



HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTIONS PATHWAYS TO THE PROFESSORIATE

Directed by the Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions (CMSI)
and funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation



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ABOUT THE PROGRAM



WHAT IS A HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTION (HSI)?

Hispanic Serving Institutions are designated by the federal government as having at least 25% Latinx students enrolled at the undergraduate level and support a high proportion of low-income students.

WHAT IS THE HSI PATHWAYS TO THE PROFESSORIATE PROGRAM?

The HSI Pathways to the Professoriate program supports 90 students from HSIs, mainly Latinx, on their pathway to the professoriate in the humanities and social sciences, beginning in their junior year through their first year of a Ph.D. program. The program uses a cohort model with 30 students across three HSIs per year working toward entry into a Ph.D. program. The program's goal is to increase the number of Latinx professors working in the humanities at U.S. colleges and universities.

WHY PATHWAYS FROM HSIs?

- Less than 4% of the professoriate identifies as Latinx
- Over 60% of Latinx students are enrolled at HSIs across the nation
- HSIs confer the largest percentage of Latinx college degrees in the humanities and social sciences¹



¹(García & Dwyer, 2018; Castro Samayoa, Gasman, González & Milian, 2018)

HOW DO WE SUPPORT HSI PATHWAYS FELLOWS?

- Designated Individual Faculty Mentor
- Peer Cohort Support
- Coordinated Theoretical and Methodological Training
- GRE Preparation
- Intensive Writing Preparation
- Conference and Networking Opportunities
- Graduate School Visits
- Guided Research Experience
- Publication Experience
- \$9,570.00 in Financial Stipends (undergraduate and post graduate)



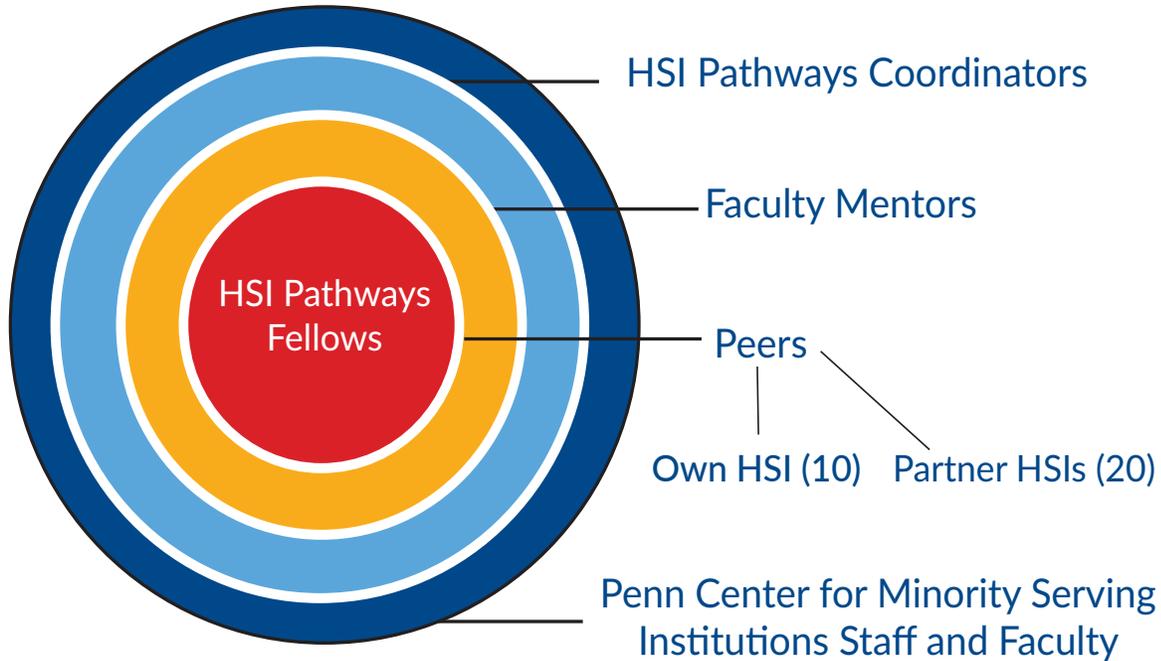
WHAT MAKES HSI PATHWAYS UNIQUE?



- **Coordinated cross-institutional effort** focusing on HSI Pathways Fellows' rigorous development of pre-doctoral **writing, critical thinking, and research** skills
- Intentional development of HSI Pathways Fellows' **soft skills** needed to thrive in graduate programs and academia
- Development of **collegial networks** across multiple disciplines
- **Embedded research** component with a continuous feedback loop for the program's improvement
- Selection of associated staff & faculty invested in **asset-based mentorship** for HSI Pathways Fellows' success
- Foundation on **HSI success**

WRAP AROUND MENTORING

Each HSI Pathways Fellow receives wrap around mentoring from the various partners in the HSI Pathways to the Professoriate program.



WHO ARE THE HSI PATHWAYS INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS?



HSI Pathways is a consortium of institutions, including three Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) and five Majority Research Institutions (MRIs). These institutions are working together to create seamless pathways to the Ph.D. for HSI Pathways Fellows. Each of the eight institutions has a coordinator who works to guide HSI Pathways Fellows as they prepare to enroll in doctoral programs.

HSIs:

- California State University, Northridge
- Florida International University
- The University of Texas at El Paso

MRIs:

- New York University
- Northwestern University
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Davis
- University of Pennsylvania

ROLE OF MENTORS



THE ROLE OF HSI MENTORS

- Advise HSI Pathways Fellows on independent research project
- Support HSI Pathways Fellows through Ph.D. application process
- Empower HSI Pathways Fellows with extensive academic and social support
- Attend national HSI Pathways Cross Institutional Conference

THE ROLE OF MRI MENTORS

- Provide insight on the Ph.D. process at their respective institution
- Present at partner HSIs on areas of expertise
- Attend national HSI Pathways Cross Institutional Conference
- Mentor HSI Pathways Fellows, if they matriculate to the MRI

HSI PATHWAYS FELLOWS' PROFILE



- Currently completing or have completed a bachelor's degree at one of the three partner HSIs: California State University, Northridge, Florida International University or The University of Texas at El Paso
- Demonstrate innovative research interests in humanities and social sciences
- Possess academic acumen and promise as demonstrated by academic references, interviews, written application, and transcripts
- Commitment to scholarly values and personal development
- Fluent in multiple languages and possess cultural competency
- Possess meaningful individual stories and life experiences

WHO ARE THE HSI PATHWAYS FELLOWS?

Students selected for the HSI Pathways to the Professoriate program demonstrate exceptional promise as future faculty in the humanities and social sciences. Their research interests, academic acumen, personal stories, and professionalism embody the values of the next generation of promising scholars. During their tenure as HSI Pathways Fellows, these future colleagues refine their research skills, learn how to effectively manage academic environments, and cultivate a commitment to advancing a more equitable professoriate. The breadth of life experiences and disciplinary interests displayed in each of their biographies is a testament to the exciting scholarship that we can look forward to reading in the coming years.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HSI PATHWAYS COHORT 1 (2017-2018)

180	Number of Ph.D. Programs to which Cohort 1 collectively applied
22	Number of Ph.D. Programs to which Cohort 1 was accepted
7.5	Average number of applications per student across all three partner HSIs
14	Number of HSI Pathways Fellows matriculating to Ph.D. programs
8	Number of HSI Pathways Fellows matriculating to M.A. programs

HSI Pathways Fellows from Cohort 1 will be matriculating into the following doctoral programs:

- Arizona State University (Religious Studies)
- City University of New York: Graduate Center (Sociology)
- Emory University (Comparative Literature)
- New York University (English)
- Northwestern University (Performance Studies)
- The Ohio State University (Linguistics)
- Rutgers University (Comparative Literature)
- University of California, Davis (English)
- University of California, Davis (Philosophy)
- University of Iowa (History)
- University of Michigan (Anthropology)
- University of Minnesota (American Studies)
- University of Minnesota (History)
- University of North Carolina, Greensboro (English)



Maria Ahumada

Graduate Institution: University of California, Davis

Academic Program: Ph.D., English

Research Keywords: Latinx literature, culturally-relevant instruction, gender roles, socialized norms

Maria Ahumada recently graduated from Florida International University (FIU) where she obtained her B.A. in English and a minor in Education. She was born in Barranquilla, Colombia and grew up in Queens, New York. During her undergraduate years at FIU, she worked as a front desk assistant at the Women's Center and the Center for Leadership and Service. Working at these offices provided her with various opportunities to grow as a leader and find her voice. Her work experience, the various English courses that she took as an undergraduate at FIU, and becoming an HSI Pathways Fellow inspired her interest in U.S. Latinx literature. Maria will be pursuing her Ph.D. in English at the University of California, Davis. Her research focuses on the role that gender norms play in the home in U.S. Latinx literature. She aspires to become an English professor and engage undergraduate students with literature that voices their experiences, the way that it did for her.



