

The Latina + Latino Studies Program

# ADELANTE NU!

*Spring '15*

*Vol 4*



Towards a New Consciousness

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# Note from the Director

*I am delighted to welcome you to the LLSP Newsletter for academic year 2014-15. It has been an honor to continue to lead this dynamic academic program and to help shape an intellectual community among undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members. Situated in the interstices of multiple disciplines, yet a field of its own, Latina and Latino Studies scholarship fosters critical and alternative understandings of Latina/o communities in the United States that contest dominant narratives of the United States as a nation.*

*Since its inception in 2009, the Latina and Latino Studies Program at Northwestern continues to grow in numbers as well as in visibility and programming. Since summer 2014, the number of majors and minors has increased from nine to twenty-seven. We are excited to serve Latino/a students who want to reclaim their own histories and cultures, while also preparing all students in better serving Latino/a communities in their chosen professions. Like many interdisciplinary fields of study nationwide, Latina/o Studies is challenged by the neoliberal corporate model of higher education that privileges profit over ideas. At Northwestern, we are able to professionalize our students through rigorous, creative, and alternative intellectual work that prepares students to think critically about our country and our world, a training that leads many of them to participate in community work, social activism and political projects.*

*This past academic year was a busy one for us. In July 2014, LLSP was a major co-sponsor and organizer of "Imagining Latino Studies: Past, Present, and Future" Conference, the inaugural meeting that brought five-hundred participants to downtown Chicago to share their ongoing research and scholarship and to initiate a new international Latino Studies Association. There was immense enthusiasm for the new association and LLSP is proud to have made it happen with the cooperation of other universities in Chicago and throughout the country. This was a historic moment for the field of Latina/o Studies.*

*In 2014-15, we sponsored our annual lecture series, "Queering Latino/a Studies," which brought to campus two distinguished speakers, Professors Lorena García from UIC and Laura Gutiérrez, from University of Texas, Austin, to share their more current research projects with us. We also hosted a group of outstanding queer scholars –including Juana María Rodríguez, Sandy Soto, Frank Galarte, and Susana Peña, among others-- in May for a one-day symposium on Queer Latinidades, which engaged with the motif of "a politics of possibility." Queer theorists and scholarly projects allow all of us to rethink and trouble heteronormative ideologies and structures that limit our understanding of multiple subjectivities and the rich heterogeneity of identities, both personal and collective, that make up our Latino/a communities in the United States.*

*LLSP also hosted Maria Hinojosa in October 2014 as the keynote lecturer for Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrations at Northwestern University. We hope to continue to exercise leadership in bringing a distinguished Latino/a*

*figure to campus every fall as we honor our past, present and future in the United States.*

*This year we initiated our Brown Bag Series, which features Latino/a professors sharing their research with our majors, minors, and undergraduates. We want to continue fostering dialogue and interactions between our faculty members and our majors and minors. We are open to new suggestions for innovative activities.*

*In 2014-15 LLSP held its first year-long Teaching Assistantship approved by The Graduate School. This has enhanced our teaching in a variety of ways as well as our organizing of the Spring Symposium. Aaron Aguilar-Ramírez held the first Teaching Assistantship this year and he has done an outstanding job in Latino 201, in his own Spring 2015 course, "Queer Latinidades in film and literature," and in coordinating the Queer Latinidades symposium. We want to thank Aaron for all his dedication to the program. Next year we welcome Diego de los Ríos, from Sociology, as our TA. He will teach Latino/as and Religion in Spring 2016.*

*I am thrilled to share the great news regarding the promotion to Associate Professors with tenure of Professors John Alba Cutler (English), Geraldo Cadava (History), and John Márquez (African-American Studies). We are fortunate to have them as our brilliant colleagues in LLSP, teaching our students and writing outstanding books and articles that are rapidly transforming their disciplines and shaping the field.*

*This year Sociology hired Professor Michael Rodríguez Muñiz, who will join us in Fall 2016 as a 25% appointment in Latina and Latino Studies Program. We are thrilled to have him as one of our colleagues.*

