

CLLAS Notes

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Winter 2020

CLLAS

CENTER FOR
LATINO/A & LATIN
AMERICAN STUDIES



DIRECTOR'S LETTER



CLLAS opened the academic year in October by launching a new two-year theme and celebrating Latinx Heritage Month, all through one invited guest, Melissa Lozada-Oliva, an award-winning poet, writer, and spoken word artist. Lozada-Oliva led a teach-in for students and faculty titled “Language and Poetry of Resistance,” engaging her audience with ease in a participatory writing

exercise that provided a true teach-in experience. In a second event, she performed spoken word and read from her latest chapbook to a packed room of about 120 people. Students lined up afterward to buy her chapbooks, chat with her, take selfies, and get her autograph.

Lozada-Oliva’s critical spoken word and written poetry provided a good framework to launch our 2019-2021 theme, “The Politics of Language in the Americas: Power, Culture, History, and Resistance.” Under this unifying idea, CLLAS will address questions of identities, nationalism, borders, migration, race, gender, and more through a variety of scholarly and cultural events, departing from the notion that in today’s Latin America and the United States, language occupies center stage. From episodes of discrimination against Spanish-speaking peoples in the United States to the continuous under-valuing of indigenous languages and cultures all over the hemisphere, and from debates about new media to questions about “authenticity” and the “proper” use of language, we recognize that language sits at the intersection of many historical, cultural, political, gender, and racial structures of power and resistance. All CLLAS affiliated faculty members from across disciplines are invited to participate and contribute to this exploration of the politics of language in the Americas over the next two years.

Also in October, celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day, CLLAS cosponsored a public talk by Daryl Baldwin entitled *Language, Culture, and Identity*, organized by the Graduate Linguists of Oregon Student Society (GLOSS) in collaboration with the Northwest Indian Language Institute. Baldwin, a citizen of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and Director of the Myaamia Center at Miami University, has been an intellectual leader in the vibrant process of revitalization of the Myaamia language.

CLLAS participated in this year’s Common Reading, teaming up with the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art by organizing and sponsoring a Common Reading Brunch with Helena María Viramontes, the author of *Under the Feet of Jesus*. Latinx faculty and students joined Viramontes for brunch and for a tour of the excellent exhibition *Resistance as Power: A Curatorial Response to “Under the Feet of Jesus,”* curated by Cheryl Hartup and Danielle Knapp. The brunch was a unique opportunity for a group of students to share some intimate time, conversation, and experiences with this renowned writer.

In November, CLLAS held mixers both for graduate students and faculty and staff members, events that provide opportunity for intellectual community building, cross-fertilization of ideas, and

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Poet Melissa Lozada-Oliva (right) visits with two students following her CLLAS workshop / photo by Gabriela Martínez



Poet Melissa Lozada-Oliva a Big Hit with UO Students

CLLAS celebrated Latinx Heritage Month by holding a teach-in and poetry slam with the popular performer

The Knight Library Browsing Room crackled with energy. Melissa Lozada-Oliva had deftly brought the audience at the teach-in to a place of shared understanding and creativity. After mapping out her influences, juxtaposing Shakespearean sonnets, hip-hop, and haiku, Lozada-Oliva had directed everyone to partner up and compose poetry together. Surprised strangers, colleagues, and classmates complied uncertainly, but as Lozada-Oliva watched patiently from the podium, their hesitant buzz became a quiet roar of counted syllables and playful verses. When she asked for volunteers to share their impromptu creations, hands shot into the air. Dozens of poems were written that morning.

A spoken-word poet, author, and educator who resides in New York City, Melissa Lozada-Oliva has performed her poems in hundreds of universities and venues across the country. She also does workshops on incorporating humor into poetry and general creative writing classes. Her book *Peluda* (Button Poetry, 2017) explores the intersections of Latina identity, feminism, hair removal, and what it means to belong. She is the co-host of podcast *Say More* with Olivia Gatwood, and her work has been featured in *REMEZCLA*, *The Guardian*, *Vulture*, *Bustle*, *Glamour Magazine*, *The Huffington Post*, *Muzzle Magazine*, *The Adroit Journal*, and *BBC Mundo*.

