Big City Stories, Small Town Lies

Title
News from Nepantla, 2017

Permalink
https://escholarship.org/uc/item/2rm385mv

Journal

Author
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Publication Date
2017

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Peer reviewed
It has been my privilege to chair the Department of Chicana/o Studies during the past year, AY2016-17. This publication was intended to be a newsletter updating you quarterly about the Department’s activities during that year, however, numerous other priorities have moved this to the proverbial back-burner. We are happy now, though, to present to you ‘A Year in Review’ of the news in our Department during the last year. I will take this opportunity to inform you that you can stay up-to-date on the Department by visiting our website, www.chicst.ucsb.edu, which was and will continue to be regularly refreshed. Our announcement and newsletter archives are online there, but the latter are also now a part of our electronic journal: ReVista on UC’s eScholarship open-source platform.

Let me also take this chance to share with you my serious concern that we will continue to face a challenging political environment for Chicanx/a/os, Latinx/a/os and people of color throughout the U.S. this academic year. The Department of Chicana/o Studies is committed to facing these challenges, but we are also looking for every opportunity to increase education, awareness and informed critical thought on campus and off. It is time for new proposals and new solutions, and what better place to look for them than within the Nepantlas that we all inhabit.

Please keep us informed of your own news, whether you are currently on campus, or have been away for some time. We have one alumna profile in this newsletter and would love to have more.

Con ustedes en la lucha,

Gerardo Aldana

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News from Nepantla, rEvista Issue X, no. Y, 2017

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Professor Aida Hurtado and former student Carmen Perez at the Women’s March on Washington
THE DAY AFTER

“REGARDLESS OF WHO WINS, MUCH WORK WILL BE LEFT TO DO THE DAY AFTER THE ELECTION.”

Prof. Ralph Armbuster-Sandoval suggested at a faculty meeting early in the Fall Quarter that it might be a good idea to open up a discussion space for students to consider the outcome of the 2016 Presidential Election. Initially, the focus looked as though it might be on the inflammatory comments consistently made by Donald Trump as a candidate and how we might be able to work toward mitigating the public media representations promoting such divisiveness. Not long into the quarter, however, it became clear that through Trump’s candidacy, social justice causes were being attacked on all fronts. As a result, Prof. Armbuster-Sandoval shifted strategy and initiated a collaboration with Asian American Studies, Black Studies, Feminist Studies and the Multi-Cultural Center (MCC). With great enthusiasm, the chairs of those departments, Professors Lisa Park (AAST), Vilna Bashi-Treitler (BST) and Eileen Boris (FMST) agreed to join Prof. Armbuster on a panel.

The event was to be held at the MCC, and it was advertised as an opportunity for students to consider the prompt: “Come and share your views about the 2016 election and where we go as a nation from here.”

With Hillary Clinton polling strong across the nation, in the days leading up to the election, it appeared as though the forum might be an opportunity for students to brainstorm strategies for consolidating the gains made by the
Obama administration, celebrate the first woman president of the U.S., while maintaining a healthy skepticism toward the legacy that Clinton would bring with her. As the results came in on November 8th, however, expectations shifted and completely different forms of anxiety came to the fore. By late Wednesday morning, the campus atmosphere was somber, anecdotes of racial harassment in the streets began to circulate, and it was clear the discussion forum would serve a different purpose.

Prof. Gerardo Aldana (CHST chair) was invited to join the panel, and the event began with each of the Department Chairs making a statement based on their own personal reflections. Comments ranged from reminders for the need of self-care, to the concern with the potential governmental legitimation of white nationalists, to acknowledgements that women and people of color have been in hostile social environments before in this country. Many attendees opined afterward, however, that the real value of the event was in the forum it provided for student voices. Over 200 students, packed Corwin Pavilion, and a healthy number of them lined up to the two microphones giving them the opportunity to respond to the panel, but also to appeal to their peers in the audience.

Unfortunately, in the weeks following this event, Donald Trump has done nothing to assuage anyone’s concerns with his looming presidency. His appointments and proposed appointments have ratified suggestions that his campaign promoted a type of American neo-Fascism and his primary concern is financially benefiting himself and his family. For us, this demonstrates that the interest in collaborating across ethnic, racial and gendered lines, of increasing inclusion of socio-economically disempowered whites and the role of Ethnic and Feminist Studies academic departments in these collaborations could not be clearer.

