

Fall 2015

La Voz, Fall 2015

El Instituto: Institute of Latina/o, Caribbean, and Latin American Studies

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El Instituto

Institute of Latino/a, Caribbean, and Latin American Studies

UConn



LA VOZ

Fall 2015

Estimada/os colegas,

In the following pages of La Voz, please join me in learning about some of the many fascinating and important research projects El Instituto supports. As you'll see, our intellectual community has been busy conducting field research in Colombia, in maternity clinics and on aesthetic memorialization, interviews with prominent artists in Cuba, ethnographic studies on hospital waiting rooms in Nicaragua, and advancing projects on Latina/os in preK-12 and higher education. Of course, sharing research also has been a priority of our affiliates who have, for example, presented their work on the healthcare crisis in Puerto Rico in radio and print media and on human rights narratives in post-conflict Guatemala at scholarly conferences. Our graduate students are completing various stages of their theses on a wide range of interdisciplinary projects. We have just distributed the latest round of research funds to PhD students from throughout the university and look forward to sharing their findings with you in the coming year.

I dedicate this issue of La Voz to the memory of nuestro querido amigo y colega Dr. Gastón Eduardo Hernández Díaz.

Un abrazo,

Mark Overmyer-Velázquez

EL INSTITUTO HAPPENINGS



Charles Robert Venator Santiago (El Instituto and Political Science) was featured in NPR Morning Edition's Morning Marketplace Report on the looming healthcare crisis in Puerto Rico.

<http://www.marketplace.org/topics/health-care/puerto-ricos-healthcare-debt-looms>



Graduate students, faculty, and staff from over a dozen campus departments came together on September 2nd for El Instituto's first HACHA of the year. HACHA is an informal gathering held on the first Wednesday of every month to share research and experiences across disciplines.



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Front Cover: Visiting artist Maceo Montoya contributed the front cover from artwork in his gallery: Cielo Rojo. To view the gallery is its entirety go to:
<http://www.maceomontoya.com/cielo-rojo.html>

LIBRARY NOTES

Marisol Ramos is the Subject Librarian for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Latino Studies, Spanish and Anthropology, and the Curator of the Latina/o, Latin American and Caribbean Collections at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center.

Marisol.Ramos@uconn.edu

This Fall, Marisol was invited to attend the fourth "Primavera del Libro" Book Fair in Chile from October 5th to October 14th. This is a book fair for independent presses and academic presses from Chile and she is one of only 15 librarians from the US and other Latin American countries that were invited to attend. She

hopes to purchase rare and hard-to-find books for our unique collection.

In the Winter issue of *La Voz*, Marisol will share her reflections and findings from her latest international trip. First and second year students in LLAS5000 (Seminar in Latin American Studies) and 5100 (Comparative Transnational Latin(o) American History) can look forward to meeting her in person during the first weeks of classes, where they will gain a firsthand introduction to the outstanding resources UCONN has to offer.



VISITING ARTIST: MACEO MONTOYA

Maceo Montoya is an assistant professor in the Chicana/o Studies Department at UC Davis where he teaches the Chicana/o Mural Workshop and courses in Chicano Literature. He graduated from Yale University in 2002 and received his Master of Fine Arts in painting from Columbia University in 2006. He is also affiliated with Taller Arte del Nuevo Amanecer (TANA), a community-based arts organization located in Woodland, CA.

Montoya presented a lecture on "Approaching Chicano Narratives" to faculty, staff and students on September 15th, 2015 at the Puerto Rican and Latin American Cultural Center. He transitioned from sharing his mural pieces to talking about his written work including *The Deportation of Wopper Barraza* and *Letters to the Poet from His Brother*. On September 16, Montoya joined Professor Guillermo Irizarry's Graduate Seminar, Studies in Spanish-American Literature, to discuss his works and the inspirations behind them with graduate students.

Montoya's paintings, drawings, and prints have been featured in exhibitions throughout the country as well as internationally, including the traveling show "Caras Vemos, Corazones No Sabemos: The Human Landscape of Mexican Migration to the United States" and "Inter-viewing Paintings" at the SOMA Museum of Art in Seoul, Korea. His artwork has appeared in a range of publications, including 17 drawings in David Montejano's *Sancho's Journal* (University of Texas Press 2012), an ethnography of the Brown Berets in San Antonio. Montoya's first novel, *The Scoundrel and the Optimist* (Bilingual Review, 2010), was awarded the 2011 International Latino Book Award for "Best First Book" and *Latino Stories* named him one of its "Top Ten New Latino Writers to Watch." In 2014, University of New Mexico Press published his second novel, *The Deportation of Wopper Barraza*, and Copilot Press published *Letters to the Poet from His Brother*, a hybrid book combining images, prose poems, and essays. *You Must Fight Them*, a novella and story collection, has just been made available from University of New Mexico Press.



CLAS FIRE AWARDS SUMMER 2015

Faculty members César Abadía-Barrero, Odette Casamayor-Cisneros, Robin Greeley, and Daisy Reyes were recipients of competitive awards for summer research projects from the CLAS Dean's Office Fund for Interdisciplinary Research Endeavors (FIRE).

César Abadía-Barrero, Asst. Prof., Anthropology and Human Rights Institute

Project: "Kangaroo Medical Care: A Post-colonial Medical Innovation"

Professor Abadía-Barrero conducted research in Colombia's oldest child and maternity university hospital, where he concentrated on the history of the hospital's most emblematic program: Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) created in 1978. Out of a dire need for hospital beds and incubators and a concern for elevated child mortality in the poorest sectors of society, its creators successfully adapted the logic of the marsupial pouch to humans. With its skin-to-skin technique, KMC allows families to care for premature and low birth weight newborns at home. Paradoxically, while Colombian KMC was exported around the world as an effective alternative to incubators, the hospital was defunded and eventually closed as a result of Colombia's neoliberal health care reform. Abadía-Barrero interviewed professors and nurses who worked at the hospital, including KMC's last medical director before it closed, and conducted workshops with current hospital employees after it reopened with limited services under a for-profit administration model.