*In closing, I want to publicly acknowledge and thank Carlos Octavio Ballinas for his outstanding contributions to the operations of our program and for the Meteor Award he received from Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences in recognition of his outstanding work during his first year at Northwestern. Thanks also to Cinthya Rodríguez and Lucero Segundo, our two work study office assistants for their continued office work and student leadership.*

*The end of the academic year is always bittersweet. Las despedidas are about new horizons as well as about parting. LLSP wishes Lucero Segundo a most productive future as she graduates as an Art and Latino Studies major! Lucero has been our office assistant and graphic designer for the last three years. LLSP has been her home and we have witnessed her intellectual, political and artistic development and leadership as a Chicana. Muchas felicidades!*

*LLSP also says good bye to Professor Lorena Alvarado, our Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow for the past two years. Lorena has been a generous colleague who has engaged with our students in the classroom, served as a mentor for a senior thesis her first year, and has also participated in our events, lectures, and programming. We have been honored to have supported her during her two years at Northwestern and have benefitted from her brilliant scholarship on Sentimiento in Mexican female singers. We wish her a most successful academic career!*

*I exhort you to read our Newsletter, to contact us with updates on your life and career, to send us your suggestions and to continue to engage with the Latina and Latino Studies Program, whether as a colleague, student, graduate student, staff, or community member. We look forward to your feedback as we continue to grow.*

*Wishing you a most restful and productive summer, I remain*

*Sincerely yours,*

*Frances R. Aparicio*

*Director*

# Alumni Perspective



LLSP was the most important part of my time as an undergrad at Northwestern. A year out from the program, I look back at all the great lectures, courses, events, and collaborations I had the great privilege to attend and can't regret my decision to be a Latin@ Studies major.

It was a hard road to get there because I had thought that to be at Northwestern one had to be a hotshot doctor or economist. However, my Biology major became a Political Science and Latin@ Studies double major in the spring of 2011 once I realized that studying the actions, creations, and realities of people was just as valuable as inventing a new medicine or monitoring stock market patterns. I felt

deeply valued by the Ethnic Studies community at Northwestern, especially by the Latin@ Studies Program and its director, Dr. Frances Aparicio. My time with the LLSP faculty and staff made me more of a critical and holistic thinker. I came to really grow comfortable with the uncomfortable while developing the skills to become an academic.

During my senior year, I had the opportunity to work alongside Dr. Lorena Alvarado on my senior thesis, "Llamaron a los Negros: The Intersections of Race, Gender, and Class in Puerto Rican Reggaetón," a project that was deeply personal and the most rewarding academic experience I had at NU. This project drove me to explore the ties between reggaetón, urbanity, class, space, blackness, media, masculinity, and community politics. It sounds like a lot, but it is an incredibly fluid and nuanced relationship. I had such a blast with the project that I am planning on expanding it while at grad school. I will be going to The University of Texas at Austin to receive a PhD in African and African Diaspora Studies after finishing my Northwestern Public Interest Program Fellowship at Chicago Public Schools' Principal Quality Office this summer.

I still get to be a doctor, just not the kind that will cure cancer. And that's alright by me.

*Beth Colon, WCAS 2014*

# Queering Latino/a Studies

LLSP is proud to have sponsored and organized a variety of events that included the Imagining Latino Studies conference, our Queering Latino/a Studies annual lecture series, the Queer Latinidades Spring Symposium, and other co-sponsored events with other units on campus.

<p><b>Playin It Safe</b> Reframing the Sexual Lives of Latina Youth <i>Lorena Garcia</i> 11.6.14</p>	<p><b>Feminist and Queer Interrogations of Neoliberalism</b> Transnational Circuits of Latina Performance <i>Laura G. Gutiérrez</i> 2.11.15</p>	<p><b>Never Late</b> Unwelcome Desires and Diasporas in Chavela Vargas' Last Works <i>Lorena Alvarado</i> 4.29.25</p>

**César Chávez: The Man, the Myth, and the Legend**  
*Miriam Pawel*  
10.08.14

**Brown Bag with Professor John Alba Cutler**  
2.06.15

**We Question While We Walk: Building Community Through Popular Education in Albany Park, Chicago**  
*Isabel Valenzuela and Tony Nelson of The Centro Autónomo*  
10.10.14