CLLAS director Gabriela Martínez overheard a student speaking to Melissa Lozada-Oliva following her poetry performance at UO on October 9. “When I see you and I hear you,” the young student told the visiting poet, “I see myself reflected.” It was a telling moment, Martínez said, a confirmation of the value of CLLAS’s ongoing efforts to connect students to cutting edge social activists working in different media. Prof. Martínez also received appreciative feedback from two Romance Languages instructors who had suggested inviting Lozada-Oliva. “Thank you for listening to us,” they told her.

These events were part of the CLLAS two-year theme for AY 2019-2021: “The Politics of Language in the Americas: Power, Culture, History, and Resistance.” ■

—reported by CLLAS staff Feather Crawford and Alice Evans

DIRECTOR'S LETTER, *continued from page 1*

professional development.

In response to political and social upheavals taking hold in various South American countries, CLLAS executive board members Cecilia Enjuto Rangel, associate professor of romance languages, and Pedro García-Caro, associate professor of romance languages and director of the Latin American Studies Program, organized “The States of Exception in Chile, Ecuador and Bolivia,” a teach-in cosponsored by CLLAS. This was an important opportunity for the UO community to learn more about the current pressing political situation in Bolivia, Chile, and Ecuador.

In this current issue of *CLLAS Notes* you can read more about the visits of writers Melissa Lozada-Oliva (p. 1) and Helena María Viramontes (p. 3). You will also get a look at varied summer research projects carried out by several of our Tinker grantees and CLLAS graduate research grantees. Anthropology graduate student Sara Khatib writes about her field season gathering information about traditional botanical knowledge among the Shuar of Amazonian Ecuador. Aziza Baker, a graduate student in the history department, writes about her library research in Cuba uncovering how

enslaved Africans in the nineteenth century fought to redefine their bondage. She also takes a look at the intellectual debates around the status of black Cubans during the early twentieth century, following the abolition of slavery in that country. Anthropology doctoral student Emily Masucci writes about her research on gender-based violence and the politics of justice and care in urban Brazil.

David Vázquez, associate professor of English and department head, tells us about the research he’s been working on with funding support from CLLAS, “Decolonial Environmentalisms: Race, Genre, and Latinx Literature.”

We all look forward to new conversations and upcoming events in the winter and spring terms, including research colloquiums with our graduate grantees, our second annual CLLAS Distinguished Lecture in Latinx and Latin American Studies, this year with Latinx filmmaker Alex Rivera, and on June 4, our beloved Latino Roots Celebration.

Wishing you all a restful winter break and a wonderful New Year!
Saludos,
Gabriela Martínez, CLLAS Director Professor, School of Journalism and Communication

CLLAS Event Calendar

Most events take place on the UO campus. For more listings, go to: cllas.uoregon.edu

Winter Quarter 2020

- **1/16 Professional Development Series: Graduate Grant Writing Workshop.** 12 pm, Jane Grant Room, 330 Hendricks.
- **1/21 Research Series: Grad Colloquium.** “*Gender and Sexuality in Latin America.*” 12 pm, Knight Library, Browsing Room.
- **2/6 Professional Development Series: Faculty Grant Writing Workshop on Internal Funding and NEH.** 12 pm, Jane Grant Room, 330 Hendricks.
- **2/13 CLLAS Theme Event: “Myth-Busting: The Truth about Multi-Lingualism.”** 6 pm, Diamond Lake Room, EMU 119.
- **2/20 Research Series: Latinx Studies Seed Grant.** “*Decolonial Environmentalisms: Race, Genre, and*

Latinx Literature,” David Vázquez. 3:30 pm, EMU 119.

- **3/6 Deadline for Graduate Student Research Grant Proposals.**

Spring Quarter 2020

- **4/10 Deadline for Faculty Research Grant Proposals.**
- **4/14: CLLAS Distinguished Lecture in Latinx & Latin American Studies: Filmmaker Alex Rivera.** 6 pm, Straub 156.
- **4/16: Film Screening: “The Infiltrators.”** 6 pm, Bijou Art Cinemas, 492 East 13th Avenue, Eugene.
- **4/21: Research Series: Grad Colloquium.** “*Gender and Climate Crisis in the Americas.*” 12 pm, Knight Library, Browsing Room.
- **5/26: Research Series: Grad Colloquium.** “*Politics and Justice in the Caribbean and Central America.*” 12 pm, Knight Library, Browsing Room.
- **6/4: Latino Roots Celebration.** 4 p.m. Browsing Room, Knight Library.