"With these data I am developing the concept of 'post-colonial medical innovations,' which sheds light on

how epistemologies of care in the post-colonies negotiate with and transgress the principles of modern medicine. The dire situation of the hospital, university professors, workers, and students represents how neoliberalism is transforming health care in Colombia by privatizing services and destroying legacies of care that contradict its for-profit principles."

Abadía-Barrero will present his results and analyses at a talk sponsored by the Humanities Institute on October 27, 2015, 4:00-5:30pm in CLAS/Austin, Room 301. Light refreshments will be served. Reserve space by contacting uchi@uconn.edu or calling 860-486-9057.



Odette Casamayor-Cisneros, Assoc. Prof., El Instituto and Literatures, Cultures and Languages

Professor Casamayor-Cisneros traveled to Havana where she conducted interviews essential to her research, including her book-length project in progress: *On Being Black: Racial Self-identification Processes in Post-Soviet Cuban Cultural Production*. She met several times with Gretel Alfonso, widow of renowned Afro-Cuban filmmaker, poet and painter Nicolás Guillén Landrián. Her conversations with Alfonso and the opportunity to explore her personal art collection, documents, letters, and Guillén Landrián's writings are instrumental to concluding several pieces on the work and life of Guillén Landrián.

In addition, she is currently writing a series of short pieces informed by her experiences in Cuba in this historical moment. Immediately after her return from Cuba, she has already published an article, "The history that we were tomorrow: On Havana's 12th At Bienale", in *Cuba Counterpoints. Public Scholarship About A Changing Cuba*.

Robin Greeley, Assoc. Prof., Art and Art History

Project: "Colombia's 2011 Victims Law: Art, Memorialization, and Symbolic Reparations"

Thanks to FIRE funding, I had an amazingly productive three-week research trip to Bogotá. My project addresses the role of aesthetic memorialization in Colombia's current transition towards democracy, emblemized by Colombia's 2011 Victims Law. My project is also of international importance at the level of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Neither the IACHR nor the Colombian State have a clear policy concerning the role of aesthetic memorialization in symbolic reparations to victims of human rights violations. In consequence, state-sponsored memorials often fail to promote reconciliation and democracy-building.

As a result of my interdisciplinary research carried out this summer in Bogotá, I co-authored a draft of the Bogotá Declaration of Principles regarding symbolic reparations to be sent to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Rights to Reparation to Victims of Gross Violations of Human Rights, Theo van Boven, is reviewing a draft of the Bogotá Declaration. Additionally, the Colombian State's Unidad de Víctimas (the entity responsible for overseeing implementation of Colombia's Victims Law) has asked to work with me and my research group to research and elaborate symbolic reparations projects.

Furthermore, while in Bogotá, I co-authored with Dr. Marco Abarca Díaz, of the Caribbean Center for Human Rights, and members of Harvard University's Cultural Agents Initiative a series of guidelines concerning symbolic reparations. In addition, I co-authored a Technical Opinion, that was presented to the United Nations and the Peruvian State, concerning a landmark case in Human Rights law regarding symbolic reparations for massive violations of women's reproductive rights.

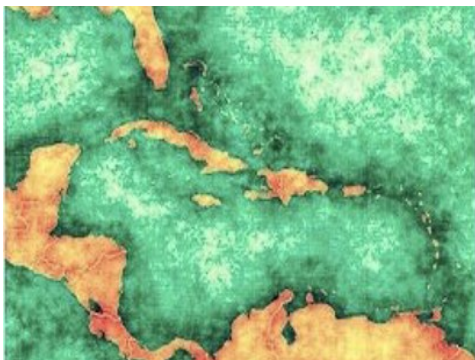


I also began researching the archives of the Unidad de Víctimas and the Centro de la Memoria to build an inventory of extant memorials, across Colombia in memorializing human rights violations. Material that I gathered from these archives and interviews will form the basis for further investigation, policy studies, and scholarly publications. Further results from my research in Bogotá: I have been asked to publish a book chapter on Auras anónimas (2009), the major memorial to Colombia's endemic violence produced by the world-renowned artist, Beatriz Gonzalez. I have been invited to present aspects of my Bogotá research at conferences at Harvard University, Colombia's Universidad de Externado, and the London School of Economics. The LSE plans to publish my intervention, which will treat a perplexing conundrum at the heart of symbolic reparations: how to confront the issue of aesthetic memorialization in situations where there is no clear distinction between "victim" and "perpetrator."

Daisy Reyes, Asst. Prof., El Instituto and Sociology

Professor Reyes used her FIRE funds to make progress on moving manuscripts closer to publication. Over the course of the summer she was able to copyedit two articles (*Conundrums of Desire: Sexual Discourses of Mexican- origin Mothers to Daughters* and *Disparate Lessons: How Colleges Shape Students' Panethnic Boundaries and Identities*). One of these manuscripts is forthcoming in the October issue of *Sociology of Education*.

She also used her award to begin the developmental and stylistic editing of her book manuscript, *Disparate Lessons: How Stratification in Higher Education Shapes Latinos*, which brings together cultural and organizational analysis to the study of educational inequalities.