**The Chico Mendes Project with Jorge Armando**  
02.20.15

**Brown Bag with Frances Aparicio**  
04.08.15

**Latino/as in the Media**  
*Maria Hinojosa*  
10.21.14

**“Ends of Assimilation” Book Release Party**  
*John Alba Cutler*  
04.18.15

# Queer Latinidades

## Towards a Politics of Possibility

In his monograph *Cruising Utopia* (2009), José Esteban Muñoz exhorts us—Latin@s, queers, queer Latin@as, and Latin@ queers—to look toward the future and envision an imaginative and creative politics, one that addresses the difficult task of visualizing change. For Muñoz, the precondition for that change is a critical hope that accounts for the past even as it aims ahead toward the future, what he describes as “a backward glance that enacts a future vision.” Recent queer Latin@ scholarship has followed Muñoz and articulated a panoply of visionary political projects, disciplinary methodologies, and pedagogies that aim squarely at the future. Queer Latina/o scholars are scrutinizing and theorizing the political reach of coalitions, utopias, and futurities; of performance and the gestural; of the historical record, the archive, and the repertoire; and articulating pedagogies of hope and affect.

The flurry of simultaneously creative and critical work in queer Latina/o scholarship inspired the Queer Latinidades symposium celebrated at Northwestern University on May 22, 2015. The Latina and Latino Studies Program invited a cohort of scholarly and creative voices, among them established scholars, graduate students,



and community activist and writer Charles Rice-González. The event comprised three scholarly panels and a literary luncheon event. Together, these voices engaged in a creative process of world-making futurity while at the same time remaining critically cognizant of the past and the present.

The first panel, “Reappraising the Latin@ Queer Archive,” (Susana Peña, Gabriel Mayora, Jesús Estrada-Pérez), explored how queer Latin@s inhabit the archive as a body of artifacts of representation, and asked both how queer Latin@s might speak about the archive and how the physical space of the archive might be read or explored by queer Latin@s. For the second panel, “Troubling Queer Identities and



Figurations” (Juana María Rodríguez, Jorge Mena, Aarón Aguilar-Ramírez), the speakers turned to bisexuality, Latin@ undocuqueer experiences, and U.S. Latina stardom, and analyzed their relationship to national narratives of queerness. The scholars of the third and final panel (Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, Sandra Soto, Francisco Galarte) analyzed the potential for queer futurities in affective affirmations of brownness, through the perspectives of queer of color critique, trans experiences, and a politics of slowness. Charles Rice-González also took to the stage for a poignant lunchtime reading from his award-winning novel, *Chulito*, and from his current novel titled *Hunts Point*.

It was encouraging to see such a tremendous response for this event from community members, cultural organizations in the Chicago area, and from Northwestern students, faculty, and staff. Speakers and audience members alike stressed the importance of creating spaces that honor and celebrate queer Latinidad, and expressed their appreciation for this critical aperture. We extend our gratitude to the speakers, sponsors, and attendees of the symposium for making this event a reality. Gracias a tod@s!

–Aarón Aguilar-Ramírez

Ph.D. Candidate, Symposium Coordinator



art by Julio Salgado

# Student Civic Engagement



## Ayotzinapa Vigil

On September 26, 2014 students from the Ayotzinapa Normal School went to Iguala to protest education reforms and to raise money to attend a demonstration in Mexico City. Iguala police ambushed the students later that night, many of them escaped while others were arrested. A few students and pedestrians were killed that same night and the following day 43 Ayotzinapa students were declared missing by their classmates and parents.

Two months later, Northwestern students and local community members from Evanston and Chicago participated in a vigil dedicated to the 43 missing students from Ayotzinapa. The action began at Tech where Northwestern students held a demonstration in order to remember the missing as real people who had lives and personal identities. NU students marched in a circle, each holding a sign with the identity of a missing student. A drum beat three times, the participants hit the ground, and then each person got up one at a time, each commemorating the identity of a missing Ayotzinapa student. Community members then walked in a procession to the Rock, vocalizing solidarity by yelling chants such as "Ayotzinapa escucha estamos en la lucha." At the Rock, information about what occurred to the Azotzinapa students was passed out, poetry was read, and community members held a moment of silence.