Carla Aldrete

Undergraduate Institution: The University of Texas at El Paso, 2018

Academic Program: B.A., Sociology and Communications

Research Keywords: social justice, Chicano studies, identity development, race

Carla Aldrete Fiscal is a recent graduate of The University of Texas, El Paso. She received a B.A. in Sociology and Communication Studies. Her areas of interest include gender studies, race studies, Chicano studies and areas of social justice.

Carla recently sat on the 2016-2017 Youth Advisory Board of the Girls Empowerment Network, an Austin-based organization that provides enriching programs for middle school-aged girls as they navigate the unique pressures of girlhood. She has also been a "Wish Granter," for the North Texas chapter of Make-A-Wish since the summer of 2015. She currently works at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in El Paso, Texas.



Shawntel Barreiro

Graduate Institution: The Ohio State University

Academic Program: Ph.D., Linguistics

Research Keywords: sociolinguistics, language contact, language ideologies, Salvadoran diaspora

Shawntel Barreiro is a Ph.D. student at The Ohio State University, where she will be pursuing a doctoral degree in Linguistics. She earned a B.A. in Linguistics and Chicana/o Studies from California State University, Northridge (CSUN) and graduated summa cum laude. During her time at CSUN, Shawntel worked as a research assistant, linguistics tutor, and supplemental instructor. As an HSI Pathways Fellow, her research project focused on the linguistic accommodation of Salvadoran diasporic communities residing in Los Angeles and Washington D.C. Her current research interests include how language contact with other non-Central American communities and external sociocultural pressures affect Central American diasporic communities' language ideologies.



Elizabeth Calzada

Graduate Institution: University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Academic Program: Ph.D., History

Research Keywords: Ancient Rome, Roman Empire, Augustus, gender politics, sociopolitical tools of oppression, Greek tragedies, Euripides

Elizabeth Calzada is a Ph.D. student at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities where she is studying History with a specialization in Ancient Studies. She recently graduated from California State University, Northridge where she obtained her B.A. in History. Her research interests focuses on the transition of the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire and the corresponding changes affecting women's roles in society, during the reign of Augustus. She is also interested in the Greek tragedies, primarily those of Euripides, and their ability to highlight the gender disparities in a fiercely democratic patriarchy



Gabriela Diaz

Graduate Institution: Florida State University

Academic Program: M.A., English with a concentration in Rhetoric and Composition

Research Keywords: rhetoric and composition, individual voice, activism, Latinx students, social awareness

Gabriela Diaz Guerrero graduated from Florida International University (FIU) with a B.A. in English, a minor in History, and a certificate in Professional and Public Writing. Her current research interests include studying rhetoric and composition involving the individual and first-person voice in different time periods, examining writing/other rhetorical efforts that could indirectly affect social justice causes or attitudes towards activism, and trying to discover the potential of new media to bring forth the voices of Latinx humanities students and their works outside of current academia constraints. Her research interests largely arise from questioning rhetoric and composition's microcosmic effects on social causes and awareness.



Jared Diaz

Graduate Institution: Arizona State University, Tempe

Academic Program: Ph.D., Religious Studies

Research Keywords: Chinese religion(s), Buddhism, Taoism, post-colonial Taiwan, anthropology, post-modernism

Jared Diaz is a Ph.D. student at the Arizona State University School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies and a teaching assistant in Religious Studies. He earned a B.A. in Linguistics & Religious Studies with a minor in Anthropology from California State University, Northridge. His research interests center on East Asian religions, including trends in contemporary Chinese Buddhism and Taoism, with particular consideration on post-colonial Taiwan; the negotiation between modern values regarding sex, gender, and sexuality and ancient religious traditions; and the interplay between prevailing political/economic institutions and traditional religious beliefs and practices.



Star Fligel

Graduate Institution: University of Nevada, Reno

Academic Program: M.A., History

Research Keywords: Latin America, historical epidemics, medicine, environment, gender, race, identity

Star Fligel is an M.A. student in the Department of History and a Core Humanities graduate teaching assistant at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). In Spring 2018, she completed a B.A. in History, summa cum laude, at The University of Texas at El Paso, serving as the Liberal Arts Banner Bearer. She was also awarded the Department of History's Outstanding Bachelor of Arts Graduate and Outstanding Religious Studies Minor Award. While earning her degree, she worked as a writing tutor at El Paso Community College supporting first-time college students, military-affiliated students, dual credit and early college high school students, and continuing education students. Her research interests include epidemics, medicine, and the environment in Latin America with a focus on gender, race, and identity. As an undergraduate, she investigated the impact of the loss of Mexican women's labor during Mexico's 1520 smallpox epidemic in the context of the Conquest. Star aspires to work as a history professor aiding underrepresented students and underserved communities.



Jasmin Flores

Undergraduate Institution: The University of Texas at El Paso, 2018

Academic Program: B.A., Creative Writing

Research Keywords: feminist theory, gender, class, education, Chicana/o studies

Jasmin Flores recently graduated from The University of Texas at El Paso with a B.A. in Creative Writing. She is interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in English and looks forward to teaching a new generation of scholars to appreciate the literary form. Her first poem, *The Odd Girl*, was published in the Texas Collection of Young Poets in 2007. Since then, her essays, short stories, and poems have been published by various literary journals and magazines such as *ForWord: A BorderSenses Literary Journal* and *Las Latinitas Magazine*. Jasmin has interned with BorderSenses and volunteered with events such as Day of the Girl and Frida Fest held by Las Latinitas. She lives in El Paso, Texas with her mother and her best friend on four legs, her dog Scarlett.



Jason Fontana

Graduate Institution: Florida International University

Academic Program: M.A., History

Research Keywords: post-colonialism, race, British empire, imperialism

Jason Fontana is pursuing an M.A. in History at Florida International University (FIU). He completed his B.A. in History at FIU and graduated summa cum laude with a Worlds Ahead distinction. His research interests include the expansion of the British Empire, post-colonialism, and the role of race in former imperial spaces.



Michael S. Garcia

Graduate Institution: Florida International University

Academic Program: M.F.A., Creative Writing

Research Keywords: fiction, creative writing, mystery, film

Michael S. Garcia is a writer, student, and graduate assistant in the Creative Writing program at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami, FL. He earned a B.A. in English with a Certificate in Film Studies from FIU. His work has been published by *Nanoism*, *Shotgun Honey*, *Typehouse*, and others. He writes because the power of writing mystifies him, and he loves a good mystery.



Amanda González

Graduate Institution: Rutgers University, New Brunswick

Academic Program: Ph.D., Comparative Literature

Research Keywords: Caribbean identity, Caribbean literature, post-colonial theory, deconstruction, diaspora, language, bearing witness

Amanda González Izquierdo is a first-year Ph.D. student studying Comparative Literature at Rutgers University, New Brunswick. She obtained a B.A. from Florida International University, where she majored in English, minored in Philosophy, and completed a certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Her research interests situate themselves in the dialogue between continental philosophy (focusing on deconstructive ethics) and post-colonial Caribbean theory and literature. Her work raises questions about post-colonial diasporic experiences, the role that language plays in the fashioning of post-colonial identities, and the challenges and the ethical imperatives of bearing witness in the post-colonial Caribbean.