CARIBBEAN PHILOSOPHICAL ASSOCIATION

SHIFTING THE GEOGRAPHY OF REASON

Born on the ten-by-twelve-mile island of Antigua, writer Jamaica Kincaid inaugurated a remarkable literary life with reflections on what it meant to occupy A Small Place presumed to be largely uninhabited by the tourists who came to enjoy its beautiful beaches. In Hispanophone, Lusophone, Francophone, Anglophone and Dutch Caribbean letters, “the archipelago,” a cluster of islands, has been mobilized as a distinctive trope characterizing a unique geopolitical, existential, authorial, and theoretical disposition.

Across the Atlantic some centuries earlier, Genevan-born Jean-Jacques Rousseau, upon encountering Paris, reflected that academies were most developed in empires that trained people in rules of civility and predictability that squelched their potential to “follow their own lights.” He suggested that the most important and innovative ideas almost always emerged from people who came of age in more remote stomping grounds, where they could be led by their own curiosities and priorities, undisrupted in pursuing their projects by

distractions of narcissism and a public of glaring, monitoring eyes.

This year’s conference theme therefore continues the organization’s exploration of our larger motto of “shifting the geography of reason” through challenging the presumption that historic ideas and theory must emerge from large, metropolitan centers. We particularly invite reflection on the global range of small places from which many have undertaken theoretical endeavors and continue to produce vital ideas of worldly significance, the usefulness of Caribbean reflections on this situation, and more generally about how the scale and nature of the terrains where we work inflect the character of our thinking.

Please submit application by December 15th, 2015. To submit a paper abstract, panel, or roundtable proposal, visit www.caribbeanphilosophicalassociation.org. Questions? Write to **Jane Gordon** at caribphil@gmail.com



THIS FALL
AT PRLACC



September 23, 12:00 noon—Cara-a-Cara. Imposter Syndrome, Survivor Guilt.
Sept. 28, 5:00pm Puerto Rican and Dominican Spoken Word Artists
Sept. 28—Oct. 9. Art Exhibit: Embracing our past, cultivating our future. Photographic journey of the history of PRLACC for the past four decades.
Oct. 7, 7:00pm—Jorgensen Center: Illuminating the Path. Rosario Dawson.
Oct. 11, 3:00pm—10th Anniversary of METAS
Oct. 15, 12:00 noon—Cara-a-Cara with STEM faculty
Oct. 17—2nd Annual TESLAs Symposium. First Generation College Students in the STEM field.
Oct. 28—Talk by Dr. Ann Zulawski. Urban Development and the Environment in the Puerto Rican Neighborhood: Puerto de Tierra.
Nov. 5, 12:00 noon—Cara-a-Cara. Day of the Dead
Nov. 12, 12:00 noon—Cara-a-Cara. Graduate students and faculty.

SCHOLARSHIP FACILITATION FUND (SFF) AWARDS

Erica Fernandez (Asst. Prof., Educational Leadership) and **Linda Halgunseth** (Asst. Prof., Human Development and Family Studies), received Fall 2015 Scholarship Facilitation Fund (SFF) Awards from the Office of the Vice President for Research.



"Do you hear what I hear? Do you see what I see?": Perceptions of Parental Engagement

Erica Fernandez is a former bilingual education teacher whose primary research is focused on centering, listening to and sharing the educational engagement experiences of parents of color, particularly those of Spanish-speaking Latin@ immigrant parents living amid threatening and hostile anti-immigrant environments. Critical Race Theory, Latin@ Critical Race Theory, Latin@ Cultural Citizenship and Chicana feminist epistemology theoretically ground her work while also helping to center the narratives of Latin@ immigrant parents. She hopes these narratives will help highlight how oppressive institutional policies create barriers for authentic engagement within schools.

In an effort to extend the critical and more inclusive discourse on parental engagement and in collaboration with Dr. Michele Femc-Bagwell, Neag School of Education, this study aims to: 1) center the experiences and voices of a too often overlooked people, parents of color; 2) understand how parents in an urban high school perceive parental engagement and most importantly what it looks like and means to them; and 3) explore the perceptions of parental engagement through photographs (taken by parents) and narratives.

As such, the multilayered purposes of the study have the potential to shed light on the complex dynamics of school practices/policies, and conceptualizations of parental engagement.



Parenting Risk and Protective Factors of Childhood Obesity: An Examination Across Two Countries

Mexican preschoolers in the U.S. have drastically higher rates of obesity than their counterparts in Mexico (Martínez-Andrade et al., 2014). Researchers have pointed to changes in diet between the two countries. For example, it has been suggested that as Latinos acculturate to the U.S., they may begin to increase their consumption of high calorie processed foods and may start to decrease consumption of their native land's rich fiber diet (Lara et al., 2005; Zambrana & Carter-Pokras, 2010). Thus, parents of Mexican descent who come to the U.S. may struggle to provide a healthy diet and to socialize/teach their children about healthy eating behaviors in the U.S. (García Coll & Marks, 2013). Because parents are children's first and most influential socialization agents in life, it is important to investigate how parents of Mexican origin in the U.S. and in Mexico socialize their young children (ages 2-5) about healthy food and eating behaviors. Understanding parents' early socialization practices is important because it is early behaviors that shape children's healthy eating and weight trajectories into adulthood.

The goal of this study is to identify parenting risk and protective factors for obesity prevention in Mexican children ages 2 to 5 in the U.S.). The long-term goal is to submit a R01 application to the National Institute of Child Health and Development (NICHD) in February 2016 that will allow Halgunseth to record and compare parental socialization messages on healthy eating between Mexican children ages 2 to 5 in Mexico and the U.S. She will also be able to examine whether socialization messages are related to discrepancies in children's weight between the two groups within the family's naturalistic environment.

