



AKOLOTL

NEWSLETTER

A photograph of a woman from the chest up, wearing a traditional white blouse with colorful embroidery and a blue and red plaid headscarf. She is looking down at her hands, which are working on a loom. The background is white, and there are dark blue and orange geometric shapes on the left and right sides.

CENTER FOR MEXICAN
AMERICAN STUDIES
AT UT-ARLINGTON

FALL 18, VOL. III, NO. 1

BIENVENIDA



WELCOME to our Fall 2018 issue. In this number you will learn about our exciting events in this year's Speaker Series. Featuring scholars from different disciplines, the talks will address the changing ways in which Latina/os have and are being currently represented in different art, media, and political venues. We are also proud to showcase the accomplishments of some of our faculty, students, and alumni whose excellent work inspire students across campus. In "Cruce de Miradas," our Distinguished Speaker from last spring – Ramón Saldívar – a native from Texas and winner of the National Humanities award in 2012, reflects on his experience and journey from being a first-generation college student to an internationally-recognized scholar in Latino literature. As usual, some of our Hispanic student organization take the opportunity to present themselves and highlight their main mission and goals.

Enjoy the reading!

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Christian Ziolkowski | CMAS Director

EDITOR'S NOTE



The purpose of our publications is to keep our readers informed about past, current, and future activities, projects, and initiatives led by the center. Our newsletter aims to be the vehicle for disseminating and promoting events sponsored and organized by CMAS, its members, and the Latino community.

AXOLOTL (a-shó-lo-toll): Is a homage to the ancient Aztec mythology. It means change, dialogue and future.

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Ignacio Ruiz-Pérez | CMAS Asst. Director
Axolotl Newsletter Editor



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UPCOMING EVENTS

THE CENTER FOR MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

Speaker Series 2018 -2019

Latinx Representations in the Arts, Media, and Politics

FALL 2018

Tuesday, September 11

At the Crossroads of the New Generation of Latin American and Latinx Authors

Gabriela Jáuregui - Poet, Writer and Editor

Emiliano Monge - Writer and Political Scientist

Daniel Peña - Writer and Professor of English
University Center - Concho Room

11:00 - 12:30pm

Co-sponsored with Wild Detectives Bookstore & MODL

Wednesday, October 3

Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

Paso a Paso: A Cultural Dance Experience

DJ godjgo - Gabe Patterson

MAC - 2nd floor - Upstairs Lounge

6:30 - 8:30pm

Co-Sponsored with Multicultural Affairs

Wednesday, November 14

Book presentation: Managed Migrations Growers, Farmworkers, and Border Enforcement in the Twentieth Century

Cristina Salinas

Assistant Professor of History - CMAS

University Hall - Room 11

12:00 - 1:00pm

Co-sponsored with the Dptm. of History

SPRING 2019

Wednesday, February 6

Medical Borders and American Borderlands:
Transnational infrastructure and Public Health
Policy in 20th Century America

John McKiernan - Gonzalez

Associate Professor of History and Director
of the Center for the Study of the Southwest
Texas State University

Location: TBD

12:00 - 1:30pm

Co-sponsored with the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies

Monday, March 4

Immigration after the Elections:
Challenges and Opportunities

Panel Discussion

Location: TBD

12:00 - 1:30pm

Thursday, April 18

Distinguished Lecture

From Latinx in Hollywood to US TV Abroad

Clara E. Rodriguez

Professor of Sociology

Fordham University - New York

Central Library 6th floor - Parlor Room

6:30-9:00pm

Co-sponsored with the Dptm. of Sociology and
Anthropology



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT (817)-272-2933 OR VISIT US AT WWW.UTA.EDU/CMAS



PERFILES



Julián Rodríguez, Department of Communication

When I talk about me, I usually talk about my work and those who make it possible. This is the only honest way I know to explain who I am.