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OUR MISSION

The Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies serves as a hub for interdisciplinary and collaborative research and creative work focusing on the study of Latin America and U.S. Latino/a populations. CLLAS uses a hemispheric framework placing the state of Oregon in conversation with the Americas. CLLAS cultivates intellectual community, student outreach, and the production of knowledge through its integration of research, student experiential learning, and community engagement. CLLAS offers robust programming connecting the university with questions affecting Latino/a and Latin American populations in Oregon and the Americas at large. The center serves as an integral part of the UO’s strategy to recruit, retain, and foster relationships within a diverse and energized group of students, faculty, staff, and community members.

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Fund for Faculty Excellence awards

CLLAS affiliated faculty Carlos Aguirre, Department of History; Laura Pulido, Department of Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies; and Sarah Wald, Department of English and Environmental Studies Program, were among the fifteen recipients of UO's 2019 prestigious Fund for Faculty Excellence awards. The Fund for Faculty Excellence increases the university's ability to highlight and encourage world-class research and teaching. Since 2006, more than 160 faculty members have received the awards, recognizing their excellence in creative accomplishment, education, research and scholarships. The award provides faculty members with a \$20,000 salary supplement or \$30,000 for research support.

Priscilla Peña Ovalle now heads SCMS

Priscilla Peña Ovalle, associate professor and head of the UO Department of Cinema Studies, is the 2019 President-Elect for the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, the leading scholarly organization in the United States dedicated to promoting a broad understanding of film, television, and related media through research and teaching grounded in the contemporary humanities tradition.

Psychology faculty earn national awards

Two CLLAS affiliated faculty have been recognized by the American Psychological Association for their work. Krista Chronister, UO professor in the counseling psychology department, won the APA Division 17 John Holland Award for Outstanding Achievement in Career and Personality Research with advisor recognition for Ellen McWhirter, Ann Swindells professor in counseling psychology and a member of the CLLAS Executive Board. Chronister's work specializes in addressing the impact of partner violence on the career development of women. McWhirter's research examines factors that influence Latino/a adolescents' school engagement and plans for after high school.

Gina Herrmann awarded faculty fellowship

Associate professor of Spanish Gina Herrmann was awarded a CAS Norman H. Brown Faculty Fellowship Fund in the Liberal Arts for 2019-2021. The Norman H. Brown Faculty Fellows are chosen on the basis of their demonstrated excellence in teaching and their capacity for superior scholarship.

Erin Beck Selected as a Presidential Fellow in Humanistic Studies

CLLAS executive board member Erin Beck, associate professor, political science, was among the first ten recipients of the UO's Presidential Fellows in Humanistic Studies awards. Each recipient will receive \$13,000 to support research and creative projects.

Early Career Award: Gabriela Pérez Báez

Gabriela Pérez Báez, assistant professor of linguistics, will receive the Early Career Award from Linguistics Society of America, which honors her documentation of Zapotecan languages, her raising awareness of language diversity, and her work to train speakers in North America and Mexico.

Ernesto Martínez wins Imagen Award

Ernesto Martínez, associate professor in the Department of Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies, won a prestigious Imagen Award for a short film he wrote, *La Serenata*. Directed by Adelina Anthony, the film is based on Martínez's children's book *Cuando Amamos Cantamos*, or *When We Love Someone We Sing to Them*. It's a bilingual book about a boy who loves another boy and about the importance of the Mexican serenata tradition. The Imagen Awards have been called the "Latino Golden Globes." CLLAS has supported Martínez's creative work through its inaugural 2018-29 Latinx Studies Seed Grant.

Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship: Maria Fernanda Escallón

Maria Fernanda Escallón, assistant professor of anthropology, was awarded the Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Wenner-Gren Foundation to support the writing of her book-in-progress, "Excluded: Black Cultural Heritage and the Politics of Diversity in Colombia."