Victor Hurtado

Undergraduate Institution: The University of Texas at El Paso, 2018

Academic Program: B.A. in Art History

Research Keywords: social justice, medieval art, Renaissance art

Victor Hurtado recently earned his B.A. in Art History with a minor in Intelligence and National Security Studies from The University of Texas at El Paso. His research interests include Venetian Renaissance art and cultural security. Victor has delivered conference papers titled *A Turn of the Century Building: U.S. Post Office* at the 3rd Annual Art History Symposium, *Daesh: A Threat to Cultural Security* at the National Security Studies Colloquium, *A Portrait of a Man with Allegorical Symbols: Lorenzo Lotto on Vice and Virtue* at the HSI Pathways Cross Institutional Conference, and *The Rhetoric and Practices of Cultural (In)security* at the 2018 International Studies Association Convention in San Francisco, California. He studied abroad in both Morocco and Italy, where he traveled and conducted research on late medieval and Renaissance art. A supporter of historic preservation in El Paso, Victor is a student intern at the Texas Trust Society's Architectural Preservation Committee and former intern at the Texas Historical Commission in Austin.



Stephanie Janania

Graduate Program: Florida International University

Academic Program: M.A., English

Research Keywords: film, cinema, gender studies, queer analyses, literature

Stephanie Marie Janania is currently pursuing an M.A. at Florida International University (FIU). Stephanie graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in English from FIU. During her time as an undergraduate student, Stephanie took courses in film, professional technical writing, gender studies, and secondary education. She was also very active on campus and was both Marketing Director and President of FIU's English Honor Society. Upon graduating, Stephanie has continued to contribute to the FIU community and will be assisting current undergraduate students establish the first student-led film festival at FIU. Her research analyzes the connection between 20th and 21st century films/literature and the idea of non-normativity. She is interested in delving into how films frame diversity in relation to gender dynamics, queer character representation, and the male gaze. Her research ponders the preconceptions of the individual that controls the lens, what the lens captures, and what the audience decides to consume.



Estefany Lopez

Graduate Institution: New York University

Academic Program: Ph.D., English

Research Keywords: critical theory, postmodern aesthetics, cosmopolitanism, cultural exchange and formation

Estefany Lopez is a Ph.D. student studying English at New York University's Graduate School of Arts and Science. She received her B.A. in English from Florida International University (FIU). Her research encompasses critical theory, particularly Marxist and Critical Race criticisms, as well as philosophies of language and minority literature. Her areas of interest are 20th-21st century U.S. Literature, and the intersections of literary discourse with contemporary cultural and political formations. She is also interested in postmodern aesthetics and its application to questions of identity, community, and meaning. After attending the Salzburg Global Citizenship Seminar in 2016, she has been interested in cosmopolitanism and the dynamics of cultural exchange. In Fall 2017, she was awarded the Butler Waugh Scholarship from the English Department at FIU. Prior to beginning her doctoral studies, Estefany worked as a tutor and mentor at the Student Support Services Program at FIU, a capacity which has deepened her appreciation of multicultural and inclusive approaches to education.



Francisco López

Graduate Institution: Emory University

Academic Program: Ph.D., Comparative Literature

Research Keywords: post-structuralism, continental philosophy, cultural studies

Francisco López is a Ph.D. student in the Comparative Literature program at Emory University. He completed a B.A. at Florida International University, double majoring in Philosophy and English while also completing a certificate in Exile Studies. His primary interests are in intersections of culture, contemporary philosophy and literature with particular consideration for emergences of identity and ethics through a deconstructive lens. Broadly, his interests are in continental philosophy, cultural studies, theories of embodiment, and deconstruction with emerging interests in affect theory, psychoanalysis, and new materialism.

Outside of his studies, he's an aspiring rugby referee who officiates throughout the southeastern US and has been a part of international test matches and elite-level tournaments. He is Mexican-American, enjoys friendship, and sometimes likes to be referred to as Cisco.



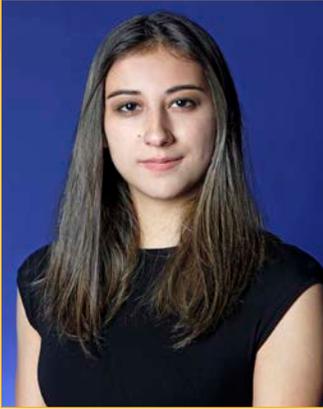
Johanna Lopez

Graduate Institution: University of Iowa

Academic Program: Ph.D., History

Research Keywords: oral history, borderland history, digital humanities, gender, displacement, memory

Johanna Lopez is a Ph.D. student at the University of Iowa's Graduate School of History and a recipient of the Lulu Merle Johnson Fellowship. She earned a B.A. with a double major in Chicano Studies and History at The University of Texas at El Paso. Her current research interests include borderland history through the examination of marginalized people and focused on community impacts of displacement through a lens of gender. Through the Digital Humanities certificate offered at the University of Iowa, Johanna hopes to incorporate oral history and cinematography towards her dissertation.



Alejandra Lozano

Undergraduate Institution: The University of Texas at El Paso, 2018

Academic Program: B.A., English and American Literature, minor in Film Studies

Research Keywords: film, race, gender, sexuality

Alejandra Lozano recently graduated from The University of Texas at El Paso with a B.A. in English and American Literature with a minor in Film Studies. She graduated from the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education of Torreón, Coahuila, México in 2012.

Alejandra's research focuses on modern independent cinema and its versatility; particularly its ability to portray unrepresented aspects of our society, ranging from class, race, gender, and sexuality. She also focuses on the absence of women within the film industry and the evaluation of gender bias, not only in female characters but in female directors, editors, screenwriters and cinematographers as well. Alejandra was one of 47 UTEP students that received the IME Becas Scholarship for her outstanding academic achievement within her area of study as a Mexican undergraduate in the United States.



Brian Mercado

Graduate Institution: The Graduate Center of the City University of New York

Academic Program: Ph.D., Sociology

Research Keywords: education, students of color, school-to-prison pipeline, social stratification

Brian Mercado is a Ph.D. student at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. He completed a B.A. in General Sociology from California State University, Northridge. His research interests include the experiences of students of color when attempting to navigate educational spaces, the ways that interconnected systems of power in-and-around school settings impact marginalized students, and the struggles of at-risk youth that are entangled in the school-to-prison pipeline.



Yaquelin Morales

Graduate Institution: Northwestern University

Academic Program: Ph.D., Performance Studies

Research Keywords: gentrification, digital space, urban sociology, women of color in activism, poetry, urban feminism

Yaquelin Morales is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Performance Studies at Northwestern University. She earned a B.A. in Sociology from California State University, Northridge (CSUN). During her time at CSUN, Yaquelin worked as a research assistant for multiple professors. As an HSI Pathways Fellow, her research project *Reclaiming Space: Latina Feminist Poetry as Resistance in Los Angeles* examined the ways in which the Los Angeles-based Latina feminist poetry collective, Chingona Fire, established a relationship between performance and digital media to protest gentrification in their community. Her research interests include performance in communities of color and how the occupation of digital and gentrified spaces by women of color are often not recognized as social-political movements.



Kiara Padilla

Graduate Institution: University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Academic Program: Ph.D., American Studies

Research Keywords: migration, incarceration, mental health, mental health policy, race and gender violence

Kiara Padilla is pursuing a Ph.D. in American Studies at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities and will engage with the Race, Indigeneity, Gender, and Sexuality (RIGS) Initiative on campus. While studying at the University of Minnesota, Kiara will be guided by her first-year advisor, Bianet Castellanos and will continue to explore her research interests. Her research stems from examining the intersection of race, incarceration, migrant experiences, and mental health. More specifically, she will study how Latinx migrant “lifers” with mental health issues re-integrate into Mexican society at the U.S./Mexico border after being incarcerated and lacking mental health resources. Kiara is a recent graduate of California State University, Northridge, where she obtained a B.A. in Psychology and Chicana/o Studies.