2014-15 PRE-DOCTORAL RESEARCH AWARDS

During the 2014-15 academic year, El Instituto, with support from the Graduate School's Vice Provost for Graduate Education, was able to award grants ranging from \$100 to \$2,000 to support pre-doctoral graduate student research and creative projects related to Latina/o and/or Latin American Studies. Below is a brief account of how one awardee used his funds over the summer months:



Carlos Gardeazábal Bravo: "El Instituto's pre-doctoral award gave me the opportunity to enjoy two international conferences where I shared my research and received valuable comments from fellow grad students, researchers and scholars located in diverse geographical and theoretical positions. Thanks to this award I was able to present two papers at the NeMLA conference in Toronto, "*Políticas de la empatía en la post-dictadura: "Dos veces junio de Martín Kohan"*" and "Human Rights, Irony and the Politics of Empathy in the Narratives of Post-conflict Guatemala". The award also allowed me to travel to Puerto Rico in order to present the paper "*Comunidades emocionales y terror en El ruido de las cosas al*

caer de Juan Gabriel Vásquez" at the LASA conference. All these three papers are directly related with my dissertation, so the feedback received in the conferences is becoming part of my main research process. Likewise, in both conferences I was able to learn and discuss new approaches in the fields of Latin American literature, literary theory, and human rights, while establishing new connections with other scholars in these areas. I am writing drafts of the second and third chapters of my dissertation during this summer, a hard process that is being enriched by my experience in those conferences. I am sincerely grateful with El Instituto for its support, and proud of being part of its scholar community."

LOCAL REALITIES OF WOMEN:

MATERNITY WAITING HOMES IN NORTHERN NICARAGUA

El Instituto Pre-Doctoral Award Report Michelle San Pedro, MA, RN



The Institute of Latina/o, Caribbean, and Latin American Studies Pre-Doctoral Award helped me explore a second research site for my ethnographic study, "The Local Realities of Women: Maternity Waiting Homes in Northern Nicaragua." Maternity waiting homes are residential facilities

where women who live remotely can 'wait' before giving birth at a hospital. The aim of this United Nations/World Health Organization strategy is to reduce maternal and perinatal mortality by improving access to skilled medical professionals and emergency obstetric care, particularly for women in remote areas.

I visited Casa Materna maternity waiting home in the city of Matagalpa, which is an exemplar center privately funded through donations from Spain, Switzerland, and the United States. Staff are proud that they can afford a social worker, psychologist, and ambulance. Preliminary discussions with pregnant women reveal that it may take one day of travel to reach Casa Materna from their rural home. Also, most remote areas are only serviced by one bus per day in the community, thus women need to leave their medical appointment in order to ride the last bus. Sometimes the doctor may not arrive at a health post, and the woman must return home without a health exam, medication, or advice for her condition. In a few cases, the women turn to alternative healers, such as brujos, for remedies when they feel overwhelmed (commonly diagnosed as depression) or extremely fatigued (e.g. anemia).

This trip helped me establish a time frame to visit their homes and interview their family members and friends. During the rainy season from May to August, the roads are nearly impassable and laden with mud. Internal migration is also stimulated by coffee harvests from November to January. I received an invitation from nurse Gladys Sanchez to volunteer and conduct future research at Casa Materna. She can connect me to the outreach program in which community midwives refer pregnant women to the waiting home. At this point in time, midwives are discouraged from the Ministry of Health to assist in home births. These connections are critical for future grant applications.

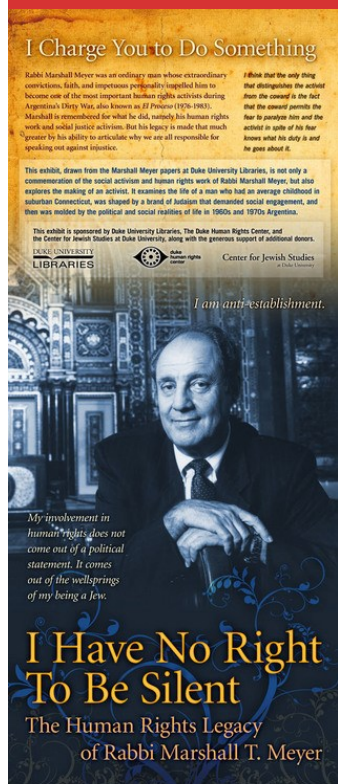
My second site lies in the city of Esteli, located 1.5 hours from Matagalpa. This Casa Materna is under the control of the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health. It is smaller in size than the Matagalpa location and prone

to frequent food shortages. I maintain a partnership with the Institute of Central American Studies and the non-governmental organization, Juntos Adelante.

The nurse director, Fidelia Bustamante, looks forward to helping me facilitate charlas, or educational talks with pregnant women. Ixchen, a private foundation, sends reproductive health promoters to discuss domestic violence, birth positions, and contraception twice weekly. Women have few avenues to receive reproductive health education: the Ministry of Education does not permit reproductive health education in schools because it is believed to encourage sex.

These findings, in conjunction with training at the National Science Foundation summer methods camp will be integral to my PhD project.

NEW PROGRAM: JEWISH LATIN AMERICA—EDUCATION ABROAD



The University of Connecticut Jewish Latin America program is based in Buenos Aires, home to Latin America's largest Jewish community, and one of the world's most dynamic sites of the Jewish Diaspora. Students will explore and examine the city with a focus on human rights and migration as themes of global importance and take courses on Latin American Jewish Literature and Jewish History in Latin America, and will be immersed in the region's languages and cultures. This program has been collaboratively developed and coordinated by UConn's El Instituto; Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life; and the Human Rights Institute, all in partnership with AIFS and the Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano "Marshall T. Meyer" and Belgrano University in Buenos Aires.