Former CLLAS student employee now working for FEMA

Kelsey Madsen (MPA, 2018), a former CLLAS employee/intern, accepted a job with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a program delivery manager within the Public Assistance Program. She travels to federally-declared disaster areas to help communities through their post-disaster phase. Madsen noted that her experience with CLLAS directly prepared her for her new job interacting with the local community while administering grants. ■

CLLAS sponsored a brunch with Helena Viramontes, the celebrated author of *Under the Feet of Jesus*

In October, CLLAS helped to welcome Helena María Viramontes, author of this year's Common Reading selection, *Under the Feet of Jesus*. In between her public presentations at UO and the Eugene Public Library, Viramontes joined students and members of the CLLAS Executive Board, the Latinx Strategies group, and the Dreamers Working Group for brunch at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art. Cheryl Hartup, curator of Latin American and Caribbean art at JSMA, led the group on a tour of the JSMA exhibit inspired by Viramontes's work: "Resistance as Power: A Curatorial Response to *Under the Feet of Jesus*," featuring the work of artists Emanuel Martínez and Domingo Ulloa.

After seeing photos from the brunch and gallery tour, the author's agent told Julie Voelker-Morris, director of the Common Reading Program: "I see expressions on Helena's face that make me want to personally hug everyone who had anything to do with this series of events. Thank you for treating Helena and her book with such great care and thoughtful attention."



CLLAS Common Reading Brunch with author Helena María Viramontes / Photo by Mike Bragg / Courtesy of the UO Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art

Viramontes's talk filled the EMU Ballroom, something that reportedly hadn't happened at a guest academic talk since 2014. Her talk at the public library was similarly filled. ■

Transmission of Traditional Botanical Knowledge among the Shuar of Amazonian Ecuador

by Sara Khatib, Tinker Grantee, Department of Anthropology

The purpose of my field season was to receive training in ethnographic research and collect preliminary data on the Shuar of Southeastern Ecuador. Summer 2019 was my first time conducting ethnographic field work, which is why the training aspect from my advisor was important. I learned two basic field methods: participant observation and structured/unstructured interviews. Not only did I learn the technical aspect of these methods, but I also learned the nature of anthropological fieldwork and the need to revise one's approach as you go.

I practiced participant observation by accompanying women to their *fincas* (agroforestry gardens). My initial objectives sought to understand how ethnobotanical knowledge is transmitted from one generation to the next. During my trips to the gardens, children almost always were present and worked alongside their mothers and fathers. I did not observe any direct or explicit instructions on the varying tasks. Rather, children seemed to be well informed of how to do the work. Some of these tasks involved harvesting various crops such as camotes, yucas, and even grub beetles. Others involved processing the crop, such as peeling yuca.



Although my initial questions revolved around the transmission of plant knowledge, I was blown away by the complexity of this agricultural system and found myself interested and dedicated to further exploring the Shuar *fincas* from an agricultural perspective. I have a background in studying alternative agricultural systems, such as permaculture and agroforestry in the United States, and was surprised to find that many tenets of the permaculture movement are being practiced by the Shuar and probably have been for many generations. These tenets include polycropping, minimal waste production, advocating diversity in gardens, minimal weeding, and the balance between subsistence agriculture and community. The Shuar *fincas* contrasted with nearby mestizo farms which practiced a more conventional form of agriculture, such as mechanization, monocropping, and so on. This field season ignited my interest in studying the various forms of agriculture to compare long-term sustainability, yield production, and economic viability.



Above: Sara Khatib on location in Ecuador carrying a traditional Shuar basket. • **Left:** An elder Shuar woman peels yuca (also known as cassava) harvested from the garden as two younger girls accompany her with this task.

In order to gauge if ethnobotanical practice is changing in response to market integration, I administered various types of interviews. I used two free list questionnaires, one to ask participants what plants they grow in their *fincas*, and another for wild plants harvested from the forest. My sample size was relatively small. The purpose of this research was to pilot the questionnaires, and therefore, much more field work and data are needed before drawing any real conclusions. However, I did come across an interesting component through the initial questionnaires. I discovered that I was not only tracking if people are still using the same plants, but I was also learning how commercialization of certain crops might be affecting the diversity of plants used.