Janie Raghunandan

Graduate Institution: University of North Carolina, Greensboro
Academic Program: Ph.D., English
Research Keywords: rhetoric, composition, writing center studies

Janie Raghunandan is pursuing a Ph.D. in English at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro (UNCG). She is a recent graduate of Florida International University (FIU), where she obtained a B.A. in English with a minor in Communication Arts and a certificate in Professional and Technical Writing. At FIU, she worked as a writing consultant at the Center for Excellence in Writing for three years. This experience allowed her to actively explore both rhetoric and composition and enriched her curiosity in writing center pedagogy. Her passion for rhetoric, composition, and writing center studies is sparked by a desire to help other people unlock their own writing abilities, educate others, and express their multifaceted identities. The pedagogical aspects of writing center work have exposed her to the larger effects and implications of how teaching can impact students' learning. At UNCG, she hopes to explore rhetorical theory, feminist rhetorical theory, composition theory, and pedagogy that focuses on deep learning and students' intrinsic motivations.



Hermes Rocha

Graduate Institution: University of California, Davis
Academic Program: Ph.D., Philosophy
Research Keywords: just war theory, jus in bello, combatant, war is hell, Latin American philosophy

Hermes Rocha is pursuing a Ph.D. in Philosophy at the University of California, Davis. His interests are political and social philosophy and just war theory. Hermes' current research explores a phenomenological analysis of first-hand accounts of combat and how these experiences affect just war theory's epistemological foundations.

Hermes earned a B.A. in Honors Philosophy and Religious Studies at California State University, Northridge (CSUN). Prior to graduating, he was awarded the Sidney A. Luckenbach Memorial Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. Hermes was a board member of the Student Philosophy Club at CSUN as well as the student representative for the Philosophy Department. As a student representative, he encouraged his peers, especially those belonging to underrepresented populations, to pursue a foundational philosophical education or take on philosophy as a major or minor. Hermes' research focuses on the development of Latin American philosophy and the influence of the political/cultural effects of *mestizaje* in this philosophy.



Lyandra Sanchez

Undergraduate Institution: The University of Texas at El Paso

Academic Program: B.A., English and American Literature

Research Interests: law, gender, pop culture

Lyandra Sanchez is a senior at The University of Texas at El Paso and is pursuing a B.A. in English and American Literature. Her research interests include the presence of conduct books in the 21st century and how the intersection of law and gender within this genre sparks prominent themes in politics and pop culture.



Mario Sanchez

Graduate Institution: The University of Texas at El Paso

Academic Program: M.A., History

Research Keywords: Mexican history, prohibition

Mario Sanchez is a first-year graduate student pursuing an M.A. in History at the University of Texas at El Paso, where he also received his B.A. in History. Prior to residing in the United States, he lived in Mexico for 15 years developing his interest in Mexican history that ultimately transformed into his research. During his undergraduate career, Mario worked with his mentor, Samuel Brunk, on the social and economic effects of the American Prohibition in Mexico during the 1920s and early 1930s. Besides his current research, he is also interested in 19th and 20th century Mexican history.

When he is not “devouring” books and writing papers, Mario enjoys playing futbol and listening to music. He has volunteered as a soccer coach for a local high school and has worked in the school system supporting students academically; however, he likes to pay special attention to students coming from other countries to guide them the same way that he was once guided.



Joshua Scheer

Graduate Institution: Boston College

Academic Program: M.A., Philosophy

Research Keywords: 19th and 20th century continental philosophy, aesthetics, pragmatism, phenomenology

Joshua Scheer is a graduate student currently pursuing an M.A. in Philosophy at Boston College. He recently graduated with a B.A. in Philosophy with honors from Florida International University (FIU). At FIU, he also held a leadership role in the Philosophy Honor Society. His primary research interests lie in 19th and 20th century continental philosophy, particularly the discipline of phenomenology. He also holds a keen interest in aesthetics, American pragmatism, and theories pertaining to contemporary movements in societies and culture.



Eryn Talevich

Graduate Institution: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Academic Program: Ph.D., Anthropology

Research Keywords: dress, textiles, gender, materiality, performativity, festival, craft process, folk religion, magical thinking and identity-making, sociocultural anthropology

Eryn Talevich is pursuing a Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She earned her B.A. in Anthropology at California State University, Northridge, with a minor in Queer Studies. As an undergraduate, her ethnographic work focused on Beatrice Wood's style, and informed her passion for dress studies. Her research engages the anthropology of dress and textiles, specifically the intersection of clothing and power. Her interest in contemporary festival dress and drag focuses on materiality and performance, and seeks to explore the ways that clothing contains (through artisanship, sympathetic and contagious magic, folk religion, and inheritance), and conveys agency (assemblage, embodiment, and ritual) in identity making. Her aim is to celebrate strategies of empowerment, with attention to how "tradition" functions as a sophisticated approach to challenge and transform politics of exchange, spirituality, and gender in transnational contexts.



Elizabeth Vigil

Undergraduate Institution: The University of Texas at El Paso, 2018

Academic Program: B.A., English and American Literature with a concentration in Chicano/a Studies and Anthropology with a sociocultural specialization and a concentration in Religious Studies

Research Keywords: ethnic American literature, food studies, cultural tradition, food and culture, race, religion

Elizabeth Vigil is an alumna of The University of Texas at El Paso where she earned a B.A. in English and American Literature with a concentration in Chicano Studies and in Anthropology with a sociocultural specialization and a concentration in Religious Studies. Her research interests are grounded in contemporary ethnic American literature and use of all forms of traditional and non-traditional literature to investigate the representations of the mouth as the pathway to transnational connection of peoples. Elizabeth studies the relationship between the mouth as a transfer of cultural tradition, the use of food as a form of social control through food-shaming discourse, the transformation of tradition by younger generations who adjust cuisine and religion to fit their lifestyle, and the use of religion as a form of segregation which predates race. She will pursue a Ph.D. in Literature in the near future.



Paolo Aiello

Undergraduate Institution: California State University, Northridge

Major: Central American Studies and Spanish Literature

Mentor: Alicia Ivonne Estrada

Research Keywords: testimonio, Central America, Critical Race Theory, postcolonialism

Paolo Aiello is a fourth-year student at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) pursuing a B.A. in Spanish Literature and Central American Studies. During his time at CSUN, he has served as an archival assistant for the Central American Studies Visual Archive and Library, and has worked for the CSUN EOP DREAM Center, helping to serve the community of undocumented students and allies on campus. He currently works for the CSUN Learning Resource Commons as a supplemental instructor, overseeing UNIV 61 courses, which aim to strengthen the writing abilities of first-time freshmen. His research interests include testimonial literature, writings of the Central American diaspora, and the production of diasporic identity. He is currently exploring research related to the testimonials of undocumented and disabled immigrants.



Sara Almalla

Undergraduate Institution: California State University, Northridge

Major: Sociology

Mentor: Moshoula Capous-Desylla

Research Keywords: diaspora, Muslim women, intersectionality, international sociology, critical race feminism, phenomenology, queer theory, social movements

Sara Almalla is a Syrian Muslim American. She was raised in Saudi Arabia and returned to the U.S. to pursue higher education. Sara is a senior at California State University, Northridge and is pursuing a B.A. in Sociology. She is currently conducting independent research that explores the intersecting identities of Muslim women in post-secondary institutions and how these women are identifying and developing methods of resisting oppression, creating “third spaces,” and empowering themselves. Her research interests include using interdisciplinary methods to explore gender and sexuality in Muslim communities and the diaspora of Muslim women both nationally and internationally. She is particularly concerned with understanding the ways in which diasporic Muslim women mobilize and create community across social, institutional, and geographical spaces.



