Biographies

Inaugural Remarks: Angela Sanbrano, Chair, Board of Directors, CARECEN, Los Angeles.

Angela Sanbrano was born in Juarez, Mexico and grew up in El Paso, Texas. She earned a Juris Doctor degree from People’s College of Law in Los Angeles and a Bachelor's degree in psychology from Pitzer College. She served as Director of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), she was co-chair of Peace Action, and in the 1990s founded the International Solidarity Center (CIS) in El Salvador, and later served as Executive Director of the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN from 1996 to 2007. She is co-founder and President Emeritus of the National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities (NALACC). Currently, she is the chair of the Board of Directors at the Central American Resource Center, CARECEN, in Los Angeles.

Keynote Address: Yansi Y. Pérez, Associate Professor, Carleton College.

Yansi Pérez is Associate Professor of Spanish and Latin American Literature at Carleton College. She received her Ph.D. from Princeton University. Her research interests are in the field of modern and contemporary Latin American cultural studies, literature, and film. Currently, she is working on a book manuscript that examines the many facets of history in the work of Salvadoran poet Roque Dalton. The problems that she addresses include the relationship between literature, ethics and politics, the problematic relationship between the artistic and political avant-gardes, and the centrality of the concept of mourning in relation to memory and historical trauma. She has published articles about Roque Dalton, Rodrigo Rey Rosa, Horacio Castellanos Moya, Anacristina Rossi, and Jacinta Escudos, among others. During the 2016-2017 academic year she holds the distinguished American Council of Learned Societies Burkhardt Fellowship, and is visiting scholar in the Department of Central American Studies at CSUN.

Participants:

Linda Alvarez holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Claremont Graduate University. Her scholarly interests revolve around exploring the ways in which underrepresented and marginalized groups interact, challenge, and resist dominant structures of power. As a political scientist she works within the frameworks of comparative political behavior, political psychology, transnational migration, social movements, race and ethnic politics, food politics, and the study of violence and trauma among underrepresented and marginalized populations. In addition, Dr. Alvarez is committed to animal rights and food justice activism.

Martha Arevalo is Executive Director of the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) in Los Angeles. In this role, she is responsible for operations, fundraising, program development, and strategic communications. Originally from El Salvador, she has extensive experience in the areas of social marketing, public education, immigration, civic participation, public policy, and community organizing. She graduated from the School of Public Policy at the University of California, Los Angeles with a Masters of Arts in urban planning. CARECEN was founded in 1983 to promote human and civil rights of Central Americans and other immigrant communities through legal and educational services, and by advocating and organizing to transform immigration and education policies.
Beth Baker holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico. Her research interest include Central American migration to the U.S., incarceration/detention and deportation, citizenship, ethnic identity and race, nationalism and the state, and social movements in the Americas. She is the author of Salvadoran Migration to Southern California: Redefining El Hermano Lejano (University Press of Florida, 2004). She joined the anthropology department at CSULA in 2002.

Santiago Bastos Amigo, doctor in Social Anthropology by CIESAS Occidente, was a researcher in Guatemala from 1988 to 2008, and is currently Research Professor at CIESAS Occidente in Guadalajara, Mexico, while in Guatemala he is part of the Communication and Analysis group called El Colibrí Zurdo, and the Press Community. His work examines the ethnic constructions of these countries, focusing on the political participation of the indigenous people, and the policies of the State. He is currently working on the effects that the dynamics of globalization are having on the indigenous communities of Guatemala and Mexico, and how they are reacting to oppose the aggressions suffered on their territories.

Reverend Fredrick Birten Morris is the pastor at the North Hills United Methodist Church Center and President of the San Fernando Valley Refugee Children Center, Inc., which serves hundreds of unaccompanied children who have made the perilous journey from Central America to seek refuge in the San Fernando Valley. Rev. Morris has served churches in Iowa, New Jersey, Illinois, Brazil, Costa Rica, Panama, and Nicaragua, before coming to California. In 2008, Rev. Morris received compensation and a formal request for forgiveness after being tortured by the military dictatorship in Brazil. He was a missionary to Brazil from 1970-1974 and worked closely with Dom Helder Camara, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Recife and Olinda.