For more information and to apply, go to <http://abroad.uconn.edu/program/aifs-jewish-latin-america-history-literature-and-human-rights-in-buenos-aires-argentina-third-party/>



IN MEMORY



Gaston Eduardo Hernandez Diaz was a mathematics professor who loved poetry, a Chilean who fled his country after a dictator toppled the president, and an American who worked for social justice. He also was an activist who lobbied Congress to increase funding for research into a cure for brain tumors. Upbeat and outgoing, he was modest and didn't like being called "doctor" despite his advance degree. Hernandez, a resident of Mansfield, died June 13 after living for more than 16 years with brain cancer. He was 63.

Born on April 30, 1951, Hernandez came from a working class family in Curicó, Chile, the youngest of seven children. He was an excellent student, won a national award for his high school test scores. He attended the Universidad de Chile, where he began studying engineering, then switched to mathematics. Handsome and charismatic, he was elected president of a student association and became deeply involved in efforts to open higher education to all students. The issues included free lunch for students, lower tuition, and obtaining equal opportunities for students from all income levels. When Marxist President Salvador Allende was overthrown in 1973, Hernandez and many students protested the coup that led to the presidency of Augusto Pinochet and more than 15 years of dictatorship, during which thousands were murdered and tortured. The university expelled Hernandez because of his political activities. Pinochet closed the universities, and Hernandez continued his efforts on behalf of poor students: demanding assistance for those who had attended schools that didn't prepare them adequately for college, and support for students who might be thrown out because of their subsequent poor performance. There were strikes and demonstrations against rich people, said his wife, Eliana Rojas, and protests because of a lack of food.

Hernandez worked in the poorer sections of Santiago organizing cultural programs, establishing literacy classes, as well as distributing food, said Juan Brito, a bilingual social worker in the Hartford school system who was born in Chile. "Political activities never stopped in Chile," said his wife, whom he had met during his studies. After two years, the universities reopened, and while many students who had been expelled went to other countries to continue their studies. Hernandez wanted to stay and continue his advocacy work. He enrolled at the Universidad de Santiago, where he began working on his master's degree, even though he hadn't yet graduated from college. When he was just about to complete his master's thesis, the school found out he had been previously expelled and gave him 24 hours to leave. His professor let him finish his dissertation over the weekend.

A visiting U.S. professor had recommended that he get a doctorate in mathematics in the United States, but first Hernandez had to learn English. He read the dictionary every day, listened to records and tapes, and passed the required English exam. In 1979, Hernandez came to the United States as a graduate student. Penniless, he paid for his new life with gifts from Eliana's best friend and from her family, and enrolled at the University of Minnesota; Eliana arrived later. Although he held a teaching assistant position, they were poor. "\$300. That's all we had," Eliana said. She not have permission to work legally, so she cleaned houses and took care of children. One summer, Gaston worked on a farm driving a tractor and also painted houses. They soon got involved in local Minnesota politics, and joined a circle of Chilean students at the university. After Hernandez obtained his doctorate in math, he returned to Chile to teach for a while, then was invited to be a visiting professor at several U.S. universities.

He started teaching at the University of Connecticut in 1988, but had a seizure in about 2000 — the first symptom of his malignant brain tumor. He had been offered a job in Chile, but realized that he needed to stay in his job at UConn to maintain his health insurance. He continued teaching for several years, and always carried a Palm Pilot, or electronic notebook, with copious notes to refresh his memory. He would tell a person he was talking to, "I have a brain tumor. I have memory issues." He set up systems to remind himself of responsibilities, people and events. Eventually, the symptoms got worse, and he had to stop teaching.

He became involved with a brain tumor survivor support group at Hartford Hospital, where he provided knowledge and support to others with brain tumors. "If there was a conference, a clinical trial or a new treat-

ment on the horizon, you could count on Gaston to research it," said a member of the group who asked not to be identified. "With wisdom and warmth, Gaston inspired so many to empower themselves by taking an active role in their own care." Hernandez went to Washington several times to meet with members of the Connecticut Congressional delegation to lobby for increased funding for research. He cheered on other brain tumor sufferers in Internet chat rooms, mobilized a letter writing campaign to help speed up approval for a chemotherapy treatment, and participated in fundraising events.

He was part of a group of friends that socialized frequently, often drinking red Chilean wine made from the Carménère grape that Hernandez arranged to have imported by the case. He also enjoyed mate, a caffeinated infusion of dried leaves and traditionally served in a hollowed out gourd with a metal straw. Every few months, Hernandez and his wife attended a "Peña," a party with Chilean empanadas, wine, music and poetry. Though he loved singing, he was not a singer, but he often translated songs his wife sang. "He was very intense," said Brito. "He liked discussions and was very passionate about his positions on art and music. ... He was very open and let you know how he felt." Hernandez was a regular participant in anti-war demonstrations at UConn, and stayed up to date on Chilean politics. Professionally, Hernandez published many articles, averaging about two a year — a good number for a mathematician, said Yung Choi, a colleague in the math department who co-wrote two papers with Hernandez. "He was a productive researcher."

Even as his disease progressed, Hernandez was fearless. He took trains and subways to Brooklyn to visit his son, Hector. "He was facing a dangerous situation in order to stay mentally alive," said Bill Abikoff, a retired math professor at UConn. Hernandez also had a wry sense of humor. When Abikoff asked for a few Spanish phrases to use on a trip to South America, Hernandez, deadpan, told him two words — which Abikoff realized were never used in polite company. "He could be very playful," Abikoff said. "It was an opportunity for a Spanish speaker to take a situation and turn it into a great joke."

In addition to his wife, Eliana, and his son, Hector, Hernandez is survived by a daughter, Alejandra, a granddaughter and several siblings. "He had a joie de vivre," said Jeremy Geller, a longtime friend. "He was deeply caring and always smiling. ... You just knew that this was a person who loves life and emanates love."