One of the major lessons I took away from this pilot study is the value in holistic methodology. By this I mean using various sources of data to obtain a more in-depth understanding of one's research questions. For instance, I would not restrict myself to formal participant observations and interviews, but also use stories, archival record, historical markings on the landscape, and varying ontologies in an attempt to gain a more holistic understanding of the Shuar and their relationship with the ecological landscape. ■

—Sara Khatib was awarded a 2019-20 Tinker Field Research Grant through CLLAS. A second-year graduate student in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Oregon, Khatib has a background in cultural anthropology, paleoethnobotany, and the interwoven relationship between people and the non-human world. She is particularly interested in people-plant relationships. Her research seeks to intersect various frameworks, such as conservation science, political ecology, and indigenous ecological knowledge to provide a more holistic understanding of forest landscapes.

ESCLAVO PROFUGO.

En el arsenal casa del comandante de ingenieros de marina, gratificarán con media onza de oro al que entregare un negro ingles, de edad como de 30 años, alto, grueso, cargado de espaldas, cara ancha, ojos grandes y de oficio carpintero, nombrado Guillermo, que hace un mes que anda prófugo.

En la casa de D. Pedro Villarte, contigua a la del Dr. Godoy, gratificarán al que dé noticia cierta del paradero de un negro, de nacion gangá, nombrado José del Rosario, de edad como de 28 años, de oficio zapatero, de pequeña estatura, color colorado, con algunas picaduras de viruelas, que profugò habrà un mes.

En la Machina està una ancla, que se encontró en la mar frente al muelle de Casa blanca: en dicho parage se le entregará al que justifique su propiedad.

En la casa n. 20 callejon de las Floridanas, calle de Peñapobre, gratificarán al que entregare ó dé noticia cierta del paradero de una negra nombrada Rita, de nacion carabalí, de edad como de 27 años, de estatura alta, delgada, de pellejo colorado, con algunas picadas de viruelas en la cara, jornalera, vestida con saya azul y manta amarilla, que profugò la mañana del 24 de julio.

A selection from Aziza Baker's source material: "Esclavo Profugo," *Diario de la Habana*, August 4, 1812, sec. *Ocurrencias del Dia*.

Recalling Runaways: Studies of Slavery and Absenteeism in Cuba

by Aziza N. Baker, Tinker Grantee, Department of History

My research is two-fold. The first project uncovers how enslaved Africans fought to redefine the contours of their bondage during the nineteenth century, a period in which Cuban slavery grew exponentially. The second project explores Afro-Cuban politics and political movements during the formation of the Cuban republic in the early twentieth century.

The first project uses runaway slave advertisements in *Diario de la Habana* to catalog the demographic backgrounds of runaway enslaved bondsmen from 1810-1815. The data compiled from this first step is then cross-indexed against advertisements for the purchase, renting, or selling of enslaved people of the same demographic indicators. In this way, my research will be able to determine how and why certain groups of enslaved individuals were more likely to resist their status through flight versus self-purchase or other forms of non-violent confrontation.

The second step, which compares the personal data collected from the runaway ads and the purchase ads, will also allow me to ascertain the "economic" value of certain demographic groups based on their age, gender, skill sets, and ethnicity, information that will prove invaluable when assessing why and how certain enslaved peoples selected to engage distinct resistance strategies.

Finally, because my work coincides with the Aponte Rebellion of 1812, the first anti-imperial and anti-slavery rebellion in Cuba, it builds upon previous works that examine enslaved bondsmen resistance in Cuba as determined by the increasingly interconnected Atlantic world.



Aziza Baker at the Malecón in Havana.

The second project engages conversations regarding Afro-Cuban intellectual thought between 1904-1912. Slavery in Cuba had been abolished since 1886, and in 1898 Cuba won its independence from Spain and shortly thereafter became a U.S. protectorate; therefore, by 1904, one of the most contentious issues that Cuba faced was the status of black Cubans in the new republic. Two Cuban newspapers, *El Nuevo Criollo* and *Prevision*, represented opposing strategies for improving the status of Afro-Cubans. *Prevision* was founded by some of the most prominent members of the first black political party in the Western hemisphere, while Rafael Serra's *El Nuevo Criollo* condemned anti-black racism but was politically moderate. My research uses the complete collection of these two periodicals to develop a comprehensive analysis of the intellectual debates that defined the position of black Cubans on the cusp of Cuban independence from Spain and the abolition of slavery.