–Cristy Quiroz, '16

## No More Deaths

The past three spring breaks, I have been a part of three groups who have spent a week providing humanitarian aid for migrants on the border through the organization No More Deaths. No More Deaths is based out of Tucson, Arizona and began as a humanitarian movement working to end the death and suffering in the Mexico-U.S. borderlands. This spring break, six of us headed down to these borderlands and spent a week providing desert aid by hiking through trails and leaving out supplies such as water gallons, food packs, and bean cans; helping out with the everyday maintenance of camp and mapping out trails through GPS systems. As physically, emotionally, and mentally exhausting as the week was, we were able to take this time to learn about the realities of the border, work through the ways in which our communities carry these experiences in their everyday lives, and reflect on how this type of work gives us a

space to defy the very systems that marginalize our communities on both sides of the border. Going down to Arizona to spend time doing this type of work puts into context the things we learn through our Latina/o studies courses, the things we speak out for through our involvement in student groups like M.E.Ch.A., and most importantly the border stories our parents carry with them. Moving forward, I hope that this continues to be a trip that students like us can organize and take so that we may see and remember that behind every body that migrates across these created borders, there is an act of autonomy, love, and revolution.

–Maria Marquez '16



## Black Lives Matter

This past quarter, I was involved with Black People Making History Committee– a cohort comprised of Black and Brown students at Northwestern. We developed and lead a series of

critical workshops throughout Black History Month aimed at disrupting the silence around Black death in this country and throughout the world.

As a Chicano, Black lives matter to me because I recognize my community's liberation is intimately intertwined with the liberation of Black populations globally. Black lives matter to me because the violence visited upon Black bodies is generated from the same system that polices and contains my gentes along the USA/Mexico border.

–Alejandro Banuelos '17



## César Chávez Day of Service

“Grant me the courage to serve others; for in service, there is true life.” – César Chávez. Omega Delta Phi’s 4th Annual César Chávez Commemorative Day of Service took place on the morning of Saturday, April 4th. The purpose of this day is to connect individuals to direct community service opportunities in the hopes that in the process of serving, they place the communities’ needs in front of their own. This year, 90 volunteers traveled to eight different sites that serve local neighborhood communities or that work to maintain the integrity of the local environment. Among the communities involved were the Asian-American community in Albany Park, Latinx community in Rogers Park, the LGBTQ+ community in Andersonville and Lakeview, and the Black community in Rogers Park.

César Chávez mobilized migrant farm workers in strikes, advocated against pesticide use, encouraged naturalization and voting, and led our nation in successful boycotts in order to improve the lives of those who bring food to our tables. Although he never completed a primary education, Chávez was led by a force greater than respectability--love. His love for his family, his community, and workers everywhere inspired Omega Delta Phi to commemorate his legacy in this annual day of service. ODPHI invites you to keep your calendars free on Saturday, April 3rd, 2016, for its 5th annual day of service!  
-Peter Podlipni '15



## Sand Creek Commemoration

November 29, 2014 marked the 150th Anniversary of the Sand Creek Massacre. Northwestern University’s Native American and Indigenous Student Alliance (NAISA), held a commemoration on that very day for the nearly 200 Cheyenne and Arapaho people who were killed in 1864.

NAISA learned of NU founder John Evans’s involvement in the horrific events in 2012 from sociology Professor Gary Fine. Through a formal petition and grassroots organizing, NAISA sought a full investigation of John Evans’s role in the massacre, including the institutional complicity of Northwestern, and for a broader understanding of NU’s relationship to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Nations. The Petition, and bad press for the University in the Chicago Tribune, led to the creation of the John Evans Research Committee. Following an open forum hosted by the Committee at which the Provost referred to Native Americans as “a Native species...hostile to business enterprises”, and Committee members yelled at Native women in the audience, the President fast-tracked the formation of a Native American Outreach and Inclusion Task Force. The Task Force has since produced a series of recommendations, many of which have yet to be acted upon by the University.

