may travel to access security and justice and uses them to evaluate gendered justice in the U.S. and Guatemala: entering Guatemala's newly

created court system that specializes in violence against women, or fleeing as refugees to the United States where women seek gender asylum. This long-term, transregional, interdisciplinary project compares indigenous women's access to, and experiences with, new legal spheres in Guatemala and the United States that are designed to facilitate gender justice. It also involves in-depth ethnographic and qualitative analysis of the participants in systems of gendered justice: judges, social workers, advocates in women's organizations, those who train judges and advocates in themes of gendered violence and its prevention, and survivors of gendered violence.

We have conducted 25 interviews with academics, lawyers, judges, government offices, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), women and men from Todos Santos Cuchumatán, focusing on women's rights, violence, police and security, historical violence, militarism and paramilitarism, migration, and the successes and challenges of Guatemala's new specialized courts and justice system for gendered violence. We also conducted archival research at USAC, Avanco, and Cirma. We found that the 2008 law and specialized courts have been somewhat effective in providing a new brand of specialized justice to a significant number of women. Specially trained judges, social workers, psychologists, lawyers and women's rights advocates and organizations have heard thousands of cases in these specialized courts for femicide and violence against women. Of the 1,894 cases that went through complete trials in these specialized courts between June 2013 and June 2014, 79 percent (1,487) resulted in convictions. This is a conviction rate of 42 percent of all cases that started court proceedings in these specialized tribunals (Unidad de Control, Seguimiento y Evaluación de los Organos Especializados en Delitos de Femicidio y Otras Formas de Violencia contra la Mujer del Organismo Judicial 2014: 75). These figures are impressive given that in previous years, just two percent of homicides ended in a conviction.

Yet our initial research also found a number of important challenges that have remained unexplored by academics. The weaknesses of the specialized court systems are related to issues of coverage, access, and local officials or local justices of the peace who encourage women to reconcile with perpetrators of gendered violence, thus preventing cases from ever arriving in the courts. Currently, there are only ten specialized courts in a country of over 15 million people. These courts are located in urban departmental centers, out of reach of women who live in more remote areas, are impoverished and isolated, and are monolingual in indigenous languages. Much of the available information about the existence of specialized courts is in Spanish. Whereas the specialized courts offer translation services, many institutions with which women must come into contact before reaching the specialized courts do not. Related institutions that are the initial gateways for the lodging of legal complaints, for example, have yet to be reformed. The Public Prosecutors office (Ministerio Publico) lacks translators, personnel trained in cultural competency, and often conducts sloppy investigations, resulting in a lack of evidence for conviction. Even gender-specialized state institutions such as the Defensoria de Mujeres Indigenas (Office for the Defense of Indigenous Women, DEMI) and Municipal Women's Offices are systematically underfunded and under supported, limiting their ability to meet demands for their services. Our preliminary research provided us with important connections with Guatemalan-based scholars, activists, and research centers, with whom we will partner in the future as this project unfolds over the next few years.

We are planning a spring symposium on "Advances and Barriers to Gendered Justice in Guatemala" on April 13 and a panel on the same topic at the second meeting of the Latin American, Latino, and Iberian Studies Association (LALISA) which will be held at UO from April 13-15. We plan to invite two scholars and activists involved in gender justice in Guatemala. We submitted a proposal to the Latin American Studies Association to fund a larger conference on this topic in Guatemala during the summer of 2017. We plan to continue our fieldwork for this project over the next several years. ■

Advancing Latino Equity in Oregon RAP: Latino Civic Participation Project (LCPP) Update

CLLAS's LCPP project is part of a team helping to make city parks throughout Oregon a more welcoming and inclusive place for the growing Latino population.

Inclusive Parks: LCPP Outreach in Eugene, OR 2014-2016

Initial LCPP outreach and research in 2012 demonstrated that Eugene's Latino community did not feel welcome in the city's public spaces. The Eugene parks department decided to address these issues through city park development, coinciding with their 20-year parks update.