The month I spent in Havana conducting research was guided by my predeparture preparation and travel tips that I learned while abroad. As a master's history student at the University of Oregon, I engaged in several courses regarding slavery in Latin America and Latin American History. I also participated in language preparation activities and completed a directed readings course on nineteenth century Cuba under the direction of my advisor, Dr. Carlos Aguirre. Furthermore, as a Fulbright scholar, I leveraged my experiences living abroad in Latin America to help me navigate bureaucratic differences.

For anyone who is thinking of conducting research in Cuba, I highly recommend reaching out to a contact at the intended archive or museum. It was only through the guidance of Dr. Tomás Fernández Robaina that I was able to access the invaluable periodical sources I required at the Biblioteca Nacional in Havana, Cuba. I would also recommend visiting several of the museums in Havana. At the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de Cuba and the memorial dedicated to José Martí, I was able to review political cartoons, maps and other vital information. Research in a different country can seem daunting, but with the support of a contact and the willingness to visit various archives and museums, it can prove quite productive. ■

—Aziza N. Baker received a 2019-20 Tinker Field Research Grant through CLLAS. A second-year master's student in the UO Department of History, she earned her B.A. in Spanish and Portuguese literature from UC Berkeley. In 2016, Baker completed a Fulbright Scholarship to Brazil.

“THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES”

Gender-based Violence and the Politics of Justice and Care in Urban Brazil

by Emily Masucci, Doctoral Student, Department of Anthropology

Once the seat of the Portuguese empire, Rio de Janeiro was intentionally and violently constructed atop historical Afro-descendant neighborhoods and indigenous land. Generations later, many of their descendants live in the city and are experiencing another wave of historical erasures and state interventions. Presently, low-income neighborhoods in Rio de Janeiro are facing some of the most striking patterns of state violence in the world.

This study of gender-based violence (GBV) among low-income women illuminates how state violence against marginalized communities, extending back centuries, paired with compounding structural inequalities have gendered consequences. With the support of a graduate student research grant from the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies, I was able to conduct preliminary dissertation research in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to explore how low-income women experience and organize around GBV and differential access to justice and care at the local level. During this research, I spoke with women involved in anti-violence community organizing who often stated, “*A luta continua*” (“The struggle continues”), as both an expression of solidarity and a call to action. This phrase encapsulates low-income women’s ethic of organized resistance and invites further investigation into the nature of their “struggle.”

Following Brazil’s twenty-one-year military dictatorship, feminist and women’s movements pressured their nascent democracy to address historical gendered inequities by “engendering” branches of state institutions. As a result, Brazil boasts a host of gender-specialized services oriented around justice, such as women’s police and domestic violence courts, and also services oriented around care, such as women’s centers and shelters. Yet, despite their implementation, levels of GBV have increased in Rio de Janeiro and in Brazil more broadly. According to the most recent data, Brazil’s femicide rate rests at fifth highest in the world, at 4.8 murders for every 100,000 women. In Rio de Janeiro this year, femicide rates (Jan-Sept 2019) are already 211 percent higher than in the entire year of 2016 (DGTEC 2019).

Preliminary research findings indicate that often formal channels of social and legal support are significantly restricted for low-income



Emily Masucci (left) and Renata Souza, a progressive member of Rio de Janeiro’s state legislature, head of Rio’s human rights commission, and former colleague of Marielle Franco (see photo below right for more about Franco).

women in Rio de Janeiro, if not entirely out of reach. Inaccessibility, paired with the fear that these institutions are but another site of violence, prompts many low-income women to

actively circumvent official spaces of justice and care. In the event that low-income women do appeal to state services, they find that their experiences of GBV and other violences are not legible as a holistic reality. The compounding, historical impacts of state and structural violences, intergenerational poverty, and geosocial precarity—especially poignant in Rio de Janeiro—do not fit neatly into legal frameworks and social services oriented around GBV.

In a conversation I observed between community organizers from the periphery of Rio de Janeiro, they posited, “How do we take care of ourselves without engaging institutions that don’t understand our experience?” My ongoing ethnographic research investigates this question, underscoring how low-income women and their communities reimagine and implement alternative blueprints for gendered justice and care at the local level. Through the narratives of low-income women, this study seeks to deepen our awareness of global patterns of gender-based inequities and violences, the limitations of gendered democratic citizenship, and the possibilities for organized community-level anti-violence initiatives.