People think in terms of objectives, and this is normal. We, at the Hispanic Media Initiative (HMI), think in terms of roads. Objectives are important but journalism is, with all of its imperfections, the road on which our society travels. The only future we know at HMI is the one that already happened, our past. So the Hispanic Media Initiative is that, a road that wants to be a highway. And this road is built by a team of bilingual Hispanic students interested in a form of journalism sensitive to the demographics of our nation, the realities circumventing the Latino community, and the future that we can all build when reliable information paves the way of our decisions.

In this kind of endeavor we collaborate and partner with the industry, find uncommon allies with common interests, identify gaps in knowledge, and research in data deserts. There is nothing like it in our country, we lead the way in silence, inconspicuous among crowds, and often fly under the radar of the same institution that makes us possible.

The Hispanic Media Initiative seeks not to be a destination. We do, instead, strive to be aggressively neutral, radically centered in our approach to journalism. In our nine years of pursuing this new form of extremism, we have managed to position the improbable in positive outlier territories. HMI graduates are unignorably spheric. Our alumni cannot be ignored because they come from el barrio, and you can take them out of el barrio, pero aún así siempre lo llevarán adentro. And this affinity makes them special, it allows them to tell beautiful stories told by el barrio for el barrio with high professional ethical standards worthy of Emmys, many many many Emmys. We graduate some of the best bilingual broadcast journalists in the nation not because we deny students who they are but because we place their lives in a global context.

If you want to know me more, learn about my work and those who make it possible, visit www.utahispanicmedia.com. I am Julián Rodríguez, a broadcast journalism specialist and the faculty advisor of the Hispanic Media Initiative... and this says nothing in itself. Measure us by what we have accomplished and how we have accomplished it.

CRUCE DE MIRADAS

**“Liberal Arts are definitively a way to promote a change”:
An interview with Dr. Ramón Saldívar**



By Andrés Lesmes, CMAS Student Assistant

A National Humanities Medal winner in 2012, Dr. Ramón Saldívar is a professor of English and Comparative Literature and the Hoagland Family Professor of Humanities and Sciences at Stanford University. The following interview took place at CMAS on April 19, and focused on the relations between ethnicity, politics, literature, and education in the U.S.

Andrés: How being from Texas has affected your professional life and career?

Ramón Saldívar: That is a very important and good question. It had a huge impact on the person who I am and in my personal career. When I went to college, and especially when I went to Yale University, I knew that I wanted to study literature and culture. [...] I was interested in a [variety] of areas and topics from American to British literature, to another world literature, that is what I did when I went to Yale. I got a broad education in a variety of ways in which literature had developed for the past 200 years. That was the subject of my dissertation and my first book. But once I finished that, I asked [myself]: What am I going to do next? And I realized that there is [...] a wonderful [...] literature being produced here in Texas, in particular in South Texas, and not just in Texas, [with] the people that are Chicanos and Latinos. [...] That is where my work has gone. Being from Texas was the most important part of my development as a scholar. It took me to [shape] my general interest and give it a focus and direction by trying to understand how is this particular part of the Americas affecting the culture, economy and political environment.

A: How can Latino literature help us to understand the current cultural and political climate in the USA?

RS: That connection [...] is what so much of the literature written by Latinos and Latinas is about: How do you find your place in the world, where do you belong or not? Those are [...] questions that political writers are always thinking about. One way to understand the world around –which is also confusing, because it is moving very quickly– is by taking the time to look at [what] writers are representing: What does it mean to live in the border, what is a border? Why did people cross borders? What does it mean thinking about being part of one nation or another? How the transition between cultures happens? Those are the grand and important topics that most Latino writers talk about, what they imagine in their works and it forms the Latino experience. This is a very important place to look at who you are in the world.

CRUCE DE MIRADAS

A: Various members of your family are also scholars and have distinguished academic careers. Do you have any advice for UTA students, many of whom are parents, for them to foster an intellectually exciting environment?