Anne M. Hamilton, Special to The Courant, October 11, 2015. Copyright © 2015, [Hartford Courant](#)

BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR

On Wednesday, Sept. 30, Ambassador Fernando de Mello Barreto and Vice Consul Sônia Regina Reis da Costa met with a select group of faculty and graduate students to discuss intersecting U.S./Brazil interests. Following that meeting, Ambassador Fernando de Mello Barreto spoke to a larger group of UConn faculty, staff and students on "Brazil and the World." In this talk Barreto provided an overview of Brazil's diplomacy globally and answered questions from attendees.

Ambassador Fernando de Mello Barreto was born in São Paulo, Brazil and graduated from the University of São Paulo's Law School in 1972 and continued his education obtaining a Master of Laws from Columbia University in 1974. Ambassador Fernando de Mello Barreto since then has had a distinguished diplomatic career holding positions such as Brazil's Ambassador to Australia, Consul General in London and representative to the World Trade Organization, and Brazilian Consul-General in Boston Massachusetts.



In addition to Barreto's distinguished diplomatic career, he has authored a number of publications including *The National Treatment of Foreign Investments* (1994); *Brazilian Diplomatic History from 1912 to 1964* (2001); and *Brazilian Diplomatic History from 1964 to 1985* (2006). He is currently working on the next volume on Brazil's diplomatic history.

GRADUATE STUDENTS 2015-2016



Jihan Asher is a second year graduate student pursuing a MA in International Studies with a concentration in Latino and Latin American Studies. She received her B.A. in

History from the University of Maryland-College Park in 2014. Her research interests include economic and social development in Latin America, migration and citizenship, corporate social responsibility, and the experiences of African-descended people in the Americas. This summer, she completed two summer courses and began studying community-based policing in the Caribbean.

Pauline Batista is a second year graduate student pursuing a MA in International Studies with a concentration in Latino and Latin American Studies. She received her B.A. in Communications from Mitchell College in 2014.



Her research interests include immigration; border studies; institutional paradigms of patrimonial preservation in Brazil. She is a teaching assistant for El Instituto's First Year Learning Community, "La comunidad Intelectual"

under the tutelage of Professor Diana Rios. Pauline is working on a project entitled "*Mestiços, Imperialismo & Preservação de Patrimônio Imaterial*" in Brazil.

Gisely Colon Lopez is a first year graduate student pursuing a Master of Arts in Latino and Latin American Studies. She received her B.A. in Puerto Rican and Latino Studies from Brooklyn College. She has a minor in Anthropology and is interested in urban youth and education.

Tyra Lewis is a graduate student pursuing a MA in International Studies with a concentration in Latino and Latin American Studies. She expects to complete her paper, *The Birth of Minerva: The Fire Within My Bones*, this fall.



Katheryn Maldonado is a first year graduate student pursuing a Master of Arts in Latino and Latin American Studies. She received her B.A. in Political Science and human rights from UConn in 2015. Her research interests include immigration law, Latino migration, and undocumented students.

Katie Quinn is a first year graduate student pursuing a Master of Arts in Latino and Latin American Studies. She received her B.A. in Hispanic Studies from Trinity College. Her interests are international human rights law in South America, identity formation, cultural nationalism and the arts.



Hannah Reier is a second year graduate student pursuing a MA in International Studies with a concentration in Latino and Latin American Studies. She received her B.A. in Anthropology from Wheaton College. Hannah spent the summer just outside the small mountain town of Cotacachi, Ecuador, in the indigenous community of Santa Barbara. While living with a local indigenous family, she spent time expanding on her undergraduate research, focusing on the phenomenon of North American "expats" gated communities in the area. Over the course of two months, Hannah conducted



interviews with builders/developers, real estate agents, and the inhabitants of these spaces in order to understand how and why such spaces became viable.

Ilan Sanchez Moreno is a second year graduate student pursuing a MA in International Studies with a concentration in Latino and Latin American Studies. He received his B.A. in Social Communications from Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana in Mexico in 2012. His research is on violence against journalists in Latin America, specifically



GRADUATE STUDENTS 2015-2016

Mexico and Colombia. He visited both countries this summer. While in Colombia, he visited two important NGOs (Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa and Fundación Nuevo Periodismo Iberoamericano) which work to protect freedom of expression and interviewed Colombian journalists who have suffered attacks and threats in recent years as a consequence of their work.

Ilan Unger is a first year graduate student pursuing a MA in Latino and Latin American Studies. He received his B.S. in Business Management and a B.A. in Spanish/Portuguese from UNC-Asheville in 2013. His research interest is U.S. corporate strategy in Latin America, specifically how multinational companies adapt to the idiosyncrasies, policies, and history of the country in which they want to be established.

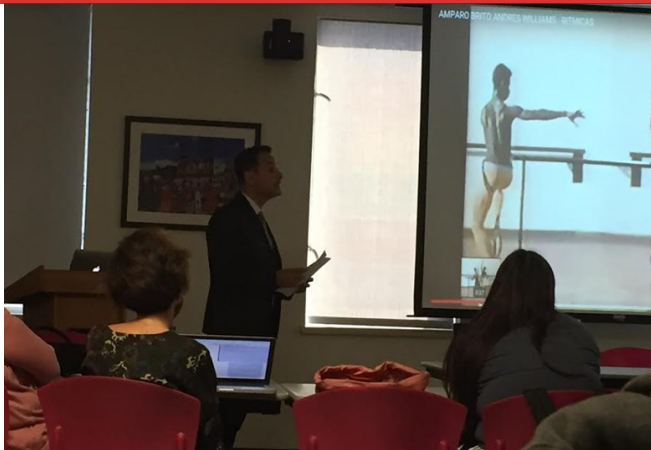
NY LEAGUE OF PUERTO RICAN WOMEN COLLEGE AWARD

First year MA candidate **Gisely Colon-Lopez** is a 2015 New York Puerto Rican League Women College Award Recipient. These financial awards are granted annually to Puerto Rican women selected for their academic excellence and service to the community.