Jessica Armendariz

Undergraduate Institution: The University of Texas at El Paso

Major: English and American Literature

Mentor: Ruben Espinosa

Research Keywords: Mexican/American border, heteronormative behavior, gender expression

Jessica Armendariz is an undergraduate student at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) where she is pursuing a B.A. in English and American Literature with a minor in Creative Writing. Jessica's areas of interest are Romantic and Gothic literature. Currently, her research includes the exploration of borders and heteronormativity in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Living on la frontera, Jessica has a personal understanding of the physical and psychological effects of the border. Jessica is a member of Sigma Tau Delta, UTEP's English Honor Society. She is also a member and public relations officer of the Creative Writing Society, a newly established organization at UTEP. In this society, students workshop their writing and plan to publish work annually. Jessica has been on the Dean's List for four consecutive years, starting from her first semester of college in the fall of 2014.



Stephanie Butt

Undergraduate Institution: Florida International University

Major: International Relations and Philosophy

Mentor: Markus Thiel

Research Keywords: critical theory, post-colonial theory, philosophy, international ties and relations

Stephanie Maria Butt is a Peruvian American who was raised in Peru before returning to the U.S. to pursue higher education. Stephanie is currently an undergraduate student at Florida International University (FIU) earning a B.A. in International Relations and Philosophy. Her primary research interests include Critical International Relations Theory, post-colonial theory, continental philosophy, and political theory.

Stephanie has worked as a research assistant for the Latin American and Caribbean Center at FIU and is currently the president of Sigma Iota Rho, the International Relations Honor Society chapter at FIU. She is also the World Genre Director at FIU's student-run radio station. Stephanie aspires to obtain her Ph.D. and change the discourse surrounding social and political injustices and so that she can make space for students who have been forgotten.



Lidia Carillo

Undergraduate Institution: The University of Texas at El Paso

Major: History and French

Mentor: Yolanda Chavez Leyva

Research Keywords: Religion, Controversy, Colonialism, Spanish Legacy

Lidia Valeria Carrillo is currently completing her B.A. in History and French at The University of Texas at El Paso. She developed an interest in the ancient civilizations of the world with a focus on Colonial Latin America after traveling to Mexico City. As an area of concentration, she wishes to analyze how ideals of ancient Greek and Roman cultures shaped the way colonizers engaged the Latin American cultures they encountered. She has a passion for storytelling and enjoys helping students understand and develop a passion for history. Her unique experience as a borderlands resident offers context and a deep understanding of how colonial lives in the borderlands have evolved.



Lynn "Saniorah" Eduard

Undergraduate Institution: Florida International University

Major: English Literature

Mentor: Donna Weir-Solely

Research Keywords: African American literature, Caribbean literature, poetry, translation

Lynn Saniorah Edouard is pursuing a B.A. in English Literature at Florida International University. Born in Port Au Prince, Haiti, Saniorah's parents immigrated to the U.S when she was 5. Lynn Saniorah is interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in English Literature and wants to focus her research on African American and Caribbean Literature, emphasizing the translation of language and its effect on meaning.

Aside from being a student, Saniorah is a writer and social justice advocate. She is passionate about community outreach and founded Lynn Loves Literacy, a nonprofit whose mission is to eradicate illiteracy among underprivileged youth in Miami and Haiti by fostering a genuine love for reading and providing education and resources. Whether teaching, learning, or serving Saniorah aims to love and to serve others with everything she does.



Liam Espinoza-Zemlicka

Undergraduate Institution: California State University, Northridge

Major: Cinema and Television Arts

Mentor: Gisela Lanzas

Research Keywords: stigma theory, matter out of place, fandom studies, cultural gatekeeping

Liam Espinoza-Zemlicka is pursuing a B.A. in Cinema and Television Arts with a minor in Anthropology at California State University, Northridge. Liam's research interests include the place and experiences of marginalized peoples in popular culture fandom and utilize Goffman's Stigma Theory and Mary Douglas' Matter Out of Place to investigate how such people are "othered" in the fandom subculture, what fan communities deem as "other" and what that says about the values of their culture, and how ideological divisions in fandoms lead to conflict and the creation of "toxic fandom." For the past four years, Liam has worked in his university's anthropology office as a student assistant where his duties include a range of responsibilities both assisting professors and administrators.



Luis Felipe García

Undergraduate Institution: The University of Texas at El Paso

Major: English and American Literature

Mentor: Brian Yothers

Research Keywords: Edgar Allan Poe, eureka, cosmology, epistemology, metaphysics

Luis Felipe García is a senior at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) earning a B.A. in English and American Literature with a minor in History. He is an English tutor and peer mentor for first-generation college students in the Student Support Services Program at UTEP. Prior to this role, he worked as a freelance translator and editor for the Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey (ITESM) reviewing scholarly articles and books. His research interests include epistemology, deconstruction, and post-structuralism in relation to literary theory and criticism, Gothic literature, 19th century British and American literature, and 20th century American literature.



Ana Gómez Hernández

Undergraduate Institution: Florida International University

Major: English

Mentor: Ellen Thompson

Research Keywords: Caribbean literature, Latin American literature, post-colonial theory, cultural identity

Ana Lydia Gómez Hernández was born in Sancti Spíritus, Cuba and immigrated to the United States at the age of ten in 2008. She received her associate's degree from Miami Dade College and is currently pursuing a B.A. in English with a minor in History at Florida International University. Her research interests include 20th-21st Caribbean and Latin American Literature, post-colonial theory, and the formation of cultural identity in relation to race, language, sexuality, and religiosity. Experiencing life on the hyphen and being raised by a single mother have led her to value education above all else. She sees it as the essential tool in rising above the difficult economic circumstances she has lived through. As a professor, she hopes to inspire others to study their passions and provide space for underrepresented students.



Lyrienne González

Undergraduate Institution: California State University, Northridge

Major: Chicana/o Studies & Psychology

Mentor: Melisa Galván

Research Keywords: 20th century U.S.-Mexico relations, borderlands, labor history, history of children and family, education history, migration history, oral history

Lyrienne González is a senior at California State University, Northridge majoring in both Chicana/o Studies and Psychology. Her research interests include 20th century U.S.-Mexico relations, borderlands, labor history, history of children and family, education history, migration history, and oral history. Lyrienne's current research examines the untold stories of the children of Braceros (Mexican laborers imported to the U.S. from 1942-1964) who were raised or settled in the U.S., by putting archival material such as government documents (concerning the education of migrant children) into conversation with self-conducted oral histories of the children themselves. More specifically, she hopes to add to the existing literature surrounding the Bracero program by exploring the second generation's varied experiences in relation to educational opportunities and their willingness to push for access to resources in education and/or social change.



Gema Lopez

Undergraduate Institution: The University of Texas at El Paso

Major: Communication Studies

Mentor: Stacey Sowards

Research Keywords: media studies, Latinx representation, feminist theory, gender studies

Gema Lopez is an undergraduate student at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). Her major is in Communication Studies with a minor in Creative Writing. She works in the Department of Communication as a peer advisor where she interacts with students and helps them get on track with their degree. Gema's research interests include media studies, feminist theory, gender studies, and Latinx representation in media. Prior to enrolling at UTEP, Gema received the Presidential Excellence Scholarship for high-achieving incoming freshmen.

Gema is very involved on campus and is the current president of the Honor Society Lambda Pi Eta. Her research takes a look at the representation of Latinidad in the American television show, *Jane the Virgin*. Gema dedicates every accomplishment, honor, and award to her mother who passed away when she was 17. She believes she is everything she is because of her.



Vanessa López

Undergraduate Institution: California State University, Northridge

Major: English

Mentor: Jennifer C. Lee

Research Keywords: visual rhetoric, discourse, multiliteracies

Vanessa López is a first-generation college student raised in West Los Angeles, California. She is currently pursuing a B.A. in English at California State University, Northridge (CSUN). Her current research links Third Space Theory and visual rhetoric. Her academic interests include social semiotics, critical discourse analysis, culturally responsive pedagogy, Chicanx studies, and performativity.

Vanessa contributed to the WhatEvery1Says research project partnering CSUN and University of California, Santa Barbara by exploring discourse surrounding the humanities in Latin America. Vanessa also received the Henry Van Slooten Scholarship in English for her observations on the effect of unconventional narratives across literary genres. In her free time, Vanessa enjoys music, movies and spending time with her daughter.