Noelle Brigden is Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Marquette University. She earned her Ph.D. (2013) and M.A. (2009) degrees in Government at Cornell University. She held a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University before joining the Department of Political Science in the fall of 2014. During her doctoral research on the violence and uncertainty that confronts Central American migrants in transit, she conducted two years of fieldwork along unauthorized routes in El Salvador, Mexico and the United States. Her work has been published in International Studies Quarterly, Antipode, Geopolitics, and Migration Studies.

Jorge Brioso holds a Ph.D. from the City University of New York. He teaches twentieth-century Peninsular literature and film, as well as Latin American literature at Carleton College. His main areas of interest are philosophy, literary theory and aesthetics. His research focuses on the twentieth-century Spanish essay and poetry: Unamuno, Ortega, Machado, Zambrano; Cuban literature: Casal, Lezama, and Virgilio Piñera; and political philosophy: Hobbes, Foucault, Carl Schmitt, among others.

Federico Bustamante is the Casa Libre Program Administrator. The Casa Libre/Freedom Home is a project of the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law, Inc. It is a licensed emergency and long-term 14-bed shelter for minors under the age of 18 without homes, including unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children. Mr. Bustamante oversees the day-to-day operations of the Casa Libre homeless youth shelter program, including scheduling of youth activities, staff training, and compliance with licensing requirements.

Andy Campbell is an Assistant Professor of Critical Studies at USC - Roski School of Art and Design, as well as an independent critic and curator. His work explores the identity and communitarian-based politics of sexuality, race, and feminism, addressing how these manifest
in visual culture. His art criticism and academic writing has been published in exhibition catalogs as well as *Artforum, Pastelegram, GLQ,* and *Aperture* among others. In 2014-2016 he was critic-in-residence at the Core Program in Houston, Texas. He holds a Ph.D. in art history from the University of Texas in Austin.

**Manuela Camus** holds a doctorate in social anthropology from the Centro de Investigación y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social de Guadalajara and the Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico. For 20 years she has worked in FLACSO-Guatemala on issues of survival of the popular sectors of the capital city, including immigrant and "urban" indigenous people. She also did ethnographic work on the impact of international migration on the Maya communities in the department of Huehuetenango. She is currently a research professor at the Centro de Estudios Sociourbanos at the Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico. Currently, her investigations include sectors of privilege that reside in closed fractions and the Central American and Mexican transmigrants in their transit by Guadalajara.

**Douglas Carranza Mena** holds a doctorate in Socio-Cultural Anthropology from the University of California, Santa Barbara and is professor in the Department of Central American Studies at California State University, Northridge. His research explores from an interdisciplinary perspective the concepts of space, citizenship, civil society, sovereignty, and modes of governing in Central America. His current research examines the heterogeneity, connections and temporality in the Central American diaspora in the United States.

**Beatriz Cortez** is an artist and a cultural critic. She holds a Ph.D. from Arizona State University and an M.F.A. from the California Institute of the Arts. She has written on the aesthetics of cynicism in Central America, racism and culture, indigenous rights, violence, and memory. Her current research interests include nomadism, simultaneity, and multiple temporalities in the dislocated experiences of populations in movement, as well as the intersection of migration and gardens. Her artwork explores simultaneity, life in different temporalities and different versions of modernity, particularly in relation to memory and loss, in the aftermath of war and the experience of migration, and in exploration of possible futures. She lives and works in Los Angeles.

**Rómulo Castro** is a Panamanian singer/songwriter of diverse origin with a background in Mexico, Spain, and Cuba. His robust musical work addresses the issues and hopes of his time with the refined musical arrangements by Panamanian musician and producer Luis Thomas and Goupo Tuira: *Herencia* (Panamá, 1997), *Amor a medias* (Panama, 1999), *Travesías* (Panamá-Madrid, 2003), e *Intermedio* (Panamá-Estados Unidos, 2009). He has collaborations with Rubén Blades- CD’s *La Rosa de los Vientos* (Premio Grammy 1996), *Tiempos* (Premio Grammy 1999), and *Son de Panamá* (Premio Grammy 2015). Two of his songs have also been included in the British anthology *The Rough Guide to the Music of Central America* (2001).