In 2014, Eugene's parks department and the Office of Human Rights and Neighborhood Outreach teamed up with University of Oregon Professor Gerardo Sandoval's Public Participation in Diverse Communities course. The goal: conduct community outreach and provide the city with information about how to create more inclusive and welcoming parks.

This research took place in two phases. The first phase included broad community outreach, and the second, in-depth interviews with Latinos.

Phase One took place the spring of 2014. Dr. Sandoval and Mr. James Rojas, a city planner and public engagement specialist, trained Eugene city staff on the outreach



methods, emphasizing the need to conduct the outreach out in the community. About 40 city staff attended. They represented various departments, including the police department, urban planning department, and the city departments of parks and recreation. City staff workshop participants, along with UO students, later conducted the actual outreach with UO students.

Staff and students reached over 300 Latino residents by visiting Latino community businesses, cultural festivals, park-sponsored community events, and after-school programs. Participants used objects and space to create answers to the basic question: What do you want to see in your parks?

Families and children shared a wide variety of input. Common themes included a desire for:

- Facilities suitable for multigenerational family and cultural occasions.

- Cultural representation within parks, such as public art, bilingual signs, and bicultural community centers.
- Cross cultural education to showcase Eugene's multicultural history and offerings.

The City of Eugene's Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement Office met with parks and recreation staff to determine what further information was needed to complete technical planning.

In Phase Two, Professor Gerardo Sandoval, Dr. Anabel Lopez Salinas, and master's student Emily Fiocco worked with the city and the local nonprofit Downtown Languages to conduct in-depth community interviews.

The interviews gathered practical information for park technical planning. They also revealed additional critical themes. Community members shared that being in a majority white space, including Eugene city parks, is inherently uncomfortable, and that they often do not know how, nor feel empowered to ask for, help in emergency or uncomfortable situations. This research supports the city's continuing efforts to build cross-cultural resources and capacity within government services.

The resulting reports and recommendations were presented to the city planners, who will incorporate these as possible into future park development.

These results and reports support the City of Eugene's current equity work and will help the parks, recreation, and other departments develop projects and set future equity-based goals.

Outreaching to the Latino Community: LCPP Outreach in Redmond, Oregon

In the spring of 2016, Dr. Sandoval's Public Participation in Diverse Communities course took its outreach efforts to Redmond, Oregon. Like the Medford outreach, this effort was a collaboration with the UO Sustainable City Year Program (SCY).

Objectives of this outreach were to:

- Improve communication between the Latino community and the City government in Redmond.
- Promote inclusive policies for city agencies in regards to the emerging Latino community.
- Identify some key issues the Latino community is facing in Redmond by using a participatory outreach approach.



Once again, Dr. Sandoval and James Rojas conducted a training for city staff on the participatory engagement outreach method. Uniquely, this outreach took place at Mexican Consulate mobile workshops in a local elementary school in Redmond. People and families getting documents were encouraged to interact with students and discuss their needs within the Redmond community.

Students learned that a lack of access to government resources stunted the Latino community's economic and daily life opportunities. Of note:

- A lack of bilingual services means that Latino community members have poor access to emergency services as well as basic city processes. Recording human rights complaints, accessing city permits, or even searching for city services is difficult for many.
- Without IDs, residents struggle to access housing or other economic opportunities, such as taking out loans for businesses or even getting business permits.
- Public transportation is a challenge for many of the Latino community's work and daily needs.



Students also pointed to Redmond's minimal Latino representation in their city government. There are few ongoing mechanisms for Latino community members' voices to be heard in government. Outreach results concluded that it will be critical for the city to continue to work with Latino community members to build trust as well as develop integrated civic participation opportunities. ■



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CLLAS Notes

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To book the Latino Roots traveling exhibit, provide feedback, or brainstorm ideas about how you or your organization can utilize the project, please contact Latino Roots Project Coordinator Tamara LeRoy at cllas@uoregon.edu.