"I am extremely thankful and humbled to be a 2015 New York League of Puerto Rican Women College Award recipient. I am appreciative as I embark on this new journey at El Instituto-UConn with the support and encouragement of the New York League of Puerto Rican Women Inc., and its funders and friends. Winning this award, alongside such amazing women also earning their college degrees, motivates me to stay committed to my studies while also working within the Puerto Rican and Latino communities. I look forward to volunteering my time with various initiatives on campus and in the surrounding communities now that this award has helped alleviate some of the costs of obtaining my MA."



TOMÉ BALLET



Lester Tomé is an assistant professor in the Dance Department and the Latin American & Latino/a Studies Program at Smith College and a faculty member in the Five College Dance Department. Tomé has been awarded various fellowships including Peggy Rockefeller Visiting Scholar at Harvard University's David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies and the National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and affiliate researcher at Harvard. These awards, among others, support the progress of his current works which examine the development of ballet in Cuba as a case study of both ballet's globalization and the cultural production of the Cuban Revolution. On October 6th, 2015, Tomé presented "Black-and-White Pas de Deux: Spectacles of Racial Democracy and Interracial Eros in the National Ballet of Cuba" at the Puerto Rican and Latin American Cultural Center.

FACULTY NEWS

Jorge Agüero returned to UConn this summer after spending a year as a Visiting Scholar in the Research Department at the InterAmerican Development Bank in Washington DC. His visit was sponsored by the fellowship program created by IDB's Citizen Security Division. Jorge's work focused on the economic analysis of domestic violence in the region including two randomized controlled trials in Peru evaluating a rights-based approach in rural Ayacucho and experimental methods to estimate the prevalence of violence in the urban slums of Lima.

Mark Overmyer-Velázquez will be the CFAU Lecturer in Latin American Studies at the China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing in November 2015. He was invited to present a series of lectures on his research and support the development of their new Center for Latin America Studies. He is also co-author and editor of *Debates* in the fall 2015 *LASA Forum*, with a focus on his forthcoming book, *Global Latin(o) Americanos: Transoceanic Diasporas and Regional Migrations* (Oxford UP).

Xaé Alicia Reyes presented in June with Dr. Mellie Crespo Jiménez at the International Society for Language Studies conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Their session was in Spanish: "*La Comunicación entre la escuela y la comunidad*" and they discussed their research on outreach strategies used with non-English speaking, predominantly Latino communities in urban school districts. In July, Professor Reyes hosted Aldo Bazán Ramírez of the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos, México. During his stay they visited with area schools to examine community outreach.

Daisy Reyes and **Charles Robert Venator Santiago** are both on sabbatic leave for the Fall 2015 semester.

VISITING SCHOLARS

Lauren Lautenschlager, 2016, is a Ph.D. candidate at Centro Universitário de Brasília who will be conducting research related to her thesis on international environmental law, specifically the effectiveness of Brazilian environmental protection since the ratification of international treaties to the public policies adopted by it. She plans to be at UConn for the 2016 calendar year.

Alberto D. Martinez Castillo, 2016, is a Professor of Economics at Universidad Simón Bolívar in Venezuela. He will be visiting UConn during the first six months of 2016 to conduct research comparing Mercosur and the Pacific Alliance and exploring their possible future performance and success to promote economic development. His research fields are economic interaction, public policy, and economic development.

Juhem Navarro-Rivera, 2015-2016, is conducting research on the role of racial and gender diversity on the political preferences of non-religious Americans, with a particular focus on non-religious Latinos. Juhem received his Ph.D. in Political Science from UConn in Spring 2015. He is a Senior Policy Analyst on democracy issues at Demos.

Ramsey Tracy, has had an article accepted and forthcoming in the Fall 2015 edition of Penn State's online journal: *Indigenous Knowledges: Other Ways of Knowing*. The article is titled: "It Was Then When the People Were Jumbled: The Caste War and Ethnic Identity in Modern Yucatec Maya Oral History".

MIGRANT FARMWORKER CLINIC

The UConn Migrant Farm Worker Clinics operate annually from June to October offering diagnostic and treatment options for a variety of conditions, both acute and chronic. For over a decade, these clinics have annually provided between 300 and 600 migrant farm workers with primary care screenings, oral health screenings, distribution of medications for mild and self-limited conditions, as well as preventive health education.

Amanda Lazarus was a recipient of the Summer 2015 Migrant Farmworkers Fellowship, awarded by El Instituto and the Honors Program, and shares her experiences: "Currently, many media sources are focusing on the idea of immigrants, legal and not, working in the United States. As a citizen of the United States I am accustomed to driving a short distance to the nearest clinic or hospital for all of my healthcare needs. Due to volunteering and coordinating for the migrant farm worker clinics I realized all those living in the U.S. do not hold this experience. The MFW experience entailed loading several cars with tables, tents, medical supplies, pharmaceuticals and giveaway bags and then driving to farms around Connecticut to set up mobile clinics for the migrant population working there. The patient would move from the registration/check-in table to the vitals station and into a medical team. After the patient would meet with a physician and go at the pharmacy table (if medication was prescribed). If the patient needs more intensive care we are lucky enough to have two free clinics we can refer them to and there is a social worker that can drive them to their appointments. My experience started two years ago when I had a