**Robin Maria DeLugan**, Ph.D., is a sociocultural anthropologist whose research interests focus on nation-states and national belonging; race, ethnicity and nation; migration and transnationalism; and social memory. She has over 20 years of research experience in El Salvador and is the author of *Reimagining National Belonging: Post-Civil War El Salvador in a Global Context* (2012, University of Arizona Press). Examining post-war projects of national culture, history and identity, she has studied new commemorations regarding the civil war and new attention to El Salvador’s 1932 “Matanza” as events which continue to shape ideas about national belonging. Through numerous other publications DeLugan explores postwar nation-building in the context of indigeneity and transnationalism. Currently she is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University. She is Associate Professor of California, Merced.
Dario Fernandez is a first-generation, formerly undocumented, college graduate. Dario and his family migrated to the United States from Purepero,Michoacan,Mexico when he was 2 years old. He grew up in the city of Garden Gove in Orange County, a large cultural center for Vietnamese refugees and migrants. He holds a Master of Arts degree in education with an option in social and cultural analysis of education where he analyzed the rhetoric and discourse of various immigration and education related policies and the impact it had on their implementation at the local level. He is the Coordinator of the DREAM Center, part of the Educational Opportunity Programs at California State University, Northridge.

Juan Pablo Gómez holds a Ph.D. in Latin American Cultural and Literary Studies from Ohio State University. He is a researcher and a professor at the Instituto de Historia de Nicaragua y Centroamérica (IHNCA) at the Universidad Centroamericana in Managua, Nicaragua, where he directs the Masters in Cultural Studies with an emphasis on Memory, Culture, and Citizenship. His research explores the intersection between authority, culture, and citizenship. He is the author of Autoridad/Cuerpo/Nación: batallas culturales en Nicaragua (1930-1943) and of numerous essays on the history of Nicaragua and Central America.

Katia Lara is a Honduran filmmaker. She studied Graphic Arts in the School of Fine Arts in Honduras, Visual Communication in the National School of Fine Arts at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (ENAP-UNAM), and Film Directing at the Eliseo Subiela School of Film in Argentina. She has directed documentary and fiction films, including De larga distancia (2000), A corazón abierto (2005), Quién dijo miedo, honduras de un gopé (2010), Margarita Murillo (2015), and Berta Vive (2016). She is the founder of Terco Producciones in Honduras.

Héctor Leyva holds a doctorate in Latin American Literature from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. His research interests include literature, historical and cultural approaches to culture, oral literatures, and others. He is the author of Imaginarios (sub)terráneos. Estudios literarios y culturales de Honduras (Tegucigalpa, 2009). In 2006 he received an honorary mention in the Premio Andrés Bello Memoria y Pensamiento Iberoamericano for his work titled Derrumbe del mundo antiguo / nacimiento del mundo nuevo. En torno a la oralidad de los pueblos tradicionales. In 2011-2012 he was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar in Washington, D.C. He is professor of Literature at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras.

Maria Augusta Montealegre holds a doctorate in Latin American and Peninsular Literature from the University of Salamanca, Spain, and a degree in International Relations from the Universidad de las Américas in Puebla, Mexico. She has also carried out studies at the Universidad de Miami. She is the author of the volume Ideas estéticas y políticas de las vanguardias en Nicaragua (1918-1933) (Managua, 2016). She is the chief editor of The Latin Review Editors in Florida.

Axel Montepeque holds a Ph.D. in Literature from the University of California, San Diego. His research interests include Central American literature and cultural productions of the 19th and 20th centuries, Latino/a and Chicana/o literatures of the U.S., and Latin American literature of the 20th century. He is also interested in literary theory and the theory of the novel. He is Assistant Professor in the Department of Central American Studies at California State University, Northridge.

Ellen Moodie holds a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on post-conflict political processes, particularly the “post-postwar generation” of activist middle-class
youth in El Salvador. She has also collaborated on a project on "post-insurgent subjectivities" among former guerrilla combatants in rural eastern El Salvador, studied short-term Christian mission and service travel, and analyzed sensationalism in mass media. She is the author of *El Salvador in the Aftermath of Peace: Crime, Uncertainty, and the Transition to Democracy* (Pennsylvania 2010), and editor of *Central America in the New Millennium: Living Transition and Re-imaging Democracy*, co-edited with Jennifer L. Burrell (Berghahn 2013). She teaches at the University of Illinois.

**Nancy Perez** is a doctoral candidate in Justice Studies at Arizona State University. Her research interests include the experience of migration, labor, and theories on the body, pain, and transgenerational memory. She is currently researching and writing her dissertation on Central American and Mexican domestic workers and their children in Los Angeles. She focuses on interdisciplinary approaches to understanding the complexities of domestic work, current legal processes that are reshaping cultures of resistance, the ways these conditions influence experiences of self, community, and the production of memory across borders and generations.