Gema Ludisaca

Graduate Institution: California State University, Northridge

Academic Program: M.A., English

Research Keywords: gothic, trauma, psychoanalysis, race, young adult literature, fandom

Gema Ludisaca is pursuing an M.A. in English at California State University, Northridge (CSUN). She earned a B.A. in English Literature from CSUN and was a finalist for the Outstanding Graduating Senior award upon graduation. She was also selected as a Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholar and is currently working as a writing consultant and supplemental instruction leader for CSUN's Camino and Stretch Composition programs. Gema's research interests include young adult literature and the Gothic genre. Her current research on the *Harry Potter* series uses a psychoanalytic framework to look at the way in which Gothic elements in the series represent larger social anxieties around race and the way these reflect a socio-political unconscious and trauma history. Gema will further analyze the intersection of Gothic elements and themes of race and cultural identity in 18th and 20th century literature. She will also research the role of Gothic fandoms in young adult literature and the way these have evolved from traditional Gothic traditions.



Hannah Mangum

Undergraduate Institution: California State University, Northridge

Major: Sociology

Mentor: Lauren McDonald

Research Keywords: popular culture, deviance, Illicit markets, children youth and families, digital social media

Hannah Mangum is a senior pursuing a B.A. in Sociology at California State University, Northridge (CSUN). Her research interests include popular culture, children, youth and families, illicit markets, digital social media, and deviance. Bringing these interests together, her current research is an exploratory study of responses of social service agencies to social media as a pathway for the commercial sexual exploitation of youth in the foster care system. Hannah was recently designated as a Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholar, and as a University Scholar for the 2018-19 academic year. She is currently working as a Supplemental Instructor for a statistics lab course, in addition to her role as an instructional student assistant for Introductory Sociology. She is also a research assistant working on a study on role identity in the Sociology Department at CSUN.



Carla Martinez

Undergraduate Institution: California State University, Northridge

Academic Program: B.A., Deaf Cultural Studies

Research Keywords: undocumented students, racism, audism, Critical Race Theory, deaf Latinxs, higher education

Carla D. Martinez Plascencia is pursuing her B.A. in Deaf Cultural Studies at the California State University, Northridge (CSUN). She works as a research administrator for the CSU Undocu-Services Project (CUSP) in conjunction with CSUN's Dream Center. As a CUSP administrator, she seeks to understand the various forms of institutional support available for undocumented students throughout the California State University system. Carla has conducted independent research on deaf Latinx students in higher education while looking at the intersectionality of racism and audism and how that affects their experience. She is currently undergoing research and furthering her training on Critical Race Theory with Daniel Solorzano at the University of California, Los Angeles.



Daga Nyang

Undergraduate Institution: Florida International University

Major: English Literature

Mentor: Heather Russell

Research Keywords: Critical Race Theory, Black feminism, post-colonial Theory

Daga Nyang is a fourth-year student studying English Literature at Florida International University (FIU). A child of Gambian immigrants, Daga was raised amongst individuals who were a part of the first generation of children to live free of British colonial rule; they passed down their experiences and ideals onto her, which inspired in her a strong sense of justice and caring for the world that existed beyond herself. During her time at FIU, Daga has served as vice president for the African Student Organization and was a member of Students for Justice in Palestine's executive board. Her research interests include genealogies of race and sexuality and their relation to subject formation, postcolonial theory, and Black feminist thought. She hopes to become a professor and demonstrate literature's potential to provide radical possibilities to being and existing amongst others.



Rachael Orbeta

Undergraduate Institution: Florida International University

Major: English

Mentor: Paul Feigenbaum

Research Keywords: Caribbean literature, writing center pedagogy

Rachael Orbeta is working on her B.A. in English at Florida International University (FIU) with an emphasis in Writing and Rhetoric. While at FIU, Rachael works at the Center for Excellence in Writing as a peer writing tutor with students of all backgrounds. As an HSI Pathways Fellow, she has further developed her research interests to include racism and sexism in writing centers, social linguistics within writing center pedagogy as well as the analysis of how minority groups position themselves rhetorically within Caribbean and Latin texts and the social and cultural implications of those texts.



David Ortiz

Undergraduate Institution: Florida International University

Major: Geography

Mentor: Andrea Queeley

Research Keywords: humanitarian aid, geography education

David Ortiz was born in Medellin, Colombia and immigrated with his mother to the U.S at the early age of seven. In 2016, he graduated from Broward College with high honors, and was the recipient of the Honors Discipline Award in Geography. Upon graduating from Broward, David transferred to Florida International University to pursue a B.A. in Geography with a certificate in Social Science Research Methodology and a minor in Logistics.

David regards the study of geography as a holistic multidisciplinary field which integrates social, economic and environmental factors creating unique places, and also inequalities, on the Earth's surface. His areas of study include humanitarian aid, education in geography, research methods and geographic information system (GIS) technology mapping



Johanna Piard

Undergraduate Institution: Florida International University

Major: English Literature

Mentor: Martha Schoolman

Research Keywords: literary theory, literary criticism, Critical Race Theory, African Studies, American-French Caribbean relations, Marxism, intellectual history, film studies

Johanna Piard is an English Literature major at Florida International University. She was born in Miami to first-generation immigrant parents. Her current research centers on the different ways in which French, Caribbean, and American writers turned the Haitian Revolution into a Pan-African symbol. Johanna is interested in investigating how cinematic portrayals of people of color have shaped the perceptions of American audiences. She is interested in literary theory/criticism and intellectual history. Her proudest accomplishments in the past four years were writing for *The Reporter* for two years, being a motivational speaker for Toussaint L'Ouverture Elementary School and educating young African-Americans on the value of Black contributions to modern American society at the famous hotel, Historic Hampton House.



Ashley Prat

Undergraduate Institution: The University of Texas at El Paso

Major: English and American Literature

Mentor: Matthew Desing

Research Keywords: language, education, assimilation, literature, post-colonial theory

Ashley Prat is a senior at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) majoring in English and American Literature and minoring in Sociology. Her areas of interest are post-colonial theory, language assimilation, and education.

While attending UTEP, she has held several officer positions in student organizations such as the University Honors Council, the Liberal Arts Honors Program, and the Healthy Miners. Through the HSI Pathways to the Professoriate program, Ashley plans to pursue a career as a professor.



Jose Ramirez

Undergraduate Institution: Florida International University
Major: English
Mentor: Heather Blatt
Research Keywords: film, queer studies, masculinity, veteran

Jose Ramirez is pursuing a B.A. in English with a minor in Psychology along with a certificate in Film Studies at Florida International University (FIU). He is the current president of the Film Initiative Underground (FIU's Film Club) and will be working with FIU's Honors College to host film screenings and lead discussions as part of its Hearts at the Movies Program. His current research project will look at the overlooked queer identity in the film *Dog Day Afternoon* and the portrayal of the masculinity of Vietnam veterans. Jose plans to further his cinematic studies at the graduate level, and his main interests include queer theory in cinema, the New Hollywood era of film, and how mental illness is portrayed on screen.



Kenia Rodriguez

Undergraduate Institution: California State University, Northridge
Major: English Literature
Mentor: Krystal Howard
Research Keywords: children's literature, young adult literature, Chicana literature, Critical Race Theory

Kenia Rodriguez is pursuing a B.A. in English Literature at California State University, Northridge. Her research interests include 21st century children's and young adult literature, the relationship between culture and gender in children's literature, and Latina Critical Race Theory. She is currently working on an independent Mellon-funded research project that implements a psycho-biographical approach to analyzing the literary presentations of trauma effects in Reyna Grande's adult memoir, *The Distance Between Us*, as well as her age-adapted version, *The Distance Between Us: Young Readers Edition*. Kenia is a first-generation college student who aspires to be a professor and aims to produce scholarship on understudied Chicana literature for young adults.