Ultimately, my work is about more than precarity and violence. It seeks to foreground the ways in which marginalized communities are tapping into collective histories of “struggle” to incite meaningful change and to reclaim futures that have been historically stolen. ■

Reference

DGTEC. 2019. “Dados Estatísticos - Femicídio.” *Observatório Judicial Da Violência Contra A Mulher*. Rio de Janeiro.

—Emily Masucci is a graduate teaching fellow and doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology.



Marcio Freitas’s “*Nunca Me Calarei*”(I Will Never be Silenced) features the faces of women who have experienced gender-based violence in Brazil / photo by Emily Masucci taken at the Museu da Justiça in Rio de Janeiro, September 2019.



Street art in the historic neighborhood of Santa Teresa demanding “*Quem Mandou?*” (Who Ordered It?) referring to the calculated political assassination of former city councilwoman Marielle Franco on March 14, 2018.

LATINX STUDIES SEED GRANT

“Decolonial Environmentalisms: Race, Genre, and Latinx Literature”

by David J. Vázquez, Associate Professor, Department of English

This project proceeds from two main gaps in the research in two fields that have had overlapping conversations about Latinx literature and culture: Latinx literary and cultural studies and the environmental humanities. The environmental humanities make visible pressing environmental crises, shedding light on how human imagination grapples with such issues as climate change, exposure to toxic chemicals, and sea-level rise. Yet as environmental humanities scholars such as Ursula Heise, William Cronon, and Giovanna di Chiro show, some forms of U.S. environmentalism continue to put American exceptionalism (the idea that the U.S. is qualitatively different from other nations) to work for, as Rob Nixon puts it, “wilderness preservation, on wielding the Endangered Species Act against developers, and on saving old-growth forests.” Despite centering environmental justice (the uneven distribution of environmental risks and benefits) over the past two decades, some environmental thought remains wedded to privileged perspectives over those of marginalized groups.

The environmental humanities’ inattention to the perspectives of marginalized groups parallels the scant consideration of environmental representations in Latinx culture by Latinx studies. Latinx studies often focuses on anti-racist literature and culture, on immigration and immigrant rights, and on valorizing insurgent Latinx social movements. Few critics, however, beyond social scientists Laura Pulido and Devon Peña, pioneering literary scholars Priscilla Ybarra and Sarah Wald, and the editors of the new collection *Latinx Environmentalisms: Place, Justice, and the Decolonial*, have considered environmental thought produced by Latinx creators. Although the field’s traditional emphases are not hostile to environmental issues, the critical conversation engaging environmental ideas in Latinx literature and culture is only now gaining momentum.

“Decolonial Environmentalisms: Race, Genre, and Latinx Culture” intervenes in the paucity of environmental analysis in Latinx studies and the still incomplete consideration of Latinx archives within the environmental humanities. Although critics such as Ybarra and Wald have examined environmental issues in Chicanx contexts, this project offers the first comparative monograph that considers Latinx creators from



Ester Hernández,
American, b. 1944. *Sun Mad*, 1982. Screen print,
30 x 22 in. Purchase
in honor of Jill Hartz.
2019:30.1 ©2019 ESTER
HERNANDEZ

Puerto Rican, Chicanx, Central American, and multiracial perspectives. The manuscript reflects on how these authors and artists offer innovative and radical conceptions of space, place, resistance to toxic environments, and expressions of cultural and historical affiliation with built environments. This project identifies Latinx litera-

ture, art, and film by literary authors Helena María Viramontes, Ernesto Quiñonez, and John Rechy, visual artists Ester Hernández and Juana Alicia, filmmaker Alex Rivera, and others that express neglected decolonial and anti-racist environmental perspectives, often by experimenting with literary and artistic forms. The project fosters and extends a growing dialogue between anti-racist environmental humanities and Latinx studies scholars that emphasizes how Latinx creativity expresses decolonial environmental values. ■

—David J. Vázquez is an associate professor and head of the UO Department of English. He received the 2019-20 Latinx Studies Seed Grant from CLLAS in support of this research.