RS: I always think about that. I don't have a full explanation of why in my particular family, [where] there are seven children, [...] three of us turn out to be Ph.D. professors... How did that happen? I think it has something to do with the place we grew up and the environment [in] our family. [My parents] were storytelling and thinking about our place in the world. It was an everyday conversation [with] my mother [and] my father, [who] were not educated people [but] working class, working people.

A: Does that mean that you are a first-generation college student?

RS: That is correct, and I am glad my parents recognized the importance of education. [They] encouraged us to go for education, my mother bought us books every other day so we can read at home and make that an important part of [us].

A: How do you think digital media is affecting Latino cultural production today?

RS: I think is having a huge impact [...] in culture, and in general. There are many advantages on digital media: It is quickly accessible, it provides a form and an opportunity to having your voice spread quickly to a large audience. In my opinion, Latinos are very quick and effective in recognizing the way representation in arts, drama, [and] film spread through digital forms.

A: What do you think is the most important value that Liberal Arts offer to college education nowadays?

RS: That is a very important question. It seems today that wherever you go there is science and technology that has such a huge impact. Science and technology are important but [that] is not the only way to understand the world. Liberal Arts [help you to understand] who you were in the past, who you are today, and who you want to be in the future through art, painting, books... [It] is also an important part of what Latino culture and Latino arts in general have been worried [about]. Understanding the past and making room [for] understanding the present helps to create a better future. Liberal Arts are definitively a way to promote a change. [...] As a closing thought I will say that all of the challenges that Latino population are facing today are greater opportunities in the future. [...] The time of struggle will never end, but the possibilities for a much better world in the future are what makes Latino culture an important part of American society.

* The longer version of this interview can be accessed on the CMAS website.



DISTINGUISHED LATIN@ ALUMNI

**Gabriel Escobedo, Ph.D. Candidate in
Anthropology at Indiana University & Artist**



Photography credits: Ivan Cruz

A novela on a small screen, the smell of tortillas, and my mother yelling, “tú, cómo te llamas?”, and one day it went silent. My parents stopped teaching my sister and I Spanish out of fear from the persecution they had faced growing up in Texas. I became a mute in my home, able to hear but never speak. In truth, I am cliché. Low-income, parents working three jobs, fending for yourself, parents never got a high education; mom grew up in the fields, living with extended family in one small house, third-generation Mexican-American.

“Dad, why can’t I speak Spanish?” “You don’t need to, mijo.” I never fit in. I was too White for the Mexicans and too Mexican for the Whites. I spent most of my adolescence balancing on the narrow ledge I called the “hyphen”, the place in-between two identities.

“ Mijo, I am proud of you.” “Why, because I am going to college?” “No, mijo. We expected you to have two kids by now and not graduate.”

To escape my endless troubles, I volunteered as much as I could. By the time I graduated high school I won numerous scholarships for my deeds, enough to pay for college. College is where I learned the importance of service and scholarship. I continued to give back to my community as I got my degree at UTA. There I found myself, my other self. I found my roots in my pursuit for knowledge. The more I read the more I understood what it meant to be Mexican-American. That is when I reached out for my lost culture fervently.

Now, I give back so that others like me can have an easier life. I am pursuing my Ph.D. at Indiana University in Anthropology of Dance focusing on Latinos’ use of the creative arts, which stemmed into my soon to be national nonprofit called, “Paso a Paso: A Cultural Arts Experience.” Our mission is to educate communities on Latino culture through the arts one step at a time. I am currently in DFW and hope to spread my program with my home community while finishing my dissertation.



FEATURED LATIN@ ARTIST

Andrés Lesmes, CMAS Student Assistant



Mil y un soles bajo Chiapas

Photography has always been my passion: It gives me the opportunity to capture a smile, the rain coming from the clouds, a colorful sunset, or a special moment in my lifetime. I like to highlight certain patterns in a photo such as: brightness, hue, and value. With the help of photoshop I can add a special tone of color in each picture.