two-day volunteer period at the vitals station. Once they saw my proficiency in Spanish I was asked to come back over the course of the summer as a medical interpreter. This completely changed my career aspirations. I always knew I wanted to be a healthcare administrator but now I had found my niche. I want to use my Spanish and administrative skills to help the underserved populations. The men and women I worked with were some of the most gracious and patient people I had ever met. These workers are incredibly kind and grateful, they never complained outside of speaking of their ailment. What I took most from this experience is the realization of how necessary these clinics are. For several of the workers this is the only healthcare they will be receiving all year. Many of workers have to wait several months just to receive basic treatment such as having their vitals taken or receiving pain medicine. A unique aspect about this clinic is that everything is set up around the patient. We bring the clinic to their workplace, during their off time, with translators to do the most we can to serve them. For these clinics no appointments are necessary, we don't turn any patient away and we stay until the last patient is seen. The best part is that all services and medications are free. It's truly a unique clinic that puts the patient first.

I'm grateful for this experience and would recommend it to anyone, even if they're not involved in the medical field. These clinics will give you a first hand experience on the life of a migrant worker and a new perspective on what 'healthcare' means. "

AAA CONFERENCE



Professor **Samuel Martinez**, along with graduate student **Hannah Reier**, will participate on a panel at the American Anthropological Association Conference entitled "Nowhere": Labor and Residence in the Placeless Spaces of Modernity." The conference will take place in Denver, Colorado from November 18-22nd, 2015.

Bringing together reports based on field and archival research in nowhere spaces, this panel will explore gray areas in which total permeability to oversight is never successfully achieved even as matters of residence-making and habitation are densely intertwined with human mobility and labor management projects.

EVENTS: FALL SEMESTER 2015

August 10-16

National Puppetry Festival

Sept. 2, 5:00-7:00pm

17 Eastwood Road, Storrs

HACHA: Alternative Hour for a Hospitable Community of Border-Crossing Academics. Informal graduate and faculty gathering to share research and experiences across disciplines.

Sept. 15, 3:30-5:00pm

Puerto Rican and Latin American Cultural Center

Maceo Montoya, artist, activist, Assistant Professor of Chicana/o Studies, UC Davis. Talk: "Approaching Chicano Narratives."

Sept. 30, 2:30pm

Wood Hall Lounge (Basement)

Brazilian Ambassador Fernando Mello Barreto. Talk: "Brazil and the World."

Oct. 7, 5:00pm-7:00pm

El Instituto, Ryan Bldg., 2nd floor

HACHA: Alternative Hour for a Hospitable Community of Border-Crossing Academics. Informal graduate and faculty gathering to share research and experiences across disciplines. **Special Guest: Ariel Aguilar Reyes, Universidad de Habana**

Oct. 18, 10:00am-12:00pm

Univ. of Hartford

LadinoFest Concert with singer Susan Feltman Gaeta.

Oct. 19, 2:30pm-3:30pm

Wood Hall Lounge (Basement)

TAULA: Raul Pacheco-Vega, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, Mexico. "Deep Ethnography, Transnational Social Movement and Vulnerable Populations: Methodological Challenges and Case Studies."

Oct. 22, 2:00pm

Student Union 325

Talk: "The Environment Versus the Economy." Victor Campos Cubas, engineer and Deputy Director of the Humboldt Center in Nicaragua (a major environmentalist in Central America) and Katherrine Hoyt, National Coordinator of Alliance for Global Justice and its Nicaragua Network

Oct. 23, 8:30am-6:00pm

Oak Hall, Room 408

NECLS

Oct. 27, 4:00pm-5:30pm

Austin, Room 301

UCHI Fellows Formal Talk: Cesar Abadia-Barrero, "Kangaroo Mother Care: A Post-Colonial Medical Innovation."

Oct. 28, 12:15pm

Oak Hall, Room 438

Talk by Javier Corrales, Dwight W. Morrow 1895 professor of Political Science, Amherst College.

Oct. 28, 3:30pm-Reception/4:00pm Talk

Puerto Rican and Latin American Cultural Center

Dr. Ann Zulawski, "Urban Development, Public Health and the Environment: A Historical Case Study from San Juan, Puerto Rico and Possibilities for the Future."

Nov. 2, 4:30pm-6:30pm

Student Union, Room 304B

Mead Lecture: Javier Auyero, Professor of Sociology, University of Texas-Austin. "Violence and Everyday Ethics at the Urban Margins"

Nov. 4, 5:00pm – 7:00pm

El Instituto, Ryan Bldg., 2nd floor

HACHA: Alternative Hour for a Hospitable Community of Border-Crossing Academics. Informal graduate and faculty gathering to share research and experiences across disciplines.

Nov. 6 - 12:00pm-1:00pm

El Instituto, Ryan Bldg., 2nd floor

TERTULIA: Ariel Lambe, "The Detective Work of Studying Cuban Antifascism as Non-elite Prosopography: Methodological Challenges and Opportunities"

Dec. 2, 5:00pm – 7:00pm

El Instituto, Ryan Bldg., 2nd floor

HACHA: Alternative Hour for a Hospitable Community of Border-Crossing Academics. Informal graduate and faculty gathering to share research and experiences across disciplines. **Special Guest: Blanca Silvestrini**

SAVE THE DATE: SPRING SEMESTER 2016

March 22

TBD

Eyzaguirre Lecture: Daniel Alarcon, contemporary American writer, Distinguished Visiting Writer at Mills College and Visiting Writer at California College of the Arts, whose novels have been published in The New Yorker, Harper's, Granta, Virginia Quarterly Review and anthologized in Best American Non-Required Reading 2004 and 2005. His books include "War by Candlelight" (2006) and "At Night We Walk in Circles" (2013).