Latinx Scholars ARC

The Latinx Scholars Academic Residence Community (ARC) launched fall term with just over thirty students hailing from across the United States and Latin America. Sharing residential space in the newly renovated (and renamed) Justice Robert Bean Hall, they have a dedicated “pod” on the first floor filled with posters and books reflecting Latinx culture, history, and activism—a popular space to hang out and work on homework.

Students took two classes together during fall term. One focused on university life and a variety of educational, health, and social topics. The second was an introduction to Chicanx and Latinx studies, taught by Michael Hames-García, professor in the Department of Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies. Meaningful cultural events for the students have included the JMSA’s Día de los Muertos celebration, a performance of *Judge Torres* by Teatro Milagro, a poetry slam by Melissa Lozada-Oliva, and lunch with author María Helena Viramontes. Next up, a silkscreen workshop with Gilda Posada in winter term. ■

—reported by Olga Sánchez



Latinx Scholars ARC students meet over lunch with visiting author María Helena Viramontes / Oct. 2019.

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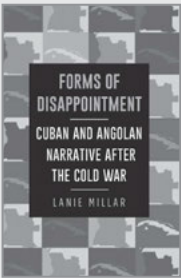
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To book the Latino Roots traveling exhibit, provide feedback, or brainstorm ideas about how you or your organization can utilize the project, please contact CLLAS staff at clas@uoregon.edu.

Recent Books in Latino/a and Latin American Studies



Written by Lanie Millar. *Forms of Disappointment: Cuban and Angolan Narrative After the Cold War* (SUNY Press, 2019). "Millar traces the legacies of anti-imperial solidarity in Cuban and Angolan novels and films after 1989. Cuba's intervention in Angola's post-independence civil war from 1976 to 1991

was its longest and most engaged internationalist project and left a profound mark on the culture of both nations. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, Millar argues, Cuban and Angolan writers and filmmakers responded to this collective history and adapted to new postsocialist realities in analogous ways, developing what she characterizes as works of disappointment." —from the publisher



Written by Carlos Aguirre. *Donde se amansan los guapos: las cárceles de Lima, 1850-1935* (Lima: Universidad del Pacífico, 2019). This is the Spanish translation of *The Criminals of Lima and their Worlds* (Duke University Press, 2005), a social history of

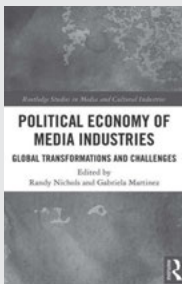
Lima's prisons, the prisoners' mechanisms for coping with their incarceration, and prison reform projects, all analyzed in relation to ambiguous and at times authoritarian modernizing efforts by the Peruvian state and elites.



Carlos Aguirre and Charles Walker, eds. *Bandoleros, abigeos y montoneros. Criminalidad y violencia, siglos XVIII-XX, 2nd. edition* (Lima: La Sinistra Ensayos, 2019).

This is the second, revised edition of a collection of essays on banditry and other forms of rural violence in Peru. The essays cover a wide range of

cases and use various methodological approaches to explore the causes and effects of crime and violence as well as their political and symbolic relevance for Peruvian society.



Edited by Randy Nichols, Gabriela Martinez. *Political Economy of Media Industries: Global Transformations and Challenges* (Routledge Studies in Media and Cultural Industries Series, 2019). "This book provides a critical political economic examination of the impact of increasingly concentrated

global media industries. It addresses different media and communication industries from around the globe, including film, television, music, journalism, telecommunication, and information industries. The authors use case studies to examine how changing methods of production and distribution are impacting a variety of issues including globalization, environmental devastation, and the shifting role of the State." —from the publisher



Written by Lindsay Naylor (2010 CLLAS Graduate Grantee now assistant professor at University of Delaware). *Fair Trade Rebels: Coffee Production and Struggles for Autonomy in Chiapas* (Diverse Economies and Livable Worlds Series, University of Minnesota Press, 2019). This book "examines the

everyday experiences of resistance and agricultural practice among the campesinos/as of Chiapas, Mexico, who struggle for dignified livelihoods in self-declared autonomous communities in the highlands, confronting inequalities locally in what is really a global corporate agricultural chain." —from the publisher

Book chapters and recent journal articles

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/