What’s new in CHST @ UCSB

Graduate Student “Scholars in Residence”
Janett Barragan and Sebastian Ferrada

Juan Sebastian Ferrada and Janett Barragan Miranda are our first CHST graduate student “Scholars in Residence.” Barragan and Ferrada shared a research office in the Department during Fall, Winter and Spring Quarters to work on their dissertations, which are both in advanced stages of completion. Ferrada is working under Prof. Dolores Inés Casillas and his dissertation is titled “Translating Queer Latinx Voices: Language Practices and Sexuality in a Spanish Context.” Barragan’s advisor is Prof. Miroslava Garcia-Chavez; her dissertation is titled “Chicana/o Hunger, Obesity, and the Construction of Race in the United States 1965-1985”. This new program will be continued as long as the Department has the resources available.
SENIOR FACULTY REPRESENT NATIONWIDE & INTERNATIONALLY

Professors Mario García, Aída Hurtado and Francisco Lomelí each took their research to national acclaim this year. Prof. García was honored twice; Prof. Hurtado was in heavy demand for discussions of her latest book; and Prof. Lomelí was elected to the Academia Norteamericana de la Lengua Española.

Where in the Country is Profesora Aída Hurtado?

With a powerful new book investigating masculinities within Latina/o communities, Prof. Aída Hurtado has been ‘on tour’ this quarter discussing Beyond Machismo.

March 22, 2016 San Jose State University, Department of Educational Leadership
April 5, 2016 California State University, Channel Islands, Psychology Program, Chicana/o Studies Program, Center for Integrative Studies, and Instructionally Related Activities
May 6, 2016 University of California, Berkeley, Center for Latino Policy Research
May 9, 2016 University of California, Santa Cruz, Psychology Department
October 11, 2016 California Institute for Integral Studies, San Francisco
October 19, 2016 University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg, Texas, Center for Mexican American Studies
October 23, 2016 University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville, Texas, South Texas Women Leading Government Conference, invited keynote
October 24, 2016 University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Chicano and Latino Studies Department, Psychology Department, Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies, Department of Sociology
October 25, 2016 University of Illinois, Chicago, Reimagining Masculinities Initiative, Gender and Women’s Studies, Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change
November 5, 2016 International Hispanic Network Conference, Austin, Texas, invited keynote

Professor Francisco Lomelí elected as Correspondent of the ANLE

Professor Lomelí has been elected to the prestigious Academia Norte-americana de la Lengua Española, which is a member of the Association of Academies of the Spanish Language based in Madrid, Spain. This honor is held by only one other faculty member at UCSB and resulted from Prof. Lomelí’s nomination and evaluation by an international committee of academic peers. His election places him as a “correspondent,” of which there are only 150 in the world. Charged with the maintenance and improvement of Spanish language communication in the U.S., the honor recognizes Prof. Lomelí’s status as one of the founders of the study of Chicana/o literatures within the U.S. academy.
Professor Mario Garcia Honored Twice in 2016

In recognition of his scholarly contributions to the histories of Chicana/os, Prof. García was honored in separate events in October 2016. For the first, the Oral History Association honored him with the 2016 Stetson Kennedy Vox Populi Award at the association’s 50th anniversary celebration in Long Beach.

Second, the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) named Prof. García a Distinguished Alumnus for 2016. He and other Distinguished Alumni were honored during UTEP’s Homecoming Week, Oct. 23-29. Prof. García, earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees at UTEP, which was then known as Texas Western College.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE
UCSB CHST WELL REPRESENTED AT NACCS 2106

Gerardo Aldana “Dia de Muertos, Astronomy and the Archaeological record at Ancient Teotihuacan”

Ralph Armbruster Sandoval “Starving for Justice: Spectacular Speech, the 1994 UCSB Hunger Strike, and the Struggle for Dignity”

Janett Barragan Miranda “She’ll Still Feed Her Children Beans and Tortillas: A Historical Reflection on the Implication of Eating Mexican Food 1960s-1970s”

Aracely Garcia-Gonzalez “Neoliberalism and the Chicana/o body: interrogating theoretical distance north of the U.S.-México border”

Felicia Lopez “Challenging Stereotypes of the Aztec Warrior: Ancient Nahua Accounts of War”