While these initiatives took hold somewhat at the institutional level, there remained a need to honor the Cheyenne and Arapaho who suffered at the hands of General Chivington’s cavalry in the Massacre which the University of Denver has found John Evans significantly culpable for. For the Commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Sand Creek, NAISA and Community members created 200 pairs of moccasins to represent those killed; different sized moccasins signified the ages of the women, children, and elders massacred. Prayers and words given by speakers from the University, the Chicago American Indian community, and the Cheyenne Nation invited remorse and remembrance, as well as a continuing attention to combating the ongoing violence and erasure perpetrated by colonial institutions against Native people and histories. Those in attendance then walked to the Lakefill along paths lined by moccasins, where Father Peter Powell read accounts of the massacre beside a bonfire. Working alongside Native American community members, passionate NU faculty, and friends, NAISA was able to commemorate the Cheyenne and Arapaho lives lost 150 years ago and to begin to understand the ongoing impact of the Massacre in the present for Cheyenne people. We left the Commemoration with renewed understandings of our relationships to one another, our responsibility to take on and build from this history, and in the words of the Cheyenne tribal chief Gordon Yellowman, to “make it real” at Northwestern.

-Lorenzo Gudino '17

# Graduating Majors + Minors

Please join us in congratulating our graduating majors and minors, who will be moving on to new places and new responsibilities and whose commitment to social justice will continue to help make this world a better one. We only hope that the ideas, theories, knowledge, and dialogues about Latinas/os in the United States will always inform what they do and why they choose to do it. Please come back to visit!

## Lucero Segundo



LLSP & Art Theory and Practice Major  
Hometown: Thousand Oaks, CA

*After graduation I will be visiting home in California to visit family and friends. I hope to find a job where I can contribute to a community of learning through the visual arts with a critical ethnic studies lens. I will not miss Northwestern but I will definitely miss the great people that I have grown with, especially the beautiful people in the Latino Studies and Asian American Studies Office.*

## Isabel Joanna González Peña



Majors: Psychology  
Minor: Latina and Latino Studies  
Hometown: Mundelein, IL

*After graduation I will focus on applying to graduate school programs to pursue a Doctorate of Psychology while working for/volunteering in non-profit organizations that help out communities. I hope to one day provide my services to the Spanish-speaking communities and to help raise awareness about resources that treat and prevent issues that affect not only us, but others as well.*

We would also like to congratulate our minors

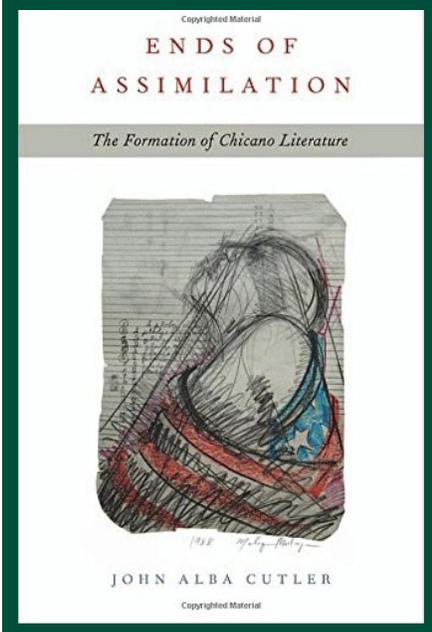
Sobeida Peralta  
Gabriela Perea

and

Stacy Sánchez!

# Accomplishments

Congratulations to Prof. John Alba Cutler for the Publication of his book *Ends of Assimilation: The Formation of Chicano Literature*



In the past academic year, Prof. Emily Maquire published *After Glissant: Caribbean Aesthetics and the Politics of Relation*. Co-editor, with Kahlil Chaar-Pérez, of a special issue of *Discourse: Journal for Theoretical Studies in Media and Culture*, 36.2 (Winter 2014).