**Elizabeth Pérez Márquez** holds a doctorate in Social Anthropology from the Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS) in Guadalajara, Mexico. She teaches at the Universidad de Guadalajara Virtual. Her research interests include Mexico-US transnational migration, ethnicity, religion, and family studies. Currently, she is investigating religious diasporic spaces among the Maya K'iche', the Coca communities from Mezcalalt, Mexico, as well as the Salvadoran communities in Los Angeles.

**Freya Rojo** is a journalist and a social communicator. She holds a Masters in Latin American Studies from California State University, Los Angeles. Her research interest are immigrant communities and their use of social media, music as an instrument of liberation, and multimedia production for social change. She teaches in the Department of Central American Studies and in the Journalism Department at California State University, Northridge. She also produces and hosts the Spanish language radio show *Nuestra Voz* at Pacifica Radio KPFK, where she examines historic and contemporary issues of the local and global Latino communities.

**Ricardo Roque Baldovinos** holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Minnesota. He is the chair of the Department of Philosophy at the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas in San Salvador, El Salvador. He has been visiting scholar at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, the University of California, Davis, the University of Richmond, as well as the Universidad Rafael Landívar in Guatemala, the Universidad de Costa Rica, and the Universidad de Chile. He is the author of the following books: *Arte y parte* (San Salvador, 2001), *Niños de un planeta extraño* (San Salvador, 2012), *El cielo de lo ideal: literatura y modernización en El Salvador* (1860-1920) (San Salvador, 2016).

**Alma Ruiz** was born in Guatemala City and is a renowned contemporary art curator in the City of Los Angeles. She is former senior curator at The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in Los Angeles where she worked for over 30 years, and where she curated numerous exhibitions on the postwar period in the United States, Italy, and Latin America. In addition, she has served as a guest curator at the Fundación Jumex in Mexico City, the Center for Contemporary Art in Tel Aviv, the Art Museum of the Americas in Washington, D.C., and the Fowler Museum at UCLA in Los Angeles. In 2016 she curated the 20th Bienal de Arte Paiz in Guatemala City. She is a member of the Advisory Committee for the Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation in Miami,
Senior Fellow at the Sotheby’s Institute of Art in Los Angeles, and curatorial adviser to the 9.99 Gallery in Guatemala City.

**Daniel Sharp** is legal director at the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), where he supervises over 50 legal staff who provide a broad range of immigration legal services. A graduate of the UCLA Program in Public Interest Law & Policy, Sharp is a Certified Specialist in Immigration & Nationality Law by the State Bar of California. He provides frequent legal commentary to media and authors “Esquina Migratoria”, a weekly immigration advice column that appears in La Opinión and other Spanish-language newspapers. He previously worked as a consultant with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) local implementing partner in Costa Rica, assisting Colombian refugees.

**Jackie E. Stallcup**, Professor of English, is currently Acting Associate Dean in the College of Humanities. She has been at CSUN since 1999, teaching courses on children’s literature, fairy tales and feminist theory, and history of children’s book illustration. Her research focuses on issues of power, surveillance, and control in adult/child relationships as manifested in literature written for children. Her essays won national awards in 2002 ("Power, Fear, and Children’s Picture Books") and in 2008 ("The Feast of Misrule: Captain Underpants, Satire, and the Literary Establishment"). Her community work includes presenting for teachers through LA Opera, organizing community read-aloud sessions, participating in One City, One Book celebrations, and performing public readings of controversial texts for Banned Books week.

**Joseph Wiltberger** holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology form the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research explores the political, economic, and social practices of transnational communities, the meanings they produce, and their relationship to the cultural politics of development and migrant rights activism. His research focuses on El Salvador, where he first began fieldwork in 1999, and on Central American migrants in the United States and on the migrant trail in Mexico. He is Assistant Professor of Central American Studies at California State University, Northridge.

This event is organized by the Department of Central American Studies and the Central American Research and Policy Institute (CARPI), at California State University, Northridge. It is co-sponsored by the College of Humanities Academic Programming Fund, the Department of Religious Studies, the Educational Opportunities Program (EOP), the Liberal Studies Program, the Art Department, the Department of Communication Studies, the Department of Journalism, the American Indian Studies Program, the Department of Anthropology, and the Central American United Student Association (CAUSA), as well as the American Council of Learned Societies Burkhardt Fellowship.