CLLAS Event Calendar

Most events take place on the UO campus. For more listings, go online: <http://cllas.uoregon.edu>

Winter Quarter 2017

- CLLAS Graduate Student Grant Proposal Writing Workshop, led by Gabriela Martínez, Stephanie Wood, and Feather Crawford. 1/18, 12 - 1:30 pm, Hendricks Hall 330.
- CLLAS Faculty Collaborative Grantee Presentation. "Gender Justice in Guatemala: Advances and Challenges," a public lecture by Erin Beck and Lynn Stephen. 1/19, 3:30 pm, Erb Memorial Union 119.
- CLLAS Faculty Mixer. 2/3, Noon, EMU #23—Lease Crutcher Lewis Rm.
- Deadline for Graduate Student Research Grant Proposals, 2/10, Noon.
- CLLAS Grad Grantee Presentation: "Small Farmer's and Indigenous People's Adaptation to Oil-Related Infrastructure in the Amazon Rain Forest of Ecuador." Belen Norona (Geography). Details TBD.
- CLLAS RAP Work-in-Progress Talk. 3/10, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Ford Lecture Hall, JSMA. Stephanie Wood and Carlos Aguirre. "Presente! Art and the Disappeared."

Spring Quarter 2017

- CLLAS Faculty Grant Proposal Writing Workshop, led by Gabriela Martínez. Details TBD.
- Roundtable: CSWS Americas RIG research project with Erin Beck, Lynn Stephen, and U.S. asylum lawyers. Explores Guatemalan women's transborder search for gendered justice alongside refugee Guatemalan women's access to gendered asylum in Oregon. 4/13. Details TBD.
- LALISA Conference: Social and Cultural Geographies from the Underside of Modernity. 4/13 - 4/15
- Bartolomé de las Casas Lecture in Latin American Studies.
- Latino Roots Celebration. 6/8, 4 - 6 p.m. Knight Library, Browsing Rm.

2016-17 CLLAS Faculty Grant Project Summaries

"Intersectional Gender Justice: From Guatemala to Oregon." Erin Beck, Department of Political Science; and Lynn Stephen, Department of Anthropology. This is the first phase of a long-term collaborative project which explores Guatemalan women's transborder experiences of violence and search for justice by examining women's access to Guatemala's femicide courts and to gendered asylum in Oregon. We are interested in how these two relatively new systems of gender justice affect women who attempt to engage with them, and how sharing women's experiences might impact perceptions of, and policies related to, gendered violence, indigenous populations and transborder immigration.

Project ACCESS. Krista Chronister, School of Education; and Project ACCESS. The purpose of Project ACCESS is to evaluate the effects of a work and vocational support group intervention (ACCESS; Advancing Career Counseling and Employment Support for Survivors; Chronister & McWhirter, 2006) with Latina survivors of partner violence. This pilot work is foundational to examining the implementation feasibility and cultural relevance of the ACCESS intervention. The project is possible because of a 10-year collaborative partnership sustained between the UO counseling psychology doctoral program, UO Career Information Systems, and Centro Latino Americano of Eugene.

"Women's Role in Afro-Indigenous Healing Traditions in the Caribbean and its Diasporas." Ana-Maurine Lara, Department of Anthropology; and Alai Reyes-Santos, Department of Ethnic Studies. This is an interdisciplinary study examining Caribbean women's roles in Afro-Indigenous healing traditions and how their healing work contributes to their empowerment in their communities. Research sites include the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and the Pacific Northwest. Prof. Lara is an anthropology professor and ethnographer and Prof. Reyes-Santos is a professor of ethnic studies trained in literary and cultural studies. The study draws on their methodological areas of expertise to incorporate a) analysis of cultural narratives centering Caribbean women healers and b) ethnographic research among Caribbean women healers.