This year I spent the summer in Chiapas thanks to the internship program “El Sueño Mexicano,” a binational initiative founded by the U.S.-Mexico Foundation (USMF), and sponsored by the Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior (IME), in alliance with the Comisión para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas (CDI). This program is a unique opportunity for students, who get practice as consultants by assisting ecoturism and small businesses based in indigenous communities in Mexico.

The pictures I selected were inspired by a group of indigenous women from Chiapas. They arefeat mix pictures that represent women being mothers, and workers; women that are always seeking to overcome obstacles and feed their families, something that is very common in Latino cultures. I selected those pictures of my work because they are a clear representation of what being a Latino means: A constant battle to achieve goals and maintain a role in society.

K STUDENT NEWS



Cecilia Silva, a MAS minor student majoring in Sociology, was selected by a panel of judges as the winner for the Panel Presentation category at the “2018 Spotlight Student Forum” organized by CoLA in March 20. Cecilia Silva’s presentation titled “Las Trabajadoras and the Latina Equal Pay Movement,” focused on the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LACLA) Trabajadoras initiative, where she was a Latina Gender Equity Fellow from 2017 to 2018. Cecilia Silva’s research presented at “CoLA Spotlight Student Forum” was part of a MAS course Internship created by Dr. Ignacio Ruiz-Pérez.

STUDENT NEWS

Scholarship winners

CMAS awarded the Manuel Gamio and the Pat Brandenburg Endowed Scholarships for MAS minors and Latino Studies to María Monroy (Major in Spanish Translation & Interpreting), Geneva Morales (Major in Nursing), and Cecilia Silva (Major in Sociology). In addition, Thelma Cabrera (Undergraduate Advisor, MODL) received our CMAS Outstanding Collaborator Award in acknowledgement of her dedicated support and commitment to our minor program and activities. The winners were publicly recognized during the CMAS 2018 Distinguished Lecture event, featuring Dr. Ramón Saldívar (Stanford University) who discussed the new trends of Contemporary U.S. Ethnic Fiction.



Apply now for our 2018 Manuel Gamio Scholarship!

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

ALPFA Chapter at UTA

ALPFA (Association of Latino Professionals for America) was the first national Latino professional association in the United States, established in Los Angeles in 1972. It has become the largest professional organization dedicated to the advancement of aspiring minority professionals. Recently, membership surpasses more than 92,000 professional and student members across the country. In addition to networking and professional leadership development opportunities, our members have access to 50,000 paid summer internships through hundreds of Fortune 1000 corporate partners. We aim to be the business partner for companies seeking to hire and develop Latinx talent.



Our Mission

To inspire lifelong learning, and enhance knowledge, as well as to support our community.

Our Vision

To provide resources and programs to actively engage all members of UTA community into professional growth and student success.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Speaker Series and Workshops:

ALPFA Hispanic Heritage Event

Guest: Dr. Robert Rodríguez (DRR Advisors, President)

Date: September 18, 6:00-8:00pm

Location: Jame M. Collins Executive Education Center, 3150 Binkley Ave, Dallas 75275

Guest: Miguel Palomares (PWC, Consultant), "Education & Career Goals"

Location: Room 608, College of Business, UTA

Date: September 24, 6:00pm

Guest: Jonathan Javier (Google, Sales Strategy and Operations Analyst/Product Management), "Strategy and Operations at Google"

Date: Nov 16, 2018, 7:00pm

Location: UTA (room: TBD)



New Latinx Graduate Student Association

Attention Graduate Students! If you are a Latinx graduate student or a graduate student engaged in research on Latinx issues and are interested in participating in a new interdisciplinary student organization to create community on campus, share ideas, and engage in peer mentorship and other professional activities, please e-mail csalinas@uta.edu for more information.

RECONOCIMIENTOS

Alejandro Bugarín



Alejandro Bugarín received the “President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching” on April 26, 2018. In addition, Bugarín was invited to present his research at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (March 3), California State University at Long Beach (April 18), and the ACS National Conference in New Orleans (March 18). Furthermore, Bugarín published two peer-reviewed articles in highly reputed scientific journals: “Recent Advances in the Synthesis, Structure Diversity, and Applications of Mesoionic 1,2,3-triazol-5-ylidene Metal Complexes” in *Tetrahedron Letters*; and “Exploration of (Hetero)Aryl Derivated Thienylchalcones for Antiviral and Anticancer Activities” in *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*.

Ana Gregorio-Cano

Ana Gregorio-Cano was invited to present research at the Universidad Católica de Santiago de Guayaquil in Ecuador in May 2018. Furthermore, Dr. Gregorio-Cano delivered the paper “El service-learning (SL) o aprendizaje-servicio como elemento clave en la formación de traductores e intérpretes en los servicios públicos” at the Fourth International Conference on Research into the Didactics of Translation (DidTrad) held at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona last June 2018, where she also participated in the Roundtable session “Formación para el emprendimiento y la profesionalización en los estudios de traducción e interpretación.” A book chapter entitled “Interculturalidad, traducción, interpretación y formación” will be published by Gedisa (2018), a prestigious publisher included in the Scholarly Publishers Indicators (SPI) Books in Humanities and Social Sciences Database.



Marcela Gutierrez



Marcela Gutierrez was recently invited to serve on a newly-established Clinical Data Science Institutional Review Board (IRB). This IRB is being established to review requests to access certain data in the National Institutes of Health (NIH), assist the NIH in navigating complex and emerging issues in data science and data sharing, and help streamline the process for access to datasets. Through this opportunity, Professor Gutierrez will have the opportunity to share her expertise and experience in health disparities, social justice, participatory approaches to research, and advocacy.

RECONOCIMIENTOS

David LaFevor

David LaFevor returned to Cuba to conduct archival research for his next monograph project on the end of the slave trade. His British Library grant was recently extended to fund continued work in digital preservation in the seven oldest cities on the island. In July, his photographic exhibit “Cuba: Histories of the Present” showed at Artes de la Rosa, a cultural center in Fort Worth. His work, both scholarship and photography, were featured in cover articles for *Fort Worth Weekly* and in a television news story on Telemundo. He delivered several invited talks, the most recent titled “Colombia, Macondo, and the Long Nineteenth Century” for the Dallas Institute of Humanities.



Ignacio Ruiz-Pérez



Ignacio Ruiz-Pérez delivered the keynote speech “Nostalgia de la unidad natural: la poesía de José Carlos Becerra” at the Encuentro de Literatura y Traducción José Carlos Becerra 2018 at the Juárez Autonomous University of Tabasco (UJAT) in May 2018. In addition, he participated in a poetry reading, and presented Níger Madrigal’s book of poetry *The Piles/Amontonamientos*, for which Professor Ruiz-Pérez also wrote the prologue. Moreover, his article “Repensar la escritura: cuerpo, sexualidad y usos amorosos del siglo XXI en la poesía de Maricela Guerrero” was published in *iMex: México Interdisciplinario/Interdisciplinary México*.

Christian Ziolkowski

Christian Ziolkowski published the article “Export agriculture, transnational farmworkers, and labor resistance in the Mexico-US borderlands” in the journal *Dialectal Anthropology*. The essay discusses the labor regime that the global fresh-produce industry has engendered in northern Mexico, and the types of labor resistance developed by indigenous farmworkers in the region. He also presented the paper “Corporate versus Independent Unions in Mexico’s Transnational Agriculture” at the European Association of Social Anthropologists Conference held at Stockholm University in August 2018.





SWIFT CENTER 129
1022 UTA Blvd. Arlington, TX 76019

P (817) 272 2933
F (817) 272 2948

www.uta.edu/cmas



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Artwork: Andres Lesmes