Alejandro Prado “The Mexican Hass Avocado, the Consumption of Multiculturalism and Neoliberal Policies”

Paulina Ramirez-Niembro “Stories from Chiapas: Neoliberalism, Resistance and Conocimiento”

Adrianna Simone “Subversive Chicana and Chicano Role Models: Decolonial Storytelling as Resistance in Michele Serros’ *Chicana Falsa and Other Stories of Death, Identity, and Oxnard and How to be a Chicana Role Model*”

Ester Trujillo “Transnational Belonging and the Salvi Diasporic Imaginary”

PANEL DISCUSSION: “Fashioning Decolonial Landscapes: Chicana Feminist Methodologies”
   o Aida Hurtado
   o Chela Sandoval
   o Micaela Diaz-Sanchez
The CHST Department was alive with visitors and academic celebrations this year thanks to the network of our faculty and graduate students and the hard work contributed by staff! Professors Micaela Diaz-Sanchez, Aida Hurtado, Mario Garcia and Francisco Lomelí in particular hosted a steady stream all year long of intellectual stimulation and social justice inspiration.
Visual Artists Ester Hernandez and Alma Lopez, 2017
GRAD PROGRAM NEWS

Our CHST PhD alumni continue to do us proud! Thirteen out of 22 who have completed the program are in teaching positions at four-year colleges/universities. Four have moved out of academia and taken administrative positions within non-profit organizations or corporations. Two have tenured positions at community colleges in California.

Adding to these successes, we now have two Ford Foundation Fellowship awardees amongst our graduate students! Magda Garcia was awarded the Ford Pre-doctoral Fellowship for 2017-18, joining Rosie Bermudez who was the first member of our program to receive a Ford Pre-doctoral Fellowship. Rosie has now also received a Ford Dissertation Fellowship for 2017-18.

RECENT FACULTY BOOKS

Professors Sandoval, Lomeli, Armbruster and Hurtado discuss their recent books at a CHST Department Reception.

More News & Accolades on our website: [www.chicst.ucsb.edu](http://www.chicst.ucsb.edu)
DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS @ UCSB

Built upon indigenous traditions and ceremonies, the celebration of Días de Muertos has grown tremendously in recent years, now supported and promoted by governments, corporations and non-profit organizations. Following this international trend, numerous independent Días de Muertos activities have been launched and have grown on and around the UCSB campus over the last several years. This year, however, the Department of Chicana/o Studies joined forces with the Office of Student Affairs and the Educational Opportunity Program to put on a huge celebration of ancestors at the Student Resources Building. The event was initiated with food, drink, altar-building activities and a silent auction of art produced by students and staff to benefit DREAM Scholars. Danza Azteca opened the formal program, followed by Raíces de Mi Tierra (Ballet Folklorico) and a student mariachi. In between performances, Prof. Gerardo Aldana gave a lecture on the evidence for Días de Muertos activities at the ancient city of Teotihuacan. Overall, the parts came together in a tremendously productive way, and participants found it rewarding that a celebration honoring ancestors served as the basis for new collaborations among the ChicanX/LatinX communities on campus.
This year, the CHST Department combined its Honors Colloquium with its annual recognition of graduating PhD students for our first annual Research Symposium. The event was kicked off with research presentations by two ABD graduate students, Natalia Villanueva and Adanari Zarate who are both hard at work completing their dissertations. Our Faculty Graduate Advisor Prof. Chela Sandoval then recognized our three new PhDs: Ester Trujillo, Adrianna Simone and Amy Foss.

The graduate program presentations completed, Undergraduate Committee Chair Prof. Inés Casillas presided over the awarding of our undergraduate Department awards, recognizing scholarship and activism in the field. These presentations were followed by Honor’s Program Director Prof. Mario Garcia, presiding over the Honor’s Student Presentations.

Congratulations to all for advancing the field and renewing the Department’s commitment to social justice!
2017 Research Symposium

Graduate Student Papers

Adanari Zarate, ABD. “Racial and Linguistic Perceptions of Spanish Among Latina/o Santa Ana High School Youth.”