Gustavo Rodriguez

Undergraduate Institution: The University of Texas at El Paso

Major: History

Mentor: Jeffrey Shepherd

Research Keywords: religion, borderlands, 18th century religion, 19th century religion

Gustavo Rodriguez is an undergraduate student at The University of Texas at El Paso and is majoring in History with a minor in Secondary Education. Gustavo holds a 4.0 GPA and is a member of the Liberal Arts Honors Program, the 21st Century Scholars, HSI Pathways to the Professoriate program, and currently a history tutor with the Miner Learning Center. A former Sergeant in the Army, his interest and passion for history grew out of his travel experiences in Hawaii, South Korea, Afghanistan, and Kuwait. His research interests focus on the impact of religion in the borderlands region of El Paso and Juarez during the late 1800s and early 1900s. He hopes to explain the shift between Catholicism to Protestantism in El Paso by examining key events and people that had high religious influence at that time. In the future, Gustavo hopes to turn this research project into his dissertation as he advances in his academic goal of obtaining a Ph.D. in History.



Janette Rodriguez

Undergraduate Institution: The University of Texas at El Paso

Major: English and American Literature

Mentor: Meredith Abarca

Research Keywords: spirituality, indigenous practices, cultural religion, Nuyorican, Chicana

Janette Rodriguez is a student at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and works as a peer leader for the Entering Student Program at UTEP. Majoring in English and American Literature with a minor in Interdisciplinary Chicano Studies, Janette has an interest in the ways in which society is portrayed in Chicana literature and the lasting effects this literature has on society. Janette has conducted research on religious and indigenous spiritual practices in Latinx communities as explored in *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya and *When the Spirits Dance Mambo* by Marta Moreno Vega. Coming from the U.S.-Mexico borderland, Janette is bilingual in English and Spanish and has dedicated herself to social justice. She has participated in many local immigration and DACA protests and has volunteered with local organizations that work towards bettering the El Paso community.



Karina Salcido

Undergraduate Institution: The University of Texas at El Paso

Major: Art History

Mentor: Guillermina Nunez-Mchiri

Research Keywords: modern and contemporary art, identity, theories of art

Karina Salcido is pursuing a B.A. in Art History and a minor in Anthropology at the University of Texas at El Paso. She has served as the Social Media Coordinator for the Art History Association where she worked to inspire student engagement in the arts. In addition, she has researched and written catalog entries for the Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts. Karina has also advocated for the preservation of the historical architecture in El Paso through the Texas Trost Society, and she has volunteered for the Chinati Foundation in Marfa, Texas during their Opening Weekend. Throughout her undergraduate career, she has received the HSI Pathways Fellowship and the Tom Lea Fellowship. Her research interests include modern and contemporary art and the exploration of identity in art.



Barbara Sanchez

Undergraduate Institution: Florida International University

Major: Sociology

Mentor: Alexandra Cornelius

Research Keywords: social media culture, internet media, and communications

Barbara Sanchez is a first-generation Cuban-American woman and an undergraduate student pursuing a B.A. in Sociology at Florida International University. Barbara's research interests lie within internet and social media culture, with a specific focus on media-based manners of communication and cultural norms practiced on the internet. Barbara is hoping to obtain her Ph.D. and aims to become a university professor.



Celia Velasquez

Undergraduate Institution: California State University, Northridge

Major: English Literature

Mentor: Colleen Tripp

Research Keywords: 19th century women, writers of color, women's studies, gender, sexuality, magazines, print culture

Celia Velasquez is an undergraduate at California State University, Northridge (CSUN). She completed an A.A. in English at Antelope Valley College and will be earning a B.A. in English from CSUN in May 2019. Celia is currently working on a research project, with the guidance of her faculty mentor, Colleen Tripp, examining Afrofuturism in the book, *Of One Blood*, by Pauling Hopkins. Her research interests include popular minority women's literature of the late 19th century, magazine and print culture, popular genres, women's studies, and gender and sexuality.



Lauren Viramontes

Undergraduate Institution: The University of Texas at El Paso

Major: Philosophy

Mentor: Caroline Arruda

Research Keywords: Parfit, subjectivism, objectivism, reasons, grounding

Lauren Viramontes is an undergraduate student finishing her senior year at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). She is earning her B.A. in Philosophy with a minor in Linguistics. Her primary interests include philosophy of language, metaethics, and philosophy of education. Lauren has been a member of the Philosophy for Children in the Borderlands program for the past two years, teaching classes at the high school, middle school, and pre-school levels. She spent a year working on an undergraduate research project that focused on children's autonomy within Philosophy for Children classes, which she has subsequently expanded into an honors project. Additional research projects focus on the work of Derek Parfit, specifically on his ideas on objectivism. Lauren is a founding member of the UTEP Chapter of Minorities and Philosophy, and she has revived the UTEP Philosophy Club.



Robert Vives

Undergraduate Institution: Florida International University

Major: English

Mentor: Rebecca Friedman

Research Keywords: performance studies, queer theory, film studies, literary theory, media studies

Robert Vives is pursuing a B.A. in English at Florida International University. His academic interests include literary theory, performance studies, and queer studies. Robert is interested in using deconstructionist theory to analyze the role of language and use of heterosexist categories in gay dating apps and social networking media in reinforcing discourses that propagate homophobia and prejudices based on gender within the community. He's also interested in studying how queer theory can converge with film studies to substantiate a queer affect or phenomenology. Robert believes being gay and Cuban-American has afforded him some insight into how certain dynamics like race, sexuality, and gender intersect and constitute an individualized embodied experience. This is an important topic to him and one that he hopes to further examine and incorporate into his studies and teachings as a professor.



Priscilla Judson Wallace

Undergraduate Institution: The University of Texas at El Paso

Major: History

Mentor: Samuel Brunk

Research Keywords: historical protests, riots, massacres, social movements, Colfax Massacre, social justice

Priscilla Judson Wallace is a senior at The University of Texas at El Paso majoring in History with double minors in Religious Studies and African American Studies. Her fascination with the totality of the human condition and examining that experience from a historical perspective has prompted her to become interested in history. Her long-term goal is to join the professoriate as a historian and add to its diversity as an African American woman who researches, teaches, and publishes in the field of history. She looks forward to addressing some of the most pressing national and global issues of today as an advocate for social justice. Her academic research will focus on protests, riots, and massacres. She believes her graduate studies will equip her with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively research the human experience of times past as well as provide the context for understanding current and future issues.



Ruben Espinosa

HSI Coordinator
The University of Texas at El Paso

Ruben Espinosa is the HSI Coordinator for the HSI Pathways to Professoriate Program and Associate Professor of English at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). At UTEP, he specializes in Shakespeare and early modern literature. He is the author of *Masculinity and Marian Efficacy in Shakespeare's England* (2011) and co-editor of *Shakespeare and Immigration* (2014), a collection of essays exploring the role of immigrants, exiles, and refugees in Shakespeare's England and work. He has published essays in *Shakespeare Quarterly*, *Explorations in Renaissance Culture*, and *Literature Compass*. He is currently at work on his next monograph, *Shakespeare's Borders: Legacy, Legitimacy and La Frontera*, which examines the intersections of Shakespeare and Latinx culture and identity.



Ana Luszczyńska

HSI Coordinator
Florida International University

Ana Luszczyńska is the HSI Coordinator for the HSI Pathways to Professoriate Program, Associate Professor of English, and the Graduate Program Director at Florida International University. She received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from SUNY Buffalo in 2003 with a concentration on 20th century U.S. Latinx and African American literatures and phenomenology and deconstruction.

Ana has published numerous articles in the intersections of US Latinx literature and continental philosophy as well as a monograph, *The Ethics of Community* in 2012.



Heidi Schumacher

HSI Coordinator
California State University, Northridge

Heidi Schumacher is the HSI Coordinator for the HSI Pathways to the Professoriate Program at California State University, Northridge, where she also teaches in the Gender & Women's Studies Department and serves as the Associate Director of the Queer Studies Program. She holds degrees in gender and sexuality studies from Scripps College, the London School of Economics & Political Science, and the University of Minnesota.