Samantha Lee Duncan's thesis "Appraising tacos: Unraveling value-imbuing processes and narratives of authenticity" was selected as the winner of the 2015 LLSP Award for Outstanding Thesis. The committee found Duncan's thesis to be a comprehensive analysis into the authentic nuances of Mexican/Mexican American food, specifically, the taco. Her case study demonstrates how social and cultural norms of authenticity help to reconfigure the definition of "being Mexican or Mexican American" and argues that authenticity is fluid and that the way in which foods are marketed, prepared and served influences the perceptions and images of traditions.

This spring Prof. Henry Godínez was promoted to full professor.

Congratulations to our programming assistant, Carlos Ballinas, for being accepted into the Loyola Ph.D. program in Higher Education!

Congratulations to our LLSP major, Fátima Gómez, for becoming a Mellon Mays Fellow this year!

Professor Ramón H. Rivera-Servera received the 2014 Honorable Mention for the Errol Hill Award in African-American Theatre and Performance from the American Society for Theatre Research for his co-edited volume on black feminist performance, solo/black/woman: scripts, interviews, and essays (Northwestern University Press, 2013) and the 2014 Honorable Mention for the Best Book Award from the Association of Latina and Latino Anthropologists at the American Anthropological Association for his book *Performing Queer Latinidad: Dance, Sexuality, Politics* (University of Michigan Press, 2014).



Lucero Segundo presented some of her artwork at the Northwestern Art Theory and Practice Senior Show

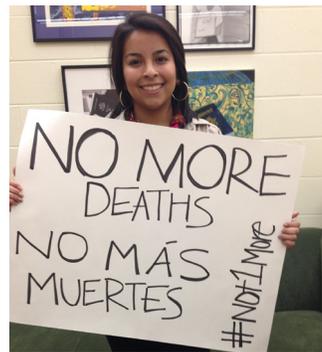
# Transitions



Congratulations to Professor Lorena Alvarado, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Latina and Latino Studies Program! We wish you much success!



LLSP welcomes Alejandro Carrión as our new Postdoctoral Fellow. His research focuses on the purpose of schooling and urban education.



After three years as a work study for the Latina and Latino Studies Program making flyers, Lucero Segundo will be graduating. She will definitely miss the office.



Mérida Rúa will be our visiting professor for the fall quarter 2015. We look forward to having her become a part of the LLSP community. She will be teaching "Coming of Age in the City: Growing Up and Growing Older in Communities of Color".



Diego de los Ríos has been awarded the Latina/o Studies teaching fellowship for 2015-2016. We look forward to working with you next year.

The **SAB's** for the **2015-2016** school year will be Cinthya Rodriguez and John Yang. If you have any comments or concerns about the Latina and Latino Studies Program, the SABs are there to be a bridge between the department and students and between the department and the school.

# Courses

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## Fall 2014

**Latino 201 - Intro to Latino Studies**

Frances Aparicio

**Latino 222 - Latino Youth**

Ana Aparicio

**Antro 390 - Suburbia in the American Imaginary**

Ana Aparicio

**Latino 392 - Coming of Age in the City**

Mérida Rúa

**Latino 392 - Latinos and Education**

Alejandro Carrión

## Winter 2015

**Latino 395 - Readings in Critical Latino Studies**

Ana Aparicio

**Antro 490 - Social Movements**

Ana Aparicio

**Latino 392 - Topics in Latino Social & Political Issues**

Jaime Dominguez

**Theater 349 - Latino Theater**

Henry Godínez

**Latino 342 - Xicana Feminism**

John Marquez

**Latino 393 / English 377 - 21st Century Latina/o Lit**

John Cutler

**Spanish 395 - Latin American & Latina/o Science Fiction**

Emily Maquire

## Spring 2015

**Latino 392 - Decolonizing Chicago**

John Marquez

**Latino 277 - Intro to Latino Literature**

Frances Aparicio

**Spanish 430 - Graduate Seminar**

Frances Aparicio

**Latino 392 - Urban Education: Race, Class, & Culture**

Alejandro Carrión

**Latino 392 - Latina/os and Religion**

Diego De Los Ríos

\*Courses are subject to change



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