Graduating PhD Presentations
Ester Trujillo, Ph.D 2017. “Understanding and Negotiating U.S. Salvadoran Ethnic Identity in the Diaspora.” Committee: Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval,

Adrianna Simone, Ph.D. 2017. “It Was NEVER Fiction: The Decolonized Voice of Michele Serros.” Committee: Francisco Lomeí, Maria Herrera Sobek

Undergraduate Awards
Carlos Ornelas Service Award: Veronica Mandujano & Luis Becerril

Most Academic Promise for Graduate Studies: Laura Tovar & Andrea Ortega

Outstanding Undergraduate Academic Achievement Award: Shelby Benavidez

Acevedo Memorial Spirit Award: Jennifer Martinez & Oscar Cabrera

Honor's Student Presentations
Neftaley Arceo, Latino Engagement with Home Media through Redbox. Mentor: Professor D. Inés Casillas

Carly Corona, The Role of Accents in Stereotypic Depictions of Latinas/os in the Media. Mentor: Professor D. Inés Casillas

Tanya Cortez, The Impacts of Language in Math Education. Mentors: Professor Rebeca Mireles Rios and Dr. Sarah Roberts

Kimberly Hernandez, Latin@ Crossover Music: Spaces and Representations for Today’s Latin@s. Mentor: Professor Francisco Lomelí

Kimberly Ibarra, "Not Your Pilates Class": A Relational Study of Zumba Classes as Cultural Safe Spaces. Mentor: Professor Micaela Díaz-Sánchez

Jennifer Martinez, The Tales of Legal Orphanhood: Case studies of citizen children with deported parents. Mentor: Professor Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval

Alejandra Melgoza, Just a Mile Away: Colonialism, the Hispanic Serving Institution, and the Unfinished Pipeline. Mentor: Professor Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval

Andrea Muñoz, Oral History Testimonio: Margarita “Mita” Cuarón. Mentor: Professor Mario García

Margarita Murillo, Warpaint stories of Self-Love, Empowerment, and Survival through Makeup. Mentor: Professor Aída Hurtado

Guadalupe Abigail Pulido, A Chismosx Habitat: Exploring Gender and Sexuality in Representations of Indigeneity. Mentor: Professor Gerardo Aldana
CHST PEER ADVISORS

Created and developed by CHST Undergraduate Advisors Sonya Baker and Shariq Hashmi, AY2016-17 saw the second cohort of CHST Peer Advisors in the Department. Through in-person and online advising, Peer Advisors help students understand and navigate major requirements, university policies, and career options with a Chicana/o Studies major. Peer Advisors also represent the Department in recruitment activities for current and incoming UCSB students. Chicana/o Peer Advisors are critical to the Department’s mission to recruit and retain students to degree completion at UCSB. Our 2016-17 Peer Advisors were Mara Tinajero, Micaela Rodriguez-Tovar, and Marco Madariaga.

MARA TINAJERO began her second year at UCSB in Fall 2016 as a double-major, studying Chicana/o Studies and Sociology. Mara is an officer with the Student Initiated Recruitment and Retention Center (SIRRC) and is heavily involved with mentoring high school and undergraduate students. Upon graduation, she plans to lead a non-profit organization to help students from low-income backgrounds access higher education.

MICAELA RODRIGUEZ-TOVAR began her third year at UCSB in Fall 2016, also as a Chicana/o Studies and Sociology double major. Micaela works with the Educational Opportunity Program, and is an officer for student organizations including La Escuelita and Improving Dreams, Equality, Access, and Success (I.D.E.A.S.). Micaela plans to go to law school and work as an attorney to advocate for undocumented immigrant communities.

MARCO MADARIAGA transferred to UCSB in Fall 2015 and began his second year in Fall 2016 as a Chicana/o Studies major. Marco works with the University Center as a Receptionist and Transfer Center as a Transfer Student Mentor. Marco plans to attend law school in order to advocate for underserved communities.
CHST Alumna

Jessica Lozano (CHST B.A. ‘05) stopped by the CHST Department Table at NACCS 2017 to visit. As an undergraduate, Jessica wrote a senior thesis, which served as a “pilot” for the Honor’s Program that started the following year. At NACCS, she informed us that after graduating, she did social work for a few years before enrolling in graduate school at the University of Washington. She is now working on her PhD there in the Department of Anthropology.

Best wishes to all our UCSB CHST Alumni! If you have a story to tell us, email us, phone us, or stop by at NACCS 2018!