Aida Gureghian

MRI Coordinator
New York University

Aida Gureghian is the Assistant Dean for Students and the MRI Coordinator for the HSI Pathways to Professoriate Program at NYU's Graduate School of Arts and Science where she works to create an inclusive, supportive, and engaging environment for graduate students. She is especially passionate about diversity, access, and inclusion in higher education. To that end, she develops and oversees a series of initiatives aimed at addressing the challenges faced by underrepresented groups at the Graduate School. Prior to coming to NYU, Aida taught History at Brooklyn College. She received her bachelor's degree from UCLA, her M.Phil from Oxford, and her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. She is an adjunct assistant professor at Brooklyn College where she teaches history.



Alberto Ledesma

MRI Coordinator
University of California, Berkeley

Alberto Ledesma was brought undocumented to Oakland, California, at eight years old. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) three times over and has held faculty positions at California State University, Monterey Bay, and UC Berkeley. He is a past winner of UC Irvine's Chicano/Latino Literary Prize. His essays and illustrations have appeared in a variety of venues including *New American Media*, *Buzzfeed*, and *Pocho*. An Assistant Dean for Diversity at UC Berkeley, his current book *Diary of a Reluctant Dreamer: Undocumented Vignettes from a Pre-American Life*, discusses his early life as an undocumented child living in Oakland and his personal struggles and accomplishments as a college student and a professor. Alberto is also the MRI Coordinator for the HSI Pathways to Professoriate Program at UC Berkeley where he has the opportunity to assist underrepresented students towards postgraduate education.



Josephine Moreno

MRI Coordinator
University of California, Davis

Josephine Moreno is the Graduate Diversity Officer for Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education in Graduate Studies at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis). She also holds the position of MRI Coordinator for the HSI Pathways to the Professoriate program at UC Davis. Her work focuses on outreach and recruitment of diverse graduate students, equitable and inclusive graduate admissions, and graduate student success. Josephine's leadership also includes grant writing and project leadership.

Prior to her five years at UC Davis, Josephine was in a similar position at UC Berkeley for 12 years and a faculty member at the University of Rhode Island respectively. She is an alumna of UC Davis and spent a postdoctoral year on campus following the completion of her doctoral degree at Iowa State University in 1995. She holds a Ph.D. in Textiles and Clothing, an interdisciplinary field that draws on humanities and social sciences



Patricia Rea

MRI Coordinator
University of Pennsylvania

Patricia Rea is the Associate Director for Admissions in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences as well as the MRI Coordinator for the HSI Pathways to Professoriate Program at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn). In her role, Patricia is responsible for managing the recruitment and admission processes of one of the largest schools at Penn. In addition to her role at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Patricia is also the Program Director of the Leadership Alliance for the Humanities and Social Science programs. She has worked at Penn for over 30 years and has helped thousands of incoming students navigate through the graduate experience from admissions and financial aid through to graduation..



Damon L. Williams Jr.

MRI Coordinator
Northwestern University

Damon L. Williams, Jr. is the Assistant Dean of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Graduate Chief Diversity Officer, as well as the MRI Coordinator for the HSI Pathways to Professoriate Program in The Graduate School of Northwestern University. In this capacity, he designs, implements, and coordinates diversity and inclusion initiatives for faculty, staff, and students. He leads the team that organizes the Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP), holds Introduction to Graduate Education Days at Northwestern—a recruitment event for underrepresented minority students interested in STEM—and attends numerous conferences and recruitment fairs each year. Damon joined Northwestern from Emory University, where he has served as the inaugural Director of Diversity, Community, and Recruitment in the James T. Laney Graduate School. He has a experience in recruitment, academic support, relationship-building, and the creation of professional development activities. He holds a B.S. from Xavier University of Louisiana and an M.B.A. from Tulane University.



Will Anyu

Will Anyu serves as the Assistant Director of Operations and Programs at the Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions. He is also a part-time Ed.D. student in Higher Education program at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education. Will is a native of Cameroon where he resided until the age of six, before moving to Minneapolis. Will's commitment to education is evident in his work with the Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools (CDF). In 2015, he was granted the opportunity to intern with the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans in Washington, D.C. during the Obama administration.

Will is a proud alumnus of North Carolina Central University, where he obtained a B.A. in Mass Communication and an M.P.A.



Andrés Castro Samayoa

Andrés Castro Samayoa is an Assistant Professor of Higher Education at Boston College's Lynch School of Education. He also serves as Assistant Director for Assessment and a Senior Research Associate at the Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions. Andrés' research centers Minority Serving Institutions as a cluster of organizations from which we can learn how to better enhance experiences for students of color from under-resourced communities. He also focuses on the social history of large-scale datasets in postsecondary education; qualitative investigations on educational researchers' use of quantitative data to explore issues of diversity; and the institutionalization of services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, and transgender students. Andrés holds a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, an M.Phil. from Cambridge University, and a B.A. from Harvard College.



Paola "Lola" Esmieu

Paola "Lola" Esmieu is the Associate Director for Programs at the Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions (CMSI). In her role as Associate Director, Lola creates, implements, and directly oversees all CMSI programs, events, partnerships, and initiatives. She has developed national and international programs, initiatives, and strategic partnerships with organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign, Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers, and the Council on International Education Exchange. Lola serves as a co-Principal Investigator for the Hispanic Serving Institutions: Pathways to the Professoriate (HSI-Pathways) program, funded by a \$5.1 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. She is also a co-Principal Investigator for the ELEVATE: Enriching Learning, Enhancing Visibility, and Training Educators—Early Career MSI Faculty Development Program—funded by a \$250,000 grant from Arthur Vining Davis Foundations.

Lola is concurrently pursuing an Ed.D. in Higher Education at the Penn Graduate School of Education and a second masters at the University of Pennsylvania's Law School where she is working to obtain a master's degree in Law.



Marybeth Gasman

Marybeth Gasman is the Judy & Howard Berkowitz Professor of Education in the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania. Her areas of expertise include the history of American higher education, Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), racism and diversity, fundraising and philanthropy, and higher education leadership. Marybeth is also the founding director of the Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions.

Marybeth is the author or editor of 25 books, 250 peer-reviewed articles, scholarly essays, and book chapters as well as 450 opinion pieces. She is ranked by *Education Week* as one of the most influential education scholars, and has raised \$22 million in grant funding to support her research and that of her students, mentees, and MSI partners. In 2015, she was awarded the University of Pennsylvania's Provost Award for Distinguished Ph.D. Teaching and Mentoring.



Brandy Jones

Brandy Jones serves as the Assistant Director for Communications for the Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions. She is a native of Providence, Rhode Island and a recent graduate of the University of Rhode Island (URI), where she obtained her B.A. in Sociology and Communications.

Upon graduation, Brandy began working for the Cheyney Foundation, the 501(c)(3) arm of Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, the nation's first HBCU. As a first generation college student, Brandy is interested in the ways in which institutions are supporting first generation students, the internationalization of higher education, and Minority Serving Institutions.



Andrew Martinez

Andrew Martinez is a Ph.D. student at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education (Penn GSE) and a research associate at the Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions. He completed an M.S.Ed in Higher Education at Penn GSE and earned a B.A. in Sociology from Cornell University. Prior to his return to Penn GSE, Andrew worked at Cornell University as an Assistant Dean of Students, where he advised and supported identity-based student organizations and served on several committees on diversity and inclusion. His research interests include the disaggregation of data based on ethnicity amongst Latinos to better understand their experiences in higher education, and what elite institutions can learn from Minority Serving Institutions in improving a sense of belonging and supporting the achievement of historically underrepresented minorities at their institution.



Carolyn Nalewajko

Carolyn Nalewajko serves as the Associate Director for Operations at the Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions. She is a native of Philadelphia, where she also graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in Sociology. Her educational interests include first-generation college students and gender inequality studies.

Carolyn previously worked at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education, where she helped manage projects such as the School's space expansions, relocations, and renovations. She enjoys planning, organizing, and working with people who come from different backgrounds, because she enjoys